

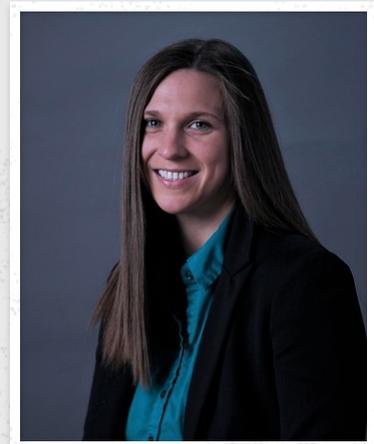
Juvenile Detention Center

Medina County

"We, and our court, do our best to help our kids and their families get on the right track. Our philosophy is to leave no stone unturned in providing them with the resources they need to lead well adjusted, productive lives."

Assistant Superintendent - Megan Millikin

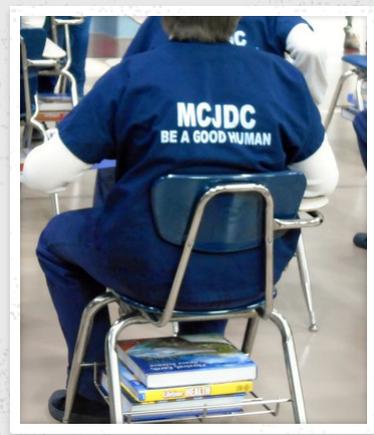
Greetings Readers! I am Megan Millikin and I'm passionate about working with at-risk youth. In this months newsletter, we will recap events that took place in January and February. You will read about community involvement and volunteers that take time out of their day to work inside our walls. In our life, there are many choices we must make. Some of those choices have brought us to where we are today, but if we'd made different choices where would we be? Most of us have had support and guidance through our entire lives, whether it's through family or friends, but what if you hadn't? Would you have made the wrong choice? Would you have gone down the wrong path? I've been working at the juvenile detention center since 2012 and in that time I've seen a multitude of how those questions could be answered by our youth of today. I'm proud to say that I work with a team who takes an innovative approach to expose our youth to as many new and positive experiences as possible. Most of these experiences they never would have had otherwise. Our hope through this newsletter is to also expose YOU to some of those experiences!



Be a Good Human!

It's a simple, yet powerful phrase - *Be a Good Human*. This phrase has been added to the back of the resident uniforms with one goal in mind: to remind all of the residents the importance of being a good person. Assistant Superintendent Millikin came up with the idea to add the phrase to the uniforms. "We use positive and uplifting quotes on a regular basis to motivate the residents and also remind them about small character traits or actions that can have a big

impact. The phrase *Be a Good Human* can be applied to so many aspects of life. By placing the phrase on the backs of the uniforms the residents and staff see the phrase multiple times a day."

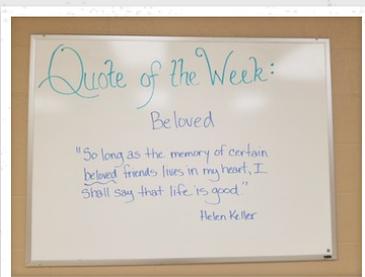


Because I Said I Would

Last year, Alex Sheen, the founder of *Because I said I would*, came and spoke to our youth about making promises and the importance of following through on promises that are made. In January, Alex donated twenty copies of his new book *Because I said I would*. These books were added to our library where residents can access them. The staff members also plan to take part in a book study about *Because I said I would*.

Residents Learn Un-BEE-lievable Facts!

Peggy Garnes, Vice President of the Medina County Bee Keepers Association, and owner of Garnes Apiary located in Medina County came to visit the residents and teach them all about bees. Did you know that she has 140 bee hives throughout Northeast Ohio? Bees play an important part of our food chain because of the pollination process. Garnes explained to the residents the different types of bees and the kinds of honey that are produced.



Word of the Week/Quote of the Week

Positive character reinforcement is always a big focus for our residents. Each week there is a different word and quote that has a positive message for our residents to focus on. The teachers spend time going over the word/quote and discussing it as a group. Staff members can also reward the residents when they see them displaying traits that pertain to the word/quote of the week.

Volunteer at the JDC

Melissa Gottschalk, a college student at Tri-C, has been volunteering two days a week at the JDC. Gottschalk is majoring in criminal justice and is also a graduate of Junior Leadership Medina County. Gottschalk became interested in volunteering after the Junior Leadership class visited the JDC. "Upon visiting the JDC in 2017 with a leadership program, I really connected with their mission and thought it would be a great opportunity to learn about their facility and what they do while giving back. I'm passionate about helping others and volunteering, and one day, I hope to have the opportunity to mentor the kids and find them opportunities to also give back to the community after getting out."



Junior Leadership Visits JDC

As part of Government Day, 45 students from the Junior Leadership Class of Medina County spent part of their day at the JDC. The students learned about the history of juvenile rights. The students also learned about the programming that takes place and how the JDC works each day to reinforce positive behavior, life choices and character traits. Here is a quote from one of the students about the JDC:

"I was really pleased with this part of the day and really found it interesting. I was really humbled by this experience. Before Learning about everything these kids go through I was talking like a spoiled, ignorant, privileged kid, saying I didn't feel bad for these kids because they knew what they did was wrong and they shouldn't have done the deed. However, now I have sympathy for these kids. They grew up in the exact opposite way that I did. I will never have to worry about things that these kids face every day and I will never have to experience neglect from my parents like some of these kids deal with. I am definitely interested in getting involved with children who suffer from different types of neglect, or issues such as these kids have, in my future. Maybe become a foster parent, or donate time and money to make better programs? I want to help break the cycle of like breeds for these kids, to help our future of the Medina County I grew up in and love. I never thought kids I go to school with would find themselves in these facilities because I don't hang with that crowd at school, but now I can somewhat understand what they deal with when they go home and maybe why some of them don't want to go back home and I will definitely think twice before judging them in the future."



Inspiration Academy

We work with troubled youth. It's what we do and why we are here. Youth who will one day raise families, have sons and daughters playing in our parks, attending school dances, going to college, maybe even interacting with YOU at a grocery store. Might you be interested in helping us help these youth to one day be the type of person you want to be around when you are at the park with your grandchildren? The type of person you want to share a conversation with at the grocery store? If so, learn what you can do for our county's future by engaging in our Inspiration Academy! This is an opportunity to learn about the detention center, why it exists, and the work that is done on a daily basis to get troubled youth back on the right track. The program is free and consists of four consecutive two-hour sessions. Anyone in the community is welcome to participate!

MEDINA COUNTY
JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER

INSPIRATION ACADEMY!

Tour our facility and learn about...

Our Services: Mental Health & Wellbeing of our Youth

Our Partners: Faith-based Services

Our Behavioral Level System: Staff/Youth Relationships

Court Processes: Hear Some VERY Cool Success Stories!

Network with other Community Members!

435 S. Independence Dr.
Medina
920.764.8405

What, exactly, is this academy?
Its objective is to teach you about why our detention center exists and the work we do with our county's troubled youth to get them on the right track.

How many sessions are there?
There are four, consecutive two-hour sessions.

When is the next one?
April 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th. Each session is from 3pm - 5pm.

Is there a cost?
Nope, nada - it's free!

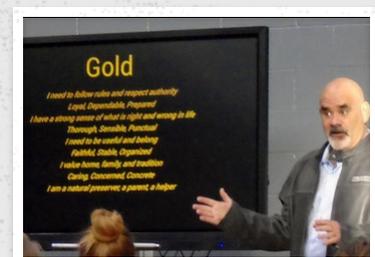
Do you want to learn how we inspire our youth? If so, please see the Registration Form for further information and to join us for this year's class!

OUR MISSION: To make the Medina community a better place by inspiring youth to become responsible, productive citizens.

Interested in participating? Visit the [Inspiration Academy](#) page for more information and the registration form!

E4JDC - Educate, Empower, Engage, and Equip!

All of the residents took part in the E4JDC Event earlier this month. The goal of the event was to help the residents identify a possible career path for their future. Presenters for the event included Michael Rao from the HR Group LLC. Rao went over the True Color personality assessment. Through the



assessment, the residents learned about their own personality traits, how to create better relationships with others, respect others with different personality traits and much more. The residents also heard from Cory who was a former resident at the JDC. Organizations that participated in the day included: Montville Police Department, Pearlview Care Center, U.S. Military, Tri-C Representative, Medina County Career Center, Education Business Consultant, and Jobs for Ohio Graduates. The United Way partnered with the JDC for this event.

The residents provided very positive feedback about the event:

“Very Inspirational!”

“Felt Like I could do something outside of here.”

“A Lot of Good Information.”

“It doesn’t matter what you did to get in here, it matters what you do when you get out.”

Contact Us!

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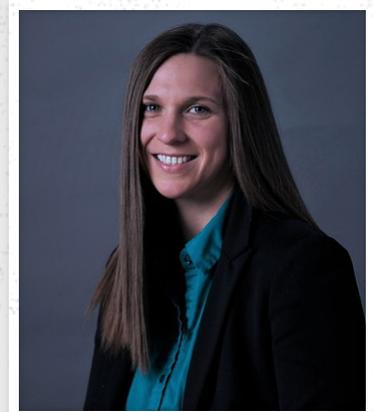
www.medinajdc.org



**Judge Kevin W.
Dunn - Juvenile
Court**



**Ron Stollar -
Superintendent**



**Megan Millikin -
Assistant
Superintendent**

“We are making the Medina community a better place by inspiring troubled youth to become responsible, productive citizens.”

