

Juvenile Detention Center

==== Amazing Things Are Happening Here! ====

February 2020

Medina County Junior Leadership Visits!



Medina County Junior Leadership

Leadership Medina County is a nonprofit, educational and leadership development organization that inspires and equips leaders to be better and do better, and one of their

components is their Junior Leadership program comprised of high school students. Each month the class visits a different sector of the county. This year's class came to the detention center recently for their local government day where they were taught about juvenile justice rights by Magistrate Susana Lewis. During their visit they toured the facility, learned about the services we provide and sampled our youth's typical lunchtime meal. Lastly, but certainly not least they had the opportunity to experience a couple of our therapeutic animal friends. Pictured above is Jeff Farley, owner of Majestic Meadows Alpacas, alpaca Autumn, and Larry llama. After their experience at the detention center many in the junior leadership class commented that, "the day we spent here was our favorite day so far", as conveyed to us by their director, Ms. Carrie Park.



Resource Fair

On Friday February 7th, a number of Medina County resources spent their afternoon with the youth at the Detention Center. Each organization presented what services they offered, how their services could be accessed, and they provided handouts which the kids will receive upon their release. We would like to thank Melissa Romain from Ohio Guidestone, Alexis Lee from Alternative Paths, Laura Niehaus from Hope & Healing, Sean Rapacki from the Medina County Library, Pamela Crombie from JOG (Jobs for Ohio Graduates), and Kathy Breitenbucher from the Medina County Economic Development Corporation for their time, energy, and knowledge!

Career Fair

Twice each year on a Saturday morning, we invite employers from around Medina County to join us in the gymnasium at the detention center for our career fair. Each company is given a table and the opportunity to meet with two juveniles for a period of time until they rotate to the next organization. The conversations consist of learning about the different job experiences, eligibility and age requirements for being hired, and the life accomplishments that may accompany such employment. We would like to thank 3M, Firststar Precision, Medina County Economic Development Corporation, Dunlop & Johnston, Bob Thompson, ANG Marketing, Mack Concrete, Sperry Commercial, McDonald's, the State Highway Patrol, and Superior Roll Forming for coming in on February 8th!



Blanket Donation for the Homeless of Medina County

One Medina County resident, who wished to remain anonymous, chose to volunteer some of her time with our youth at the detention center recently in an attempt to help

those in need. She and the kids spent multiple Saturdays tying and layering fleece blankets to donate to the homeless in the Medina County area. Twenty-nine blankets in all were crafted and then delivered to the Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority. The kids enjoyed the opportunity and told us they were happy to be involved with the project. We believe in impressing upon our youth the importance of giving back to the community with nothing expected in return.

Tie Dye Project with Access the Arts

Access The Arts was established in 2018 and certified by the State of Ohio as a non-profit. It is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes as they promote appreciation for and education in the fine and performing arts for people of all ages. We are so grateful that they volunteer their time and energy to bring joy and meaning to our youth through all forms of art. On February 17th, Jane Back, Janet George, Cheri Smith, and Joan Zacharias spent their afternoon teaching the kids about the history of dying fabric and then helped them make colorful creations of their own!

If you would like to support their mission, please go to www.AccessTheArts.net.



Volleyball Throw Down!

A few of our residents challenged a few of our staff in a volleyball game for bragging rights. The staff weren't able to take home the win after being "schooled" by the boys. Perhaps more practice is needed as there is talk of a rematch. The resident MVP has his picture hung in the common area as his trophy and there it will remain until he is defeated...hopefully soon! The gym was filled with laughter as the staff struggled to return volley and the boys cheered on. We are planning to continue the effort of engaging in good sportsmanship and



camaraderie with the kids and staff on a more regularly scheduled basis.

Therapeutic Music with Maddy



Maddy Silver-Riskin

(Submitted by: Maddy Silver-Riskin)

According to music therapy research, juvenile offenders are highly responsive to music therapy when it employs preferred music genres of youth and songwriting. These musical experiences can be used to promote emotional regulation and expression as well as healthy coping skills. I have been providing weekly, therapeutic music sessions since February of 2019 which has yielded positive results from our youth! My groups incorporate music analysis, instrument playing (piano, guitar, and drums), songwriting, and musical improvisation. Through song analysis, the kids engage in lyric discussion to identify themes and emotional lessons found in popular song selections. Many of the participants then feel inspired to create their own music which they are able to do with collaboration in creating lyrics and original compositions. These originals are then recorded and edited using an iPad

which provides opportunities for the kids to learn new technological skills and responsibility.

"Maddy has made such an impact on our youth here and we are beyond grateful for her talent and heart!", commented Superintendent Stollar.

(Top: Maddy is pictured helping some of our kids compose music.)

(Upper left: Maddy presenting at the Ohio Music Educator's Conference. Stollar also presented along with her.)



Inspiration Academy

For our fourth consecutive year, we will be conducting another Inspiration Academy on **Friday April 3rd from 9:00am - 3:00pm** with a free lunch included. The academy class is free as well. So what is this academy thing anyway? It is our equivalent to a citizen police academy wherein we educate members of our community on the work that goes on in our building (and beyond) to help our youth become solid, productive citizens. We explain why we do the things we do, and why we do not do some of the things we don't do.

The class covers all the services our youth receive to include:

- *Therapeutic art and music*
- *Our therapy animals*

- Faith-based services
- Mental health
- Staff/youth relationships
- Safety and security

These are just some of the topics; there are more we will cover. You will meet some of our volunteers and employees, and receive a tour of our building.

Check out what others have said about their academy experience:

"Thank you for your genuine concern and compassion for Medina County Youth!" - S.C.

"The kids know they are opportunities for you, not problems." - T.S.

"If you have not had a chance to check out this academy you are missing out. Make it a top priority!" - J.K.

If you are interested in being a part of our April 3rd class, please email **Youth Fulfillment Coordinator Jaclyn Balliet** at jballiet@medinaco.org. We hope you will join us!

Congratulations!

Congratulations are in order for Shane Sams who was just promoted from Corrections Officer to the rank of Sergeant! Sams had worked for us from 2012 - 2014, and returned to us in 2018.

He is a part-time police officer for the City of Rittman. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army, and has worked in adult corrections at both the county and state levels. Sgt. Sams enjoys the shooting sports, and hunting and fishing. Congratulations!!



(And even though his photo might not indicate it, he is actually smiling most of the time.) :-)

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Contact Us!

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Administrative Hours

Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

www.medinajdc.org

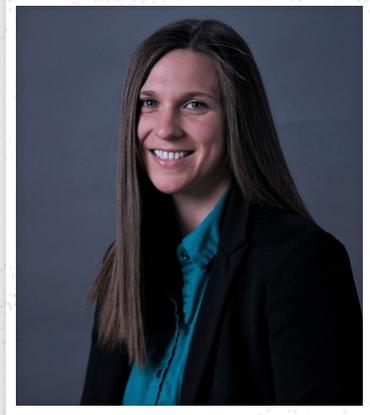




**Judge Kevin W.
Dunn - Juvenile
Court**



**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."