

# Juvenile Detention Center

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

## March 2020

### **This Whole New Situation**

Wow. Who knew a short time ago that we would all be where we are today with this devastating virus here at home and all over the world? We want to assure you that we are working hard to keep everyone here healthy and safe. We have had to make many adjustments, many of which we never dreamed we would have to, just as many others have had to. We are very aware that we are not alone through this unsettling experience.

Please know that we have been SO proud of our staff, especially our nurses and corrections officers for soldiering through this. Like many, they too, have legitimate fears and concerns about becoming ill but understand that they are essential in keeping our Medina County communities safe. Correctional facilities cannot just shut down since, unfortunately, some people do things for which they must be separated from the rest of society for.

Please note that Superintendent Stollar is missing his administrative team as they work from home and come in only as is necessary. They are still helping with decisions, payroll, newsletter & social media, billing, technology needs, etc., all toward the end result of helping our kids. Not a day goes by that we don't laugh together!

We continue to do our best here to forge through the fight with an enemy we cannot see. We are trying to balance health, safety, and security as best we can. We are beyond grateful for our staff members.

- Superintendent Stollar



## So What Have We Adjusted?

Unfortunately, we cannot allow anyone to enter the building, which includes volunteers and family members. Through these trying times we understand the importance of staying connected to others, so we have been working hard to implement changes that will allow just that.

Our kids are permitted extra phone calls and pictures of their family members.

We have been utilizing Skype for:

- The Ridge Project (a social-emotional curriculum with two facilitators)
- Cheri Smith from Brush Tips studio (painting tutorials)
- Our Chaplain (to provide religious services)
- Music Therapy (Maddy continues to inspire the kids through music)
- Other volunteers who have worked with our youth previously have expressed interest and we will continue to add to this list so the kids know how much they are thought of and supported

We have been utilizing our Smart TV for:

- Ted Talks for Teens
- Educational resources from a multitude of websites (poetry, printouts, etc.)
- Discovery Education (a HUGE thank-you to our assistant superintendent for this!)
- Inspirational videos and music on Youtube
- Trivia!

Staying connected...

- Medina County Junior Leadership kids are, anonymously, writing letters of encouragement to our youth
- Our chaplain is also writing letters of support

Maintaining consistency...

- Everyday the kids continue to work on school work that was put together by our teachers before they left the building
- Arts and Crafts are created daily thanks to our two social workers (Alexis and Lauren) they have also continued Anger Management, Mindfulness, Mental Health, and individual support when requested
- Our officers do an amazing job of keeping our kids moving and getting them the necessary exercise they need either in our gymnasium or our outdoor recreation area

## YAHAB

YAHAB means "to give" and that is exactly what this non-profit does for our youth at the detention center. They donated multiple games to bring joy to the kids which was met by much appreciation. We continue to be grateful for their support and dedication! ([www.yahab.org](http://www.yahab.org))

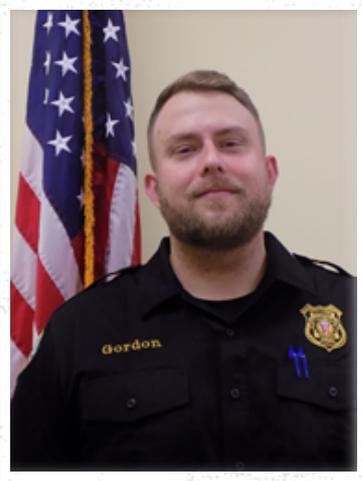


## Working at the MCJDC

I have been employed at the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center for almost nine years. During that time, I have seen officers come and go, which also included me for a period of nine months. (This is not a negative statement in any way. This job just isn't for everyone.) I gave up the paradise that is Hawaii, to come back to Ohio. You're probably wondering why I would do that. A big part of it was that I really did miss working at the JDC. Even though at times I would get burnt out, due to the type of work that working at a juvenile detention center entails. However, I missed working with the youth, even though at times, some were very difficult to work with. I enjoyed trying to give them structure and a role model to look up to. After college, I never envisioned doing this type of work, but now, I can't see myself doing anything else. I am very lucky to be able to work under great bosses like Judge Dunn, Assistant Superintendent Millikin, and Superintendent Stollar, who trust in me to be a leader here. I believe this facility is a model juvenile detention center, and that's due to all the great people who work here, from the Judge to the officers. I am very excited to be a part of what we are doing here, and amazing things are happening here!

*Submitted by Sgt. Jason Gordon*

*(Superintendent's note: "We love having Jason with us!")*



**Jason Gordon - Sgt.  
Extraordinaire**

## Mindfulness

Mindfulness is paying attention to the present moment with intention while letting go of judgment. It helps improve our concentration and reduce ruminative thinking that contributes to high levels of stress. We believe this to be an important skill for the kids to experience so our social workers have been teaching this regularly. However, no matter how established your personal mindfulness practice is, sometimes you can use a little extra inspiration. This is why we have been utilizing our pack of Little Renegades cards! Each card guides the user through a mindfulness-inspired exercise which takes only a few minutes. The intention is to empower the kids with basic techniques like awareness, breathing, meditation, gratitude, and stretching.



## Access the Arts

"The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls." - Pablo Picasso

**Access the Arts** believes in providing art, music, and culture to all populations. This non-profit graciously donated an abundance of art supplies for our youth to express their creativity and experience inspiration. Pictured are Jane Back of "access", and Megan Millikin.

[\(https://www.facebook.com/AccessTheArtsInc/\)](https://www.facebook.com/AccessTheArtsInc/)

## Prison Yoga Project

**Prison Yoga Project** supports incarcerated people with trauma-informed yoga and mindfulness practices to promote rehabilitation, reduce recidivism, and improve public safety. To support this mission, they provide trauma-informed yoga and mindfulness practices as a means of self-empowerment and self-rehabilitation. Lynn Williams, Ph.D. is a Clinical Psychologist at the Ohio Department of Youth Services Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility. She has worked to bring the Prison Yoga Project Northern Ohio Juvenile Program to her facility where she practices as a Psychologist and Yoga Instructor. Dr. Williams wrote a grant for the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center to receive the necessary materials for our youth to practice the art of yoga. We were so pleasantly surprised on March 2nd when we received 42 Lululemon mats!!! Thank you to Dr. Williams and the Prison Yoga Project for supporting our youth through empowerment and self-rehabilitation! (<https://prisonyoga.org/>)

## Staff yoga

Molly Thomas is a yoga instructor, trained through the Prison Yoga Project, who volunteers her time and energy bringing yoga to our youth every Saturday morning. Throughout the year our staff receives wellness training of all sorts of variations. For this rotation, Molly volunteered to teach us about the history, benefits, and practice of yoga. The informative training was completed with a much needed and relaxing guided meditation. We appreciate what Molly brings to our facility every week and now our staff have the experience of what our kids have been trained in!



**Molly Thomas**



**Jaclyn Balliet &  
McKensi Cleckner**



**Tyler Placek**

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## Contact Us!

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Administrative Hours

Monday-Friday

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[www.medinajdc.org](http://www.medinajdc.org)

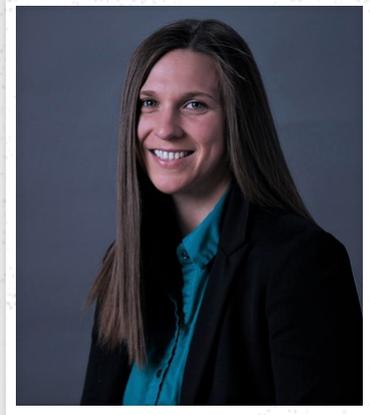




**Judge Kevin W.  
Dunn - Juvenile  
Court**



**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."*