

Juvenile Detention Center

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

March 2021

Check This Out!

Jud Friedman is a 6-time Oscar, Grammy, and Golden Globe-nominated songwriter residing in Los Angeles, California. He has written songs for many top artists, including Whitney Houston! Currently, Jud is writing a television screenplay about a juvenile detention center and the impact that music therapy



has on its residents. Through his in-depth research Jud found and then reached out to our Music Therapist, Maddie Silver-Riskin, to get a better understanding of her theories, techniques, and approach to providing these services in a juvenile detention setting.

Mr. Friedman and I also had a lengthy discussion regarding what life is like for our residents during their stay with us and what all we provide to positively impact their lives. His TV show will include story lines both within and outside of a detention center which sounds very intriguing! We do not have any details at this time about when he is hoping it will air but we will be sure to update you when we know.

You can learn more about Jud at www.judfriedmanmusic.com.

- Superintendent Ron Stollar



Fundraiser for Feeding Medina County

Please join us in our collaborative effort to help raise funds for our local nonprofit, **Feeding Medina County!** Food insecurity in Medina County has risen to 16% and Feeding America estimates that 22.5% of children in our county are now experiencing food insecurity due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The annual fundraiser for *Feeding Medina County* had to be canceled this year which happens to be the year that the funds are needed most. Our youth at the Juvenile Detention Center are creating clay bowls ordained with decorative finishes to be sold online for a donation of \$150 or more this June.



Writers in Residence is a non-profit organization whose mission is to teach creative writing to youth who are incarcerated to empower their voices and assist in their re-entry into society. They teamed up with *Feeding Medina County* and held a virtual workshop for our youth, to educate them on food insecurity and resources that are available in our county. You will receive not only a bowl with your \$150 or more donation, you will also receive 5 writings by our residents that were inspired by discussing how food insecurity has impacted their lives.

You, also, can participate in this worthwhile cause by scheduling your in-studio painting at **All Fired Up** from **March 22nd - April 2nd!**

Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to Feeding Medina County and Writers in Residence!

<https://feedingmedinacounty.org/>

<https://writersnresidence.org/>

www.allfiredupmedina.com

Kids Helping Community



Get Creative! Design and paint a bowl!
Bowls are \$10 each & will then be donated to Feeding Medina County.

All Fired Up

233 S. Court Street Medina, OH 44256

March 22nd - April 2nd

Store hours - M,T: 11am-8pm W: 11-6 Th,F: 11-8

Please be sure to call to schedule in-studio painting. (330)723-1112

*Masks and social distancing please.

Food insecurity in Medina County has risen to 16%, and Feeding America now estimates that 22.5% of children in our county are now experiencing food insecurity due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Kids can help their community! By painting a bowl at All Fired Up & donating that bowl, kids can raise awareness and benefit their community. These bowls are a fundraiser for Feeding Medina County and will be used as an inspiration for the youth in the Writers in Residence Program at the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center



Crisis Intervention Training

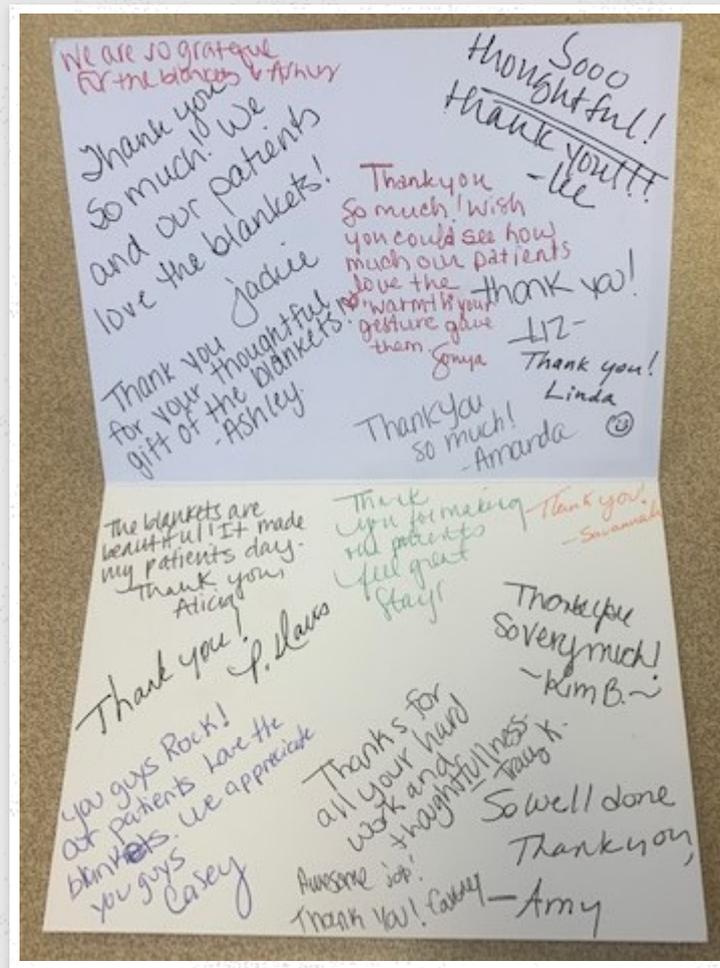
One of our officers, Kendric Wilder, completed CIT training last week conducted by Alternative Paths, Inc. What is CIT you ask? It is a unique model of training for first-responders to help persons with mental health disorders and/or addictions access medical treatment rather than place them in the criminal justice system. In our case, our youth are already in this system but CIT is *extremely* valuable in de-escalating volatile situations in-house when they occur and bringing them to a successful resolution. A good number of our staff have completed CIT. Wilder commented, *"The training provided me with information to help me better understand and respond to incidents involving those with mental illness."* Thank you Alternative Paths for caring enough to host this valued training for front line workers throughout our fine county. (www.alternativepaths.org)



And guess what else? Wilder was just promoted to sergeant *this week!* Sergeant Wilder began with us as an intern (University of Mount Union) in 2018 and was also hired that same year. Sgt. Wilder said, *"I am excited to take on the added responsibilities of sergeant. I look forward to working with my new team!"* Congratulations Sergeant Wilder!!

Thank You From Medina Hospital

Members and groups from our community have contributed to our ongoing blanket project by generously donating fabric. **Access the Arts** has transported the material, and collaborated with Highland High School students in the **VOFT** (*Volunteer Opportunities For Teens*) group who organize and cut the material. Our residents then hand-tied 42 blankets which were then donated to patients at Medina Hospital. This 'thank you' card goes to ALL OF YOU who have been and continue to be involved! We shared it with our youth as well so they could see the positive impact their efforts are making!



Joy of Medina County Magazine

Every Sunday for the last 12 weeks, *Writers in Residence* has held virtual creative writing workshops for our youth. They give the kids a poem or a sample of writing to begin a conversation about a specific topic or experience. After discussing the thoughts and emotional responses that arise, OUR residents are given a writing prompt to start the process of putting their words on paper. *Amy Barnes*, publisher and creator of *Joy*, wanted to give our kids the opportunity to have their work recognized and their efforts applauded so she featured them in her March issue!

Click the link to read "Finding Their Voice" in the magazine's "Reading Nook."

https://issuu.com/joyofmedinacounty/docs/joy_march_2021?e=29009715/57680100

FINDING THEIR VOICES

Editor's note: This month's guest writers are residents at the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center. Names of the writers been changed in observation of privacy laws and regulations. Capitalizations, line breaks; and, in some cases, spelling are left to the creative choices of the individual writer.

Introduction

by Zachary Thomas, program director

Writers in Residence is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that teaches creative writing to youths who are incarcerated.

The program's mission is to empower the youths' voices and to assist them in their re-entry into society. It also strives to reduce the recidivism rates of the residents and to participate in the transformation of the juvenile justice system.

Originally founded as a student-run organization in 2017 at John Carroll University, Writers in Residence currently partners with more than 10 colleges, universities and juvenile facilities across Ohio including John Carroll University, Oberlin College and the College of Wooster.

Support for the program is provided by the Ansfield Wolf Book Awards and the Cleveland Foundation. Since 2019, more than 275 youths have participated in the program.

During the winter holiday season, when most of the residents at the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center felt even more alone and isolated from family and friends, especially during the pandemic, Writers in Residence piloted a two-week creative writing workshop for them.

One of the MCJDC residents, who asked to be referred to as "Honoree," said the creative writing workshops helped him learn how to better manage his stress and allowed him to begin healing from his trauma caused by incarceration.

Honoree also mentioned that he enjoyed working with the college student volunteers.

"They're more relatable," Honoree said. "For the first time, too, I actually cared about what someone else was going through, and that hadn't been the case as much before this experience."

Unlike the other juvenile facility residents who wear blue or pink uniforms, Honoree wears a yellow uniform that symbolizes his honoree status. For him to base his pseudonym on his achievement shows the pride he feels in having earned his status.

A resident becomes an honoree by first following MCJDC's rules for seven days without any violations, which moves the youth from Level 1 to Level 2 and makes the youth eligible for honoree status.

Next, the resident must apply for honoree status by completing a questionnaire about goals, dreams, responses to certain scenarios, and lessons learned while incarcerated at the juvenile facility, while still maintaining positive behavior.

Finally, the supervisors and assistant superintendent review the resident's application and decide to approve or deny the application.

Successful applicants are awarded a yellow jumpsuit and additional privileges related to visitations, snacks and programming.

The success of the pilot workshop solidified the partnership between Writers in Residence and MCJDC, who will offer the residents a 12-week creative writing workshop this spring.

Workshops will be weekly, 60-minute virtual sessions and will culminate with the works being showcased in a published chapbook. The chapbook serves as an advocacy tool to raise awareness about the juvenile justice system and to enact change within the community for the support of the youth.

The Family is by Honoree, 17 years old

The family is solid as a rock we always will have respect and love for one another even though our music is quite different the honesty between us never fails we may fight as most families do but at the end of the day we help each other make our dreams come true the family is solid as a rock.

Six-Word Memoirs

by D

1. I am pushing on, feeling hopeful
2. Love is tough, so am I
3. Work later, have fun right now
4. Big Mac from McDonalds is good
5. Baconator fills my tummy all up
6. Keep friends close, but enemies closer
7. Word hard, expect greatness in return
8. Everything is earned, nothing is given
9. I'll be alright in 90 days

Untitled by R

They think I'm a risk
They think I'm a menace
But it's all talk cuz they never seen me outside these walls

They say I got whip skills
and they just seen me burn him
They're gasing me up
and we're bumping the beamer

Yeah I'm out now
and I ain't got no bracelet
so best believe I'm hyped
can't nothing faze me

Untitled

by B

The family is the forbidden fruit
The fall of man,
yet a gift
even when you aren't who they expected.
Love is love and family can't change that.
You are you no one can change that. Only you can change that.

For more information about the Writers in Residence program, go to <https://writersinresidence.org/> or contact Zachary Thomas at writersinresidence@gmail.com

If you would like to become the next featured author in The Reading Nook, please contact Amy Barnes at Joy@LakeHousePublishing.com



Yoga & Meditation

We are grateful for the light, energy, and time that **Becki Adams** gives to our youth through yoga and meditation! She has recently begun instructing for us and after her first class she stated, *"That was one of the most fun and rewarding experiences I've ever had with teaching."* We look forward to the continuation of her services and the opportunity for our kids to experience the invaluable skill of mindfulness.

Be a Light in the Dark

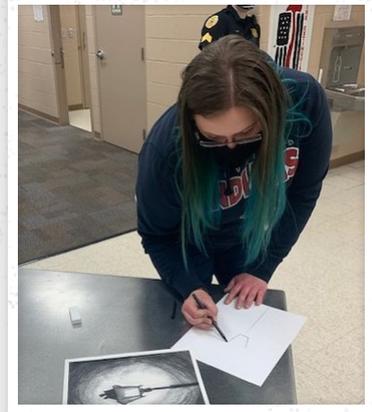
Abbey Sweigert is our newest art instructor who also teaches at *Brush Tips Studio* in Wadsworth. Every other week she spends an afternoon at the detention center, supporting our residents to explore different mediums as they create art together. Pictured below is a charcoal drawing she taught which echoes this upcoming year's Art Experience theme, "Be a Light in the Dark." She has been an amazing asset to our therapeutic art program!



**Abbey Sweigert,
Art Instructor**



**Be a Light in the
Dark**



**Teaching with
charcoal**

Most Valuable Player Award

It is with much fanfare and ado that we announce the recipient of our most prestigious honor, awarded annually to our most outstanding staff member. **Officer Jackie Maddox** was voted by her peers as what we call our Most Valuable Player! Jackie started with us four years ago this month and this is her *second time* already as MVP. Congratulations Officer Maddox!!

Criteria for MPV award:

1. Consistently exhibits an encouraging and positive disposition
2. Consistently demonstrates a willingness to help others
3. Consistently performs a high level of quality work
4. Consistently performs beyond the scope of his/her regular duties
5. Consistently displays concern for our youth
6. Always displays ethical conduct



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Click here for past newsletters!

Have you missed a newsletter? We archive all of our newsletters on our website. Click the link to see previous issues!

Contact Us!

655 Independence Drive, Medina, Ohio 44256

Phone: 330-764-8408

Fax: 330-764-8412

Administrative Hours

Monday-Friday

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

www.medinajdc.org



**Judge Kevin W.
Dunn;
Juvenile/Probate
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."

