

Juvenile Detention Center

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

655 Independence Drive Medina, Ohio 44256

"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."

Superintendent's Message

Greetings friends! I want to share with you that since we issued our first newsletter back in January, we have received dozens of positive comments on them. We trust you are finding them helpful in learning what goes on inside our building as we care for our youth. We are proud to be a part of helping turn young lives around. It is not surprising to hear comments from some of our kids thanking us for helping them. At times we even receive cards and letters from them thanking us for caring about them. The following words are from just such a letter;



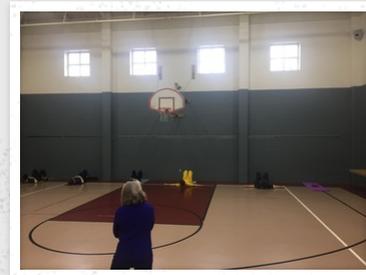
"You ALL helped me at a time when I really needed it. I believe what happened to me was a blessing because I was shown guidance and kindness when I couldn't find it anywhere else. I also believe that people like the MCJDC staff are the reason I am now a care provider for development disability adults, to give back the kindness I received. You all have stayed in my thoughts and prayers!"

I often hear our staff members remark on how they would love to take this child or that child home with them to provide for and raise them themselves. I have felt the same myself. Sadly, we even have youth tell us they would rather stay with us than return home. But gladly, our juvenile court takes a holistic approach in helping our youth and their families address the

issues they each face toward a successful outcome. Be assured we will all continue to do our best to create a brighter future for our kids!

Mindfulness

Some of you probably know Carole Laney PFT-A, FDN-Practitioner. Well, now we do too! We met Carole several months ago when she visited the MCJDC as a member of the Medina Community Citizen's Police Academy class. Upon learning about the good things that go on in our building with, and for, our youth, Carole kindly and graciously offered to volunteer her time to conduct yoga and mindfulness with our youth. Guess what? She recently did just that! Some of our kids enjoyed it so much that upon their release they went out and bought Lavender oil and oil diffusers (she shared some oil with them during her classes)! We had kids talking about her yoga session for several days. Thank you Carole for being so generous and overall just plain fantastic!



Inspiration Academy - Huge Success!

A total of 12 people across Medina County participated in our third annual Inspiration Academy. Inspiration Academy is four, weekly two-hour sessions. Each participant receives a binder with information about the MCJDC and the services offered to our youth. Topics covered during the program include logistics, inspiration, safety/security, and mind/body/soul programs.

Check out some of the feedback from those who participated and photos below!

"Excellent experience! It's reassuring to know that these kids are getting the care they need and are pointed in the right direction to better their lives."

"I learned things I would have never known had I not participated in the program."

"Inspiration Academy opened my eyes to the value of the MCJDC has to the community. I am so impressed with how much the staff cares about the kids."

"I strongly encourage anyone who wants to understand at-risk youth to attend Inspiration Academy. Medina County JDC is doing amazing work with our youth and we need to offer our support as a community."





Education at the JDC

Did you know our youth attend school year round?

- We contract with Medina City Schools for two teachers and one paraprofessional.
- Youth go to school from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm Monday through Friday, operating under the Medina City School schedule.
- Summer School: 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, Monday through Friday
- We have 21 computer stations for online schooling.
- Schools can send their work to us for youth to complete while in our care.
- If the youth do not have work sent to them, they work off of a curriculum created by teacher Jim Thomas.
- We might note that our teachers love it here so much they have both been here since we opened in 1999!

"I love working at the detention center because I have the opportunity to reach the students on such a wide variety of academic and personal levels. many of our kids' intelligence and talents are overlooked, and I am passionate about helping them get themselves back on track!" - Wendy Chasar

"I have enjoyed working here for the past 20 years. It is much different than I envisioned and I enjoy developing what I have for our kids, as well as incorporate new ideas into the classroom. I have learned a lot from our kids and they are a reminder to me of where they come from. They routinely surprise me with the work they produce!" - Jim Thomas



What Happens When a Resident Leaves?

What goes through your mind when a youth leaves detention? You may be thinking, what type of environment will they be returning to? What personal items did they have going in and what will they be leaving with? At the MCJDC we want our youth to be successful, which means we want them to have resources that will help them be successful even after they leave our building. Below is a small list of items that are placed in our youth's personal property when they are released.

They Receive:

Suicide Prevention Coaster - A resource they can use if they or anyone they know are feeling alone. Generously provided by the Medina County Suicide Prevention Coalition

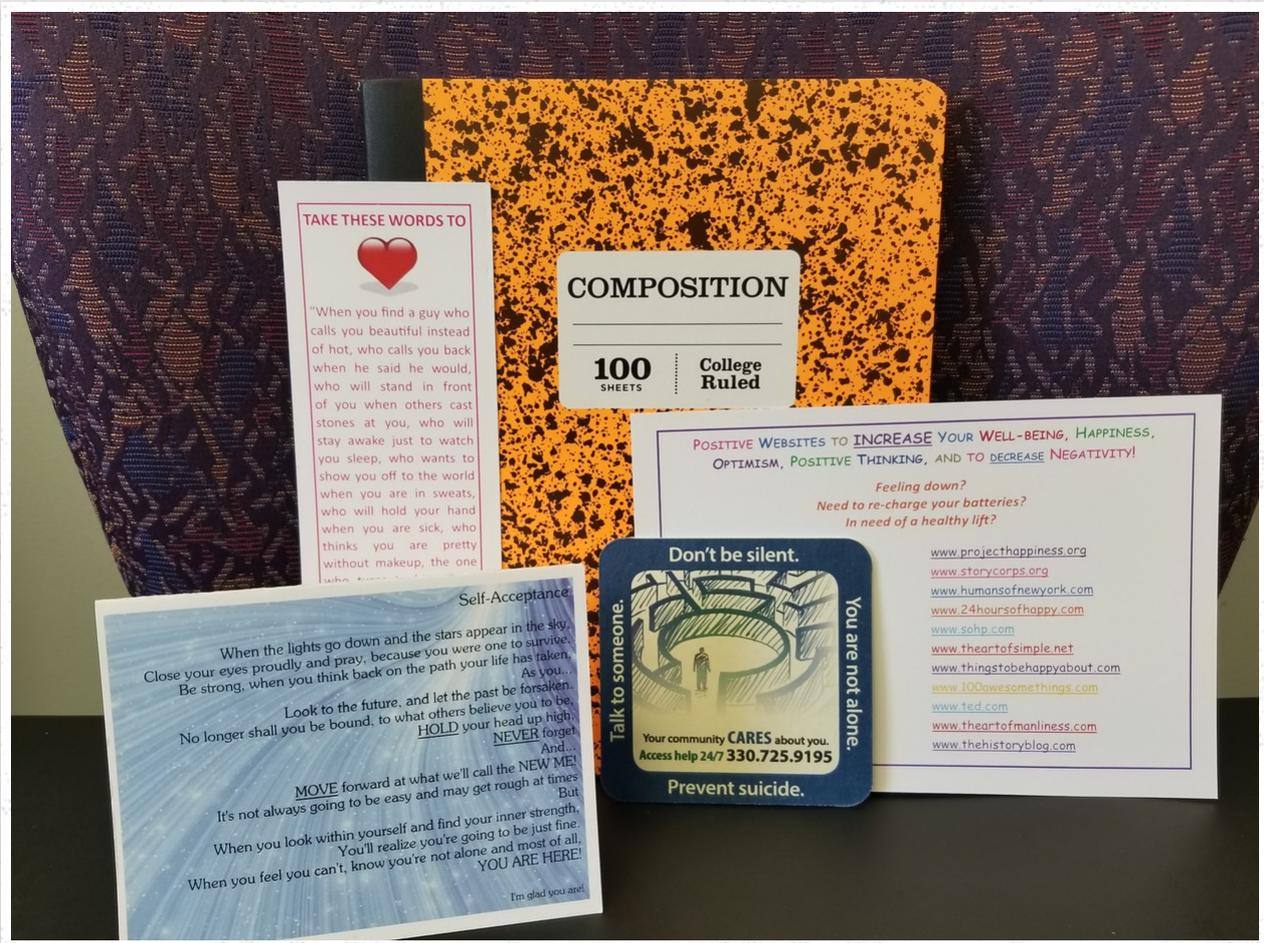
Website Resource Card - Has 22 websites that can help our youth to increase their well-being, happiness, optimism, positive thinking and decrease their negativity.

An Inspirational Card - Developed by Officer Regina Hogg in 2016

This card contains a poem and words of wisdom created by Officer Hogg because of her heart for our youth and their future.

Book Mark - Titled, "Take These Words to Heart," which is a quote by Shannon L. Adler.

Journal - When a youth is detained, they receive a journal that they are permitted to write in during designated times. They can share what they have written in their journal with our social worker or counselors and no one else. Once it is determined that an individual is leaving our care their journal is placed in their personals, so they can continue writing upon release if they choose.



Connecting Through Music

When Superintendent Stollar found out recently that one of his residents enjoyed playing guitar, he asked the young man if he would like to play for several staff members and fellow residents. The youth eagerly accepted the offer, so several staff members gathered together to listen (Maddy, our student music therapy student even came in to hang with the group!). Stollar lent the youth one of his personal guitars and for about the next 20 minutes they jammed with a very pleased and proud young man, who thanked them several times for this opportunity to highlight one of his talents. *"What a great way for us to see our kids, and for them to see us, in a different and very positive context!"*, commented one staff member. The young man is learning to play in his church's band and we wish him all the best!!



Children's Center Kits

The MCJDC partners with the Children's Center of Medina County to provide toiletry kits for the residents. These kits include various hygiene items and the residents receive these kits when they leave the MCJDC. Sometimes having proper hygiene items can be a challenge for the residents and these kits help get the residents off on the right foot!



Youth Fulfillment Coordinator - Jaclyn Balliet

We welcome one of our newest employees - Jaclyn Balliet! Let us give you a snapshot of her and just a few of her job responsibilities.



Jaclyn will be averaging 20 flexible hours per week during which she will work on improving the current services we provide for our kids as well as researching and bringing in new services. Of course, this will involve meeting and interviewing new folks to ensure they are properly vetted to work with our youth to work them into our daily schedule. The vast majority will be volunteering their time. Jaclyn will also be coordinating our art and music therapy, prepping for and working special events, updating our lobby informational monitor, and trying to obtain grants and other funding.

Jaclyn has been busy with not only these duties but has also found some yoga instructors (from Cultivate Yoga) for the MCJDC and artists to help design and paint this year's mural for our annual Art Experience event (Sept. 26th). She has also been able to get more than 20 yoga mats donated from the Northeast Ohio Sri Lankan Community. Jaclyn is BIG on donations and is working on other items and supplies that will benefit the youth. Additionally, she has met with numerous individuals not only inside Medina County but surrounding counties as well who all want to help us. All good stuff for our kids and our community!

A couple of random facts about Jaclyn; Jaclyn coaches t-ball and softball, has three beautiful children and is a Life Coach at her Mindful Healing practice in Lakewood when she isn't working at the MCJDC. Oh yes, and that, *"Vanilla with cherries is the best ice cream ever invented!"* Superintendent Stollar agrees. :-) She also said, *"I'm honored to have the opportunity to positively impact the lives of our kids throughout their stay here at the detention center. Their potential is endless and I'm excited to help them get their chance to shine."*

One of Jaclyn's favorite quotes is by Eleanor Roosevelt, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of the dream." *"This quote sums up my driving force and how I feel about working with our youth. I believe that giving an opportunity to kids who otherwise wouldn't have opportunities is the beauty of the dream. Our kids are the future."* Medina County is blessed to have Jaclyn at the MCJDC.

Sergeant Promotion: Sergeant Jason Gordon

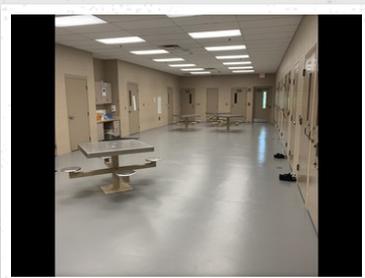
Jason Gordon has recently been promoted to Sergeant!

"I'm very grateful and excited about my promotion to sergeant. I'm looking forward to using this leadership position in bettering myself, the juvenile detention center, and the community of Medina County. Working with youth has always been a passion of mine. Working at the MCJDC gives me the opportunity daily to try and have a positive impact of some kind on each youth that I come in contact with. It doesn't matter if they have only been here one time or have been here ten times. My goal for them is to take something positive out of their stay here and hopefully apply that to their lives outside of the JDC."



Fun facts about Jason:

1. I'm a season ticket holder for the Cleveland Indians.
2. I love to travel. I go to Las Vegas two times a year.
3. I once lived in Hawaii for just under a year.



Renewed Floors!

After nearly 20 years of wear and tear on our three living unit floors, our amazing maintenance department did a great job of tearing out some old flooring and recoating them with fresh paint - a particular, durable type they have assured us. The new floors look nicer and are much easier to keep clean. We wish we had taken some "before" pics (we did not), but here is one "after" pic and trust us, this is a welcome improvement. Thank you, Ed, Luke, and Joe from Maintenance!

Click here for past newsletters!

Have you missed a newsletter? We now 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.

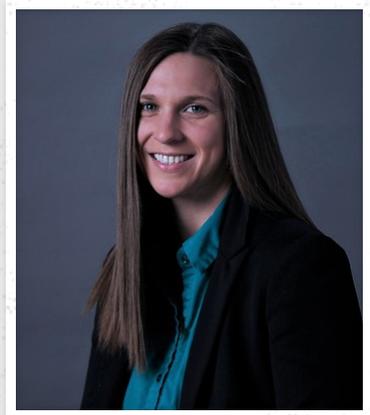
www.medinajdc.org



**Judge Kevin W.
Dunn - Juvenile
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."