

Juvenile Detention Center

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

May 2020

For Such a Time as This

For a lot of us - our human nature being what it is - we probably find it easy enough to complain about the many changes we have had to make, and challenges we have had to overcome in dealing with the Corona pandemic. I am sure I have done my share of complaining these past couple of months. That said, we also have the option of viewing this pandemic differently if we so choose. What do I mean?

Many of us are in leadership positions, so in dealing with all we have had to deal with since the onset of the pandemic we can choose to look at it as a time in history when we had the PRIVILEGE of serving and helping those under our charge and care to come out of this better than we began. This is far better than whining about it. Leading is a privilege and that is how Assistant Superintendent Millikin and I chose a few weeks ago to face all the problems that come our way. Of course we all wish we were not in the middle of this Corona Virus but reality is that we are, so when this is all over Megan and I hope we led to the best of our abilities. We hope the changes and decisions we have had to make were the best we possibly could, and that our kids and staff members we care for see that we had their best interests at heart.

So yes, easy enough to complain. But as leaders we also have the OBLIGATION and DUTY to view things differently. To be creative. To be innovative. To break new ground. As we continue through these uncharted waters, Megan and I will continue to do our best to view our current situation as a huge opportunity to lead like we have never had to before, as difficult as that is at times. We are in leadership positions for a reason. Perhaps it is for just such a time as this.

- Superintendent Stollar

Rewarding Positive Behavior

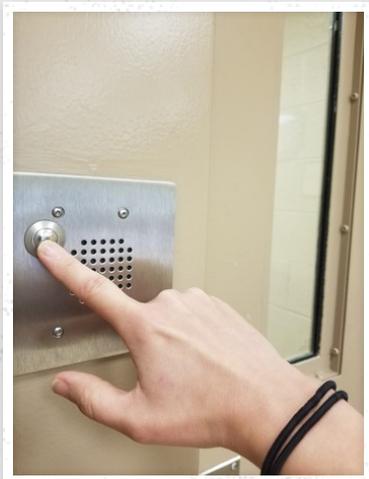
Knowing that the best thing we can do to change behavior for the better is to recognize and reward positive conduct, that is what we do! In the Resident Guidebook that each of our youth receive upon their arrival with us, twenty different positive behaviors are listed and staff watch to see our kids exhibit them. When one of these behaviors is spotted by a staff member the youth is rewarded with a commissary ticket which they can accumulate and use to "purchase" commissary items (covered in last month's newsletter).



Here are just a few of the behaviors we watch for:

- Demonstrating proper self-control through use of anger management skills
- Managing conflict appropriately through respectful communication skills
- Good sportsmanship
- Good citizenship by volunteering to assist staff/others
- Leadership through appropriate prompting of peers
- Creating an atmosphere of inclusion by ensuring a peer was not left out
- Apologizing when they should without having to be prompted

And know that not everything, every time gets rewarded. We also want our kids to learn that sometimes just doing one's best, and doing the right thing, *are their own reward*. We want them to realize the importance of being good humans even when there is no pay-off. Hopefully ALL of us buy into that, yes?!!



Did You Know?

... that each of our cells has an intercom button and speaker for youth to use in the event of an emergency? When in their cells our kids can communicate immediately and directly with an officer should they need prompt attention. Does this get misused and abused at times? Yes. Sometimes a particular youth may feel like being ornery or just want to give staff a hard time so they will abuse this safe-measure by incessantly using it to "order" pizza, or make unreasonable demands of staff. And what do we do when this happens? The youth will receive a rule violation (or multiple violations) and juvenile court is notified of their behavior. And yes, we still check to make sure there is no emergency. It can be a real pain but we will always keep everyone's health and safety at the top of our priority list.

Video Visitation

During a time of separation and isolation it is even more imperative to find ways to connect. Thankfully, technology has helped our kids to do just that with their families. Although no one

is allowed to enter our building, the residents are able to use a tablet to have one 15 minute video visit with their parents per week. They still get three (free) ten minute phone calls per week and they can call (collect) four days per week. We are hoping to return to in-person visits as soon as it is safe!



Cheri Smith

Access the Arts has funded artist, Cheri Smith from Brush Tips Studio, to Skype in for an art lesson weekly. The kids are set up with their canvases, paint, and brushes so they can follow along with her as she instructs. This has been such a positive experience and self-esteem booster for the kids and they look forward to it every week!

"If you hear a voice within you say you cannot paint, then by all means paint and that voice will be silenced." - Vincent Van Gogh



Music Therapy

Maddy Silver-Riskin has continued to volunteer her time and musical expertise for our youth via Skype! Since she isn't able to provide music therapy at full capacity due to the current situation, right now her primary goal with the Skype sessions is to engage the kids and give them a safe outlet to use music as a leisure skill and an outlet to productive conversation. When they are utilizing in-person music therapy sessions the kids are able to be more interactive. That is when they are able to play instruments, analyze important messages in music, and



learn how to write and produce their own songs. This process promotes responsibility, positive self-expression and self-confidence!

And a big congratulations to Maddy as she recently became a full-fledged Board Certified Music Therapist!!!

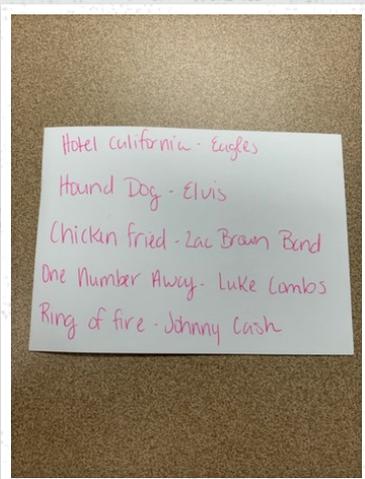


Molly Thomas

Yoga, meditation, and breath-work has continued at the detention center even through the pandemic. It is needed more now than ever and we are so grateful that Molly Thomas has maintained her mission with our youth every Tuesday afternoon and Saturday morning via Skype sessions and videos. Her ability to guide the kids through meditation and find peace is appreciated and respected by all of us!

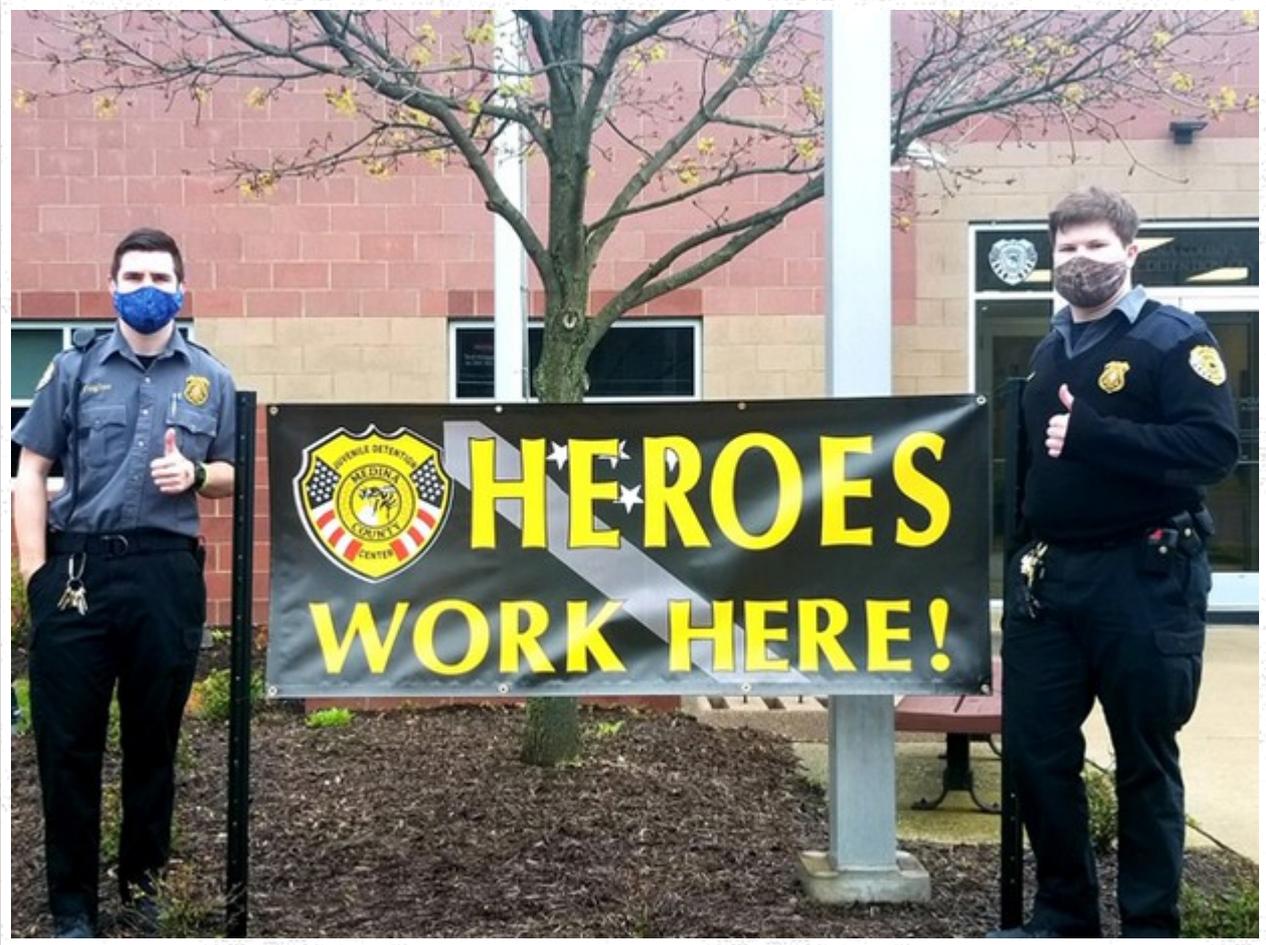
Book Club

We are very excited about a new program that Jane Back and Lisa Tecco started for our kids! Every Tuesday and Friday the youth meet up in dietary to have a Skype session and discuss a novel that they are all reading together. Access the Arts donated books for every resident to have and keep! They are encouraged to read multiple times a day every day of the week. Many of the kids have read ahead and are already on to the sequel!



Rolando Pizana

Every Saturday afternoon the kids gather to color and enjoy the music performed by Rolando Pizana. Along with the entertainment they are taught about music history, instruments, and musical culture from all decades. The youth are able to put in requests for Rolando to play so they can be involved with the program and not just be spectators. It has been a positive addition to our weekly schedule and another opportunity for the kids to learn while keeping spirits lifted through entertainment. We would like to thank Access the Arts for their funding and support!



Celebrating and Thanking Those in Corrections!

On May 5, 1984, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the first full week of May as National Correctional Officers and Employees Week. To show our appreciation, some of our administrative staff took to the grill and served up a hot lunch for each shift! Additionally, Debbie Boehmke and Lou DeLoss (two members of our Citizen Excellence Council) donated 25 Honey Baked Ham, boxed lunches including drinks! We are grateful for our team of Correctional Officers as they work on the front line everyday. Their dedication, commitment, and spirit should be celebrated every day of the year!

"No group of Americans has a more difficult or less publicly visible job than the brave men and women who work in our correctional facilities." - Ronald Reagan



Megan Millikin

Assistant Superintendent



Ron Stollar

Superintendent



Jackie Maddox

Administrative Corrections
Officer

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Contact Us!

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Administrative Hours

Monday-Friday

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

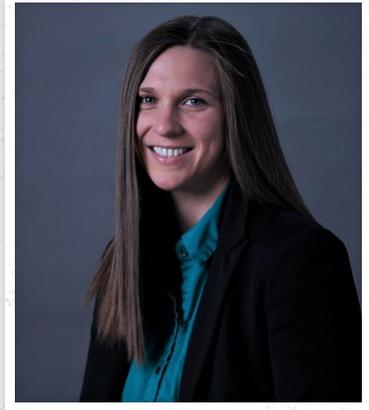




**Judge Kevin W.
Dunn;
Juvenile/Probate
Court**



**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."