

Juvenile Detention Center

— Amazing Things Are Happening Here! —

June 2021

Thank you to our Administrative Assistant, Reneé Tatara, for planting our beautiful flowers!!



Writers in Residence

Earlier this year, the nonprofit **Writers in Residence**, chose to partner with us. WIR was founded by Zachary Thomas with the mission to: TEACH creative writing to incarcerated youth; EMPOWER incarcerated youth's voices; and ASSIST in their re-entry into society. WIR's vision is to reduce recidivism of youth involvement in the juvenile justice system.



Some cohorts of Writers in Residence include: Heidelberg University, John Carroll University, Oberlin College, and the University of Dayton to name just a few. They have also partnered with several other detention/correctional facilities to work with their kids. WIR will be back this fall to conduct further workshops!

So what has WIR done with our kids? They conducted a number of workshops providing writing prompts and asking thought-provoking questions of our kids, then took what the kids wrote and published those writings in a chapbook. (Chapbooks are small, inexpensive publications of various genres that became popular back in the 16th century.) Our chapbooks have more than 60 pages of writings in them, all composed by our kids. Check out WIR at www.writersinresidence.org.

Note that everything our kids wrote, they wrote exactly as you see it below. Spacing, spelling, and grammar were all left untouched.

Untitled

J

Making food Especially when its
seasoned good, good songs that I
really like the beat to or think
are lyrically good, I have a few
funny favorite movies too like step brothers,
talledega nights, an scary movie 3, trailer
park bois, also I like nature alot
but lately I forgot about that
mainly why I like seasoned food so
much is cause it never ah. get old
cause you could make anything
like 10 different ways, an pair it
with 10 other foods an- then
you could pair it with a
movie thats really funny or whatever
an keep those same feelings going
on
or around some music that you
really like an maybe put
some music. With a spot
in the woods you really
like an maybe proly also find
some type of nice peace

Untitled

J

I was trying to keep
my concentration When
I heard Everything complaining
it was at that time i wished
I was swimming Maybe
hydroplaning all because
my mind started straining
moral is keep concentrating
not contemplating

Untitled

J

Making food Especially when its
seasoned good, good songs that I
really like the beat to or think
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Mini Equines - They're Back!

On June 5th, Rita Davis visited with us again to share one of her miniature horses with our kids. She brought Belle, a beautiful 6 1/2 year-old girl. Our kids were able to pet Belle, brush and comb her mane, and walk her.

Did you know that the ancient Greeks used horses for therapeutic purposes? Hippocrates, known as the "Father of Medicine", wrote about the therapeutic potential of horseback riding. And while our kids didn't ride Belle, Rita's horses being much smaller than your standard full-size horse, are much less intimidating and approachable. Horses can offer a sense of peace, as they only react to human's behavior and emotions with no threat of bias or judgment of any kind. We won't go into it here but there is a wide range of disorders that humans can benefit from horses, and Rita's are just the coolest!



Belle and Stollar



Belle and Rita!



Musical Instruments

Through our partnership with the local and amazing **Access the Arts** nonprofit, they were able to lend us several ukuleles and guitars for our kids to learn to play. This was accomplished through a grant they obtained this year.

Mr. Rolando Pizano, a friend of Access the Arts and ours, is coming in weekly over the summer to teach our kids some basic ukulele chords and songs, and who doesn't like some good, catchy uke music?? Check out the brief clip below of Rolando giving some basic instruction. Hopefully, we will be able to provide you with a clip of our kids playing an actual

song over the next month or two! Thank you Rolando and Access the Arts (www.accessthearts.net)! For those of you who like uke music, you might want to look up the band, UKEBOX, on Youtube. It will bring a smile to your face!!



One of our officers, Eliza Fields (below), came in off duty to also help our kids learn the uke. She plays and sings well!



Me Wheel

Describing yourself as a teenager is a complex and often extremely challenging task that often leaves them feeling overwhelmed and confused about themselves. Developing self-esteem, self-awareness, and self-compassion is a vital skill to have as our youth embark on adulthood. A tool to aid our youth in articulating their strengths and weaknesses is a “ME wheel”. This is an activity that breaks down different aspects of life and challenges the youth to self-reflect while offering a visual representation of achievements. The ability to visually see what we

have achieved and what we need to work on, can give individuals a greater sense of control and help them develop a plan for moving forward.

Our Mental Health Clinicians worked with our kids who wrote responses to five prompts. Here is a sampling some of their responses:

FIVE THINGS I WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE

My hygiene habits

My emotions

My smoking and drinking habits

My grades

FIVE FRIEND GOALS

Get more friends

Find better friends

Find friends who have good intentions for me

FIVE CAREER GOALS

Work as a chef

Raise money for college

Work with horses

Own a restaurant

FIVE THINGS I LIKE ABOUT MY ENVIRONMENT

Safety

Caring

Settled

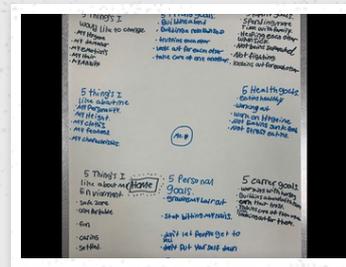
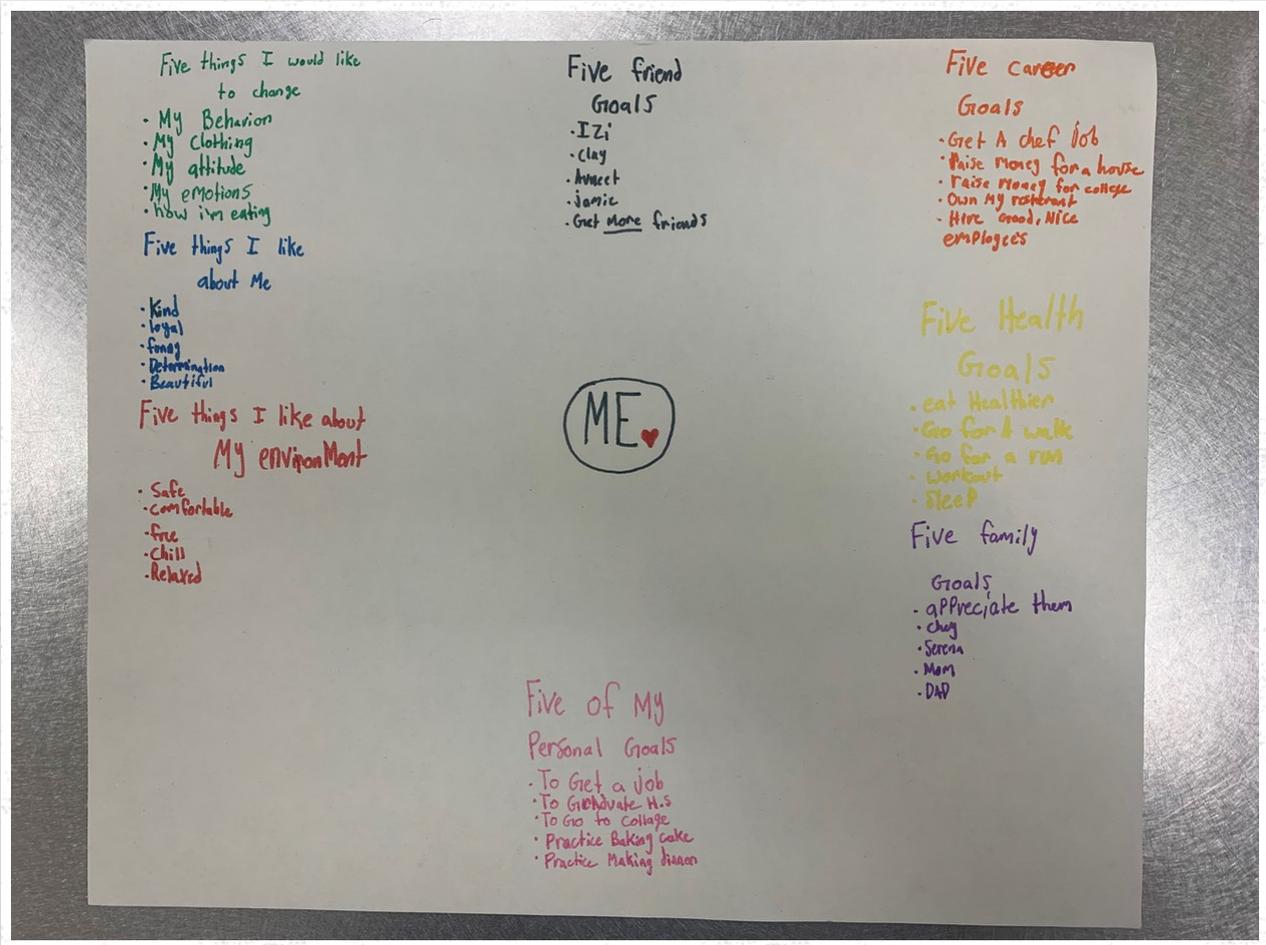
FIVE FAMILY GOALS

Appreciate them

Spend more time with them

Help them

Talk through our problems



Human Behavior is Fascinating!

Our staff had the opportunity recently to meet and learn from Board-Certified Behavior Analyst, Kim Wolff. Kim is the founder and director of the Wolff & Phan Autism Center in Fairlawn, Ohio. She is a consultant who conducts training and workshops throughout the United States on leadership, positive reinforcement behaviors, violence *prevention*, and de-escalation techniques.

Over the past several weeks, Kim was able to visit us and observe human behavior, i.e., the behavior of both our kids, as well as our staff members as staff worked with our youth. Kim spent time observing us in order to prepare to train us in some of the topics in the preceding paragraph. During her classes

Kim primarily focused on the importance of understanding human behavior, identifying the positives and negatives of reinforcement, and what sound motivators are for human beings. By the conclusion of her training, Kim was able to work through various scenarios with our staff and explain different strategies for de-escalating volatile situations. Between her first sessions and her second ones she even gave homework assignments to our folks to make their training even more impactful! Sergeant Brent Foreman commented on how many opportunities we all sometimes have where we can change the outcome of a particular situation, stating he found value in learning about “antecedents, behaviors, and consequences”, and how they all intertwine with each other. Officer Eliza Fields said she benefited from learning about, “different personality types” and how to most effectively work with them.

We are always looking for top-notch training for our staff in how to best help our kids, and are *super thankful* for the hours Kim volunteered in observing and training us, sharing her valuable experience and knowledge. Note that Ms. Wolff is in this year's signature class of Leadership Medina County, which is how we originally met a few months ago. Thank you LMC for your continued support of us, and thank you Kim!!

www.wpautismcenter.com

From an Intern's Perspective

Joining us just last week to begin serving an internship with us this summer, is Lilly Postlethwait. Let's see what Lilly has to say about her time with us thus far;

"I started my experience with the MCJDC June 23rd. Though that might not be a very substantial amount of time as the writing of this piece, the significance of the time I have spent here already is nothing to dismiss. Already, I have seen the effort and care that goes into helping our residents recover and be restored to productive and prosperous members of the community while also advocating the practice of accountability. The youth here are provided with a variety of services to take advantage of to address their needs and/or build rapport like Drug & Alcohol groups, Counseling and Social Services. Anger Management groups, Therapeutic Art, etc. some of which I have already been given the opportunity to be a part of.



After attending Ashland University for a couple of semesters and taking classes under my major, Criminal Justice, I had a sufficient amount of head knowledge in regards to corrections and what the process looks like, what works and doesn't work, and had looked at plenty of

statistics. However, having taken on MCJDC as my field experience course I have had the benefit of having experiential knowledge to go along with my head knowledge. I have seen my textbooks lived out and seen numbers become faces, which has been both fascinating and enlightening. Having learned to much in such little time already, I am greatly looking forward to what the rest of my stay has to teach me."

- Lilly

Trespasser Caught - And It's All On Video!!

When Assistant Superintendent Millikin spotted some unusual movement behind some cars in our parking lot a couple of weeks ago we weren't sure what we had going on, so an investigation was promptly initiated. She and LISW Alexis Lee bravely left the safety and security of our building to see what was going on. Upon closer examination they discovered exactly what the movement was, and it was stealthily (yet forcefully) making it's way toward one of our security fences. After notifying everyone inside our building to go to **Def Con 2** for a possible intruder, they surrounded aforementioned interloper and captured him. Fortunately, he did not put up a struggle.



They then took the time to clean him up (he was covered in mud and grass - part of his intentional camouflaging), make sure he was OK, and after naming him "Cucumbers", released him back to his (her?) environment so he could continue his trek to what we then believed to be *not* over our fence but rather to the swamp behind our building. Cucumbers you ask?? Ya gotta know some of the folks who work here. We wish you the best, Cucumbers!!

Live so that when your children
think of FAIRNESS and
INTEGRITY.....

They think of YOU!



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Contact Us!

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Administrative Hours
Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

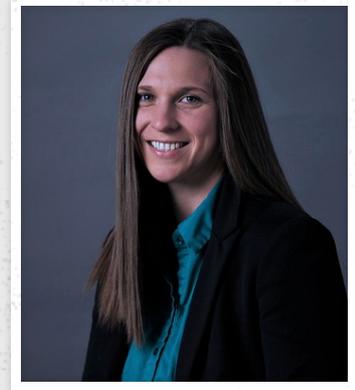
www.medinajdc.org



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