

Juvenile Detention Center

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

July 2020

Art Experience 2020!

Due to Covid-19, we are adjusting our plans for this year's art event on Thursday, September 24th. Keeping our community and our facility safe is our number one priority! All of the art work made by our youth will be displayed online with the option to bid or donate a financial contribution to our therapeutic art programs. We will post the official details for the 2020 Art Experience on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and in next month's newsletter so you won't have to miss this year!!!

Words of Hope

One of our current residents wanted to express what her experience has been like since being detained at the detention center. She wrote a moving letter that touched on her past, issues that brought her to getting arrested, and hope of the positive change she is now seeking for her life. Excerpts from her letter can be read below.



"My time here, at the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center has taught me a lot. I came to the MCJDC for the very first time in January of 2020. Since then I've been in and out up until now (I'm currently detained). The first time I was released I was only out for two hours, the second time I was out for six days."

... "There have been 202 days of 2020, as of this writing, and I've spent 34 of them on the outs. In total I have spent 168 days, one including my birthday and my siblings' birthdays (I am the oldest of six) in the MCJDC."

... "I've had a lot of time to think (about 6 months worth) while in here and let me tell you, I've used it wisely. I've thought a lot about my future and what I will make of it after I leave the

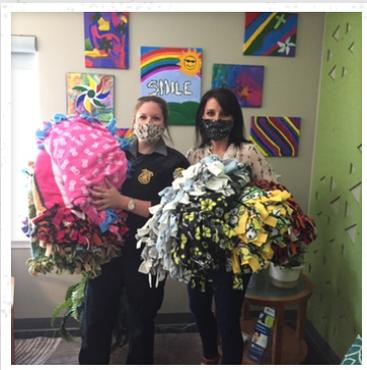
MCJDC for good. I'm happy to say I won't be graduating to the adult jail next door. I've decided to finish high school strong (I'm currently a senior and proud to say I've never failed a grade, I will graduate at 17 years old) and go to University!

... "Before I came to the MCJDC I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. Everything was a little bit of a blur. I was going to get my diploma and join the union doing construction or something. Like I said, I didn't really know. Then January rolled around. February through May flew by. Every time I went home I just kept coming back. Those four months (plus the nearly two months I've been here now) helped me realize that I don't want other kids who are in my situation, or worse, to have to go through what I did and lose so much of their time. That's when I decided to become a Social Worker. Specifically working as a caseworker or in a position like the social workers here."

..."In July I will probably be released to the state and never come back to the MCJDC (only to visit the wonderful staff, and maybe down the line talk to future residents about my situation. In the Resident Guidebook we receive upon intake, it talks a lot about making your stay successful. I can honestly say my time here has been successful in many ways."

..."I would personally like to thank all of the staff members here. Especially Ms. Lauren and Ms. Alexis for helping me pave the path to my success. To anyone reading this, regardless of age, if you put your mind to it you can really achieve it. I believe in you. Be a good human."

- G.P.



Blanket Donation at the Children's Center

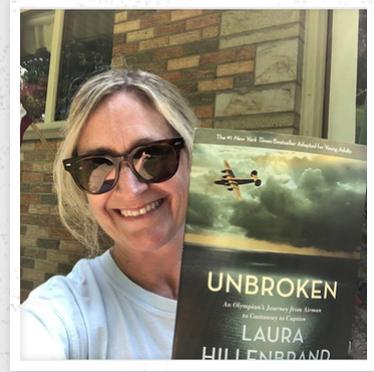
The Children's Center of Medina County hosted more than 80 family visits for children in foster care and their guardians last month, which is a record high. The center also provides a safe space for interviews and medical exams for children who have been victims of sexual and/or physical abuse. Each child is offered a blanket for comfort and can take it with them after their visit. We, at the JDC, received a donation of fleece fabric, which was then cut by volunteers from the nonprofit organization Access the Arts. Kids from the detention center spent afternoons tying the blankets together to donate to the Children's Center. Our residents were happy to give to other kids who have potentially suffered similar hard times as them. *(We love our partnership with The Children's Center!)* More donations are coming in and we plan to continue the work of giving to others!

www.medinacountychildrenscenter.org

www.accessthearts.net

Book Club

Jane Back and Lisa Tecco from Access the Arts has started our second Book Club by request of the kids! The book is "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand and it is a biography of World War II hero Louis Zamperini, a former Olympic track star who survived a plane crash in the Pacific theater who spent 47 days drifting on a raft, and then survived more than two and a half years as a prisoner of war (POW) in three brutal Japanese POW camps. *Unbroken* spent more than four years on *The New York Times* best seller list, including 14 weeks at number one. It is the 5th longest-running nonfiction best seller of all time. Book Club meets twice per week to discuss what they've read and how they were impacted by it. This group will continue until the school year begins in August.



Day of the Dead

Joan Zacharias has been an art teacher at Hinckley schools for many years and her ability to work with kids is amazing! Pictured here is one of the clay skulls that she taught our kids here how to make. Once she showed our youth what the final product was going to be, many of the kids commented that they wouldn't be able to make it. Mrs. Zacharias broke down every step little by little while allowing them to be creative and add their own twist. Not only did their projects turn out great, but they felt confident and accomplished in their work. Coming soon - In August Mrs. Zacharias will teach the youth how to make "pinch pots" with clay that will be donated to the Feeding Medina County fundraiser.

www.feedingmedinacounty.org

Mural Project

Every year our kids come together to create a large mural that is showcased at our annual art event! This year, Access the Arts funded an extraordinarily talented team to help with the project! Akron Bomb Brigade is a local community mural arts and education program run by the Myers School of Art at the University of Akron. It is founded by UA faculty Elisa Gargarella and Marissa McClellan. This organization "arms" UA students and alumni with paint brushes and spray cans to "muralize" highly trafficked sites regionally. Their week with us consisted of teaching about the history and purpose of mandalas and how to create them from beginning to end. The kids drew, measured, created, transferred, painted, and completed their very own mandala on an 18 inch



by 18 inch piece of plywood. All of their individual mandalas will be hung in a quilt like fashion as one large mural. The symbolism of this project was to portray us as individuals and how beautiful of a creation we can be when we all come together. The relevancy of this unique perspective seemed to be an important message for our youth more now than ever! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to stay up on the latest details for our upcoming, virtual art event where you can sponsor your own piece of the mandala mural!



Yoga

Molly Thomas is a yoga instructor who volunteers her time teaching at our facility and the Cuyahoga County juvenile facility. She has received additional training through the Prison Yoga Project (www.prisonyoga.org) which allows her to be more sensitive to the needs that our youth typically exhibit regarding the trauma they have experienced that is unique to each of them. Throughout the pandemic, the kids have had to go without seeing our volunteers in person which has been a strain on their daily routine. Molly has continued to provide support making sure she connects with our kids weekly. Her ability to bring relaxation through breath and movement has been extremely appreciated by our residents and staff and we are so grateful for her continuity!

"Yoga and meditation have helped me significantly throughout my stay in many ways. It helps me to get a better grasp on the thoughts racing through my head. It helps me take the negative thoughts and turn them to positive ones."

- quoted by a current resident at MCJDC

Rolando Pizano

Every Saturday Rolando Pizano brings joy to the detention center through music education and performance. His experience as a teacher is a wonderful asset when he speaks with our kids on the history and influence of music. Along with their weekly lesson and conversations, Rolando takes requests for songs from the residents and performs them on the spot! Access the Arts has funded this service (a HUGE thank-you to them!) and it is always looked forward to by our youth!!!



Bend and Breathe

at Blue Heron

Saturday, July 25th, 2020

10:00 - 11:00 am

Blue Heron Event Center
3227 Blue Heron Trace in Medina

Roots Yoga and Barre is offering a donation-based class to benefit Access the Arts (suggested min. donation \$15). Grab your mat, a friend, and some clothing you can easily move in for this yoga event for a great cause. No experience needed. **FREE BABYSITTING, FREE Mimosa,** and door prizes from area businesses. Afterward, lunch is available to purchase at Blue Heron Brew Pub, inside or outside patio.

All proceeds will help Access the Arts bring free arts programs to The Medina County Juvenile Detention Center and to the Medina County Home.

Safe protocols apply: Everyone will remain 6' apart. Please wear a mask until you are on your mat. Register ahead by going to www.RootsYogaOhio.com or RSVP to JaneBack@AccessTheArts.net. Walk-ins are also welcome, but those who sign up ahead will have their names in a drawing for great door prizes!

To learn more about the mission of AtA, go to AccessTheArts.net and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



Access the Arts fundraiser

Every 6 months, Access the Arts holds a donation based yoga event at Blue Heron Event Center with the proceeds going to free art programs for the Medina County Home and the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center. Roots Yoga and Barre in Wadsworth donates their time, energy, and instruction for this recurring occasion. Since the beginning of this fundraiser, they have provided art supplies, easels, instruction, and multiple programs that our youth benefit from on a regular basis. We hope to see you at their next scheduled event! Follow [@accessthearts](https://www.instagram.com/accessthearts) on Instagram for more information.

www.rootsyogaohio.com

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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

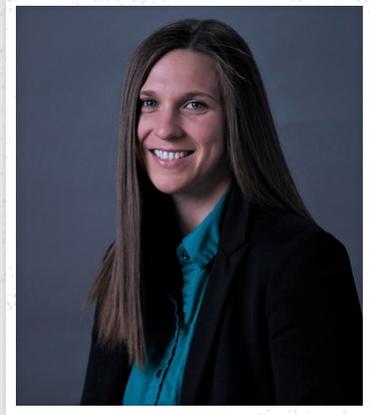




**Judge Kevin W.
Dunn;
Juvenile/Probate
Court**



**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."