

# Juvenile Detention Center

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

## July 2021

### Question

There is a question we are asked in different ways every once in a while. That question is along the lines of wondering if maybe we do so much for our kids while they are with us that they would rather keep returning to us instead of staying out of our building. More specifically, some have wondered if we expose them to too many enjoyable activities while they are here. So, in essence the question is, have we created more of a camp-like experience for them? Excellent question, and I will do my best to answer that for you.



This is a detention center that cares for troubled youth. Many of these youth have never experienced in life what probably most of the rest of us have, so our philosophy is to change that for them. We want our kids to engage in as many positive, constructive, productive activities as we can reasonably expose them to because one never knows what might “click” with them. Perhaps they will experience something here they have never seen or heard before – something they may become interested in and want to spend their time doing rather than doing the things they did that resulted in them having to be detained in our building.

Additionally, the more we keep our kids active, the less poor decisions they make while with us. We have seen a drastic decrease in poor behavior over the years since we began introducing our kids to the things we do. Things such as:

*Therapy animals*

*Therapeutic art*

*Music therapy*

*Drug & alcohol counseling*

*Anger management*

*Life skills*

*Because I Said I Would character-building curriculum*

*Writers in Residence*

*Yoga*

*Mindfulness*

The above list is actually about three times as long when everything is included. Correctional environments are inherently negative environments. We sought several years ago to change this as much as we reasonably could. Who wants to spend any amount of time in a negative setting? What is that good for? *Who is that good for?*

I could go on, but suffice to say that while we feel we do a lot for our kids to help them, the safety and security of everyone in our building is paramount. This means that we have rules, and when those rules are broken there are appropriate, meaningful consequences. Consequences that promote learning and improved behavior. The bottom line is we desire to change our kids for the better, and we appreciate the great support we have received from many of you toward this end. THANK YOU!

- Superintendent Stollar



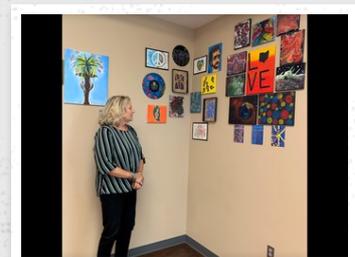
## **Brief Exchange Between Superintendent and Resident**

As I was walking through one of our day rooms a couple of weeks ago I was asked by one of our young men if I had ever spent time in jail when I was growing up. I told him that by the grace of God I had not, and that I had too much love and respect for my parents to ever do anything serious enough to get arrested, as this would have hurt them deeply. This young man told me he had never thought about his parents nor his life in that way. I asked him if he would begin doing so. He assured me he would. Time will tell but we all wish him the best.

- Superintendent Stollar

## **Art in Montville Township**

The Montville Township Safety Services Center is displaying select pieces of art our kids have created. Thank you to township trustee Sally Albrecht (pictured) for facilitating this. The art can be viewed at 6665 Wadsworth Rd. Medina (at the intersection of Poe Rd.) during regular business hours. Stop by and check it out if you're in the neighborhood!





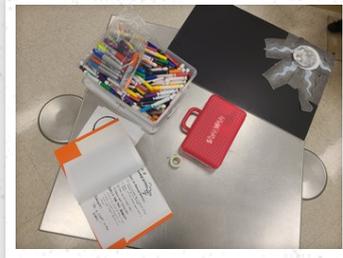
## Muralist

Meet Emily Anne Buckingham (right)! Emily is an exceptional and imaginative artist, and created this year's mural with our kids for our upcoming 5th annual Art Experience on September 23rd. The theme for 2021 is "BE A LIGHT IN THE DARK". Emily met with our kids for a brainstorming session before having them begin working on the actual 4'x8' project (wait till you see it in person!). In these pics she is teaching the group various painting and shading techniques. Emily commented, *"Each of these kids amazed me. It was an absolute pleasure bringing this project to life!"*



We may give you a sneak peek of the mural in next month's newsletter - it is SO unique! While Emily was teaching our kids, she talked with them about some of her life experiences and plans and how things don't always go the way we want them to. Through some of her own life disappointments she developed a motto she lives by every day which she shared with our kids - Emily Anne Can!

Check out Emily's talent on Instagram at [emily.anne.art](https://www.instagram.com/emily.anne.art), and her Youtube channel [emily.anne.art](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...). In addition to her skills and abilities, Emily Anne was a *delight* to work with!!



## New Youth Fulfilment Coordinator!

We welcome Leann Vandever as our new **Youth Fulfilment Coordinator**! Leann is one of our Corrections Officers, and when our YFC position opened up recently, she was immediately interested. Ms. Vandever has a bachelor's degree in Forensic Psychology and Addiction Counseling from Tiffin University. She enjoys writing and photography, and as a bonus, possesses creative artistic ability!



Leann commented, *"I have been working at the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center for two years now as an officer. I am looking forward to transitioning into my new position as Youth Fulfilment Coordinator! I am hopeful in working alongside the community to create even more opportunities for the residents of our facility!"*

## Parting Comments From Lilly the Intern

*"I am now coming to a close with my experience here at the MCJDC, and the value as well as the knowledge that I have gleaned from such an opportunity is immensely appreciable. At the beginning of my time here, I had not had a considerable amount of correctional experience, apart from academics, to use as a comparison to this facility. However, after spending a number of weeks here, I must admit that the bar has been set high for any later experiences I may have.*



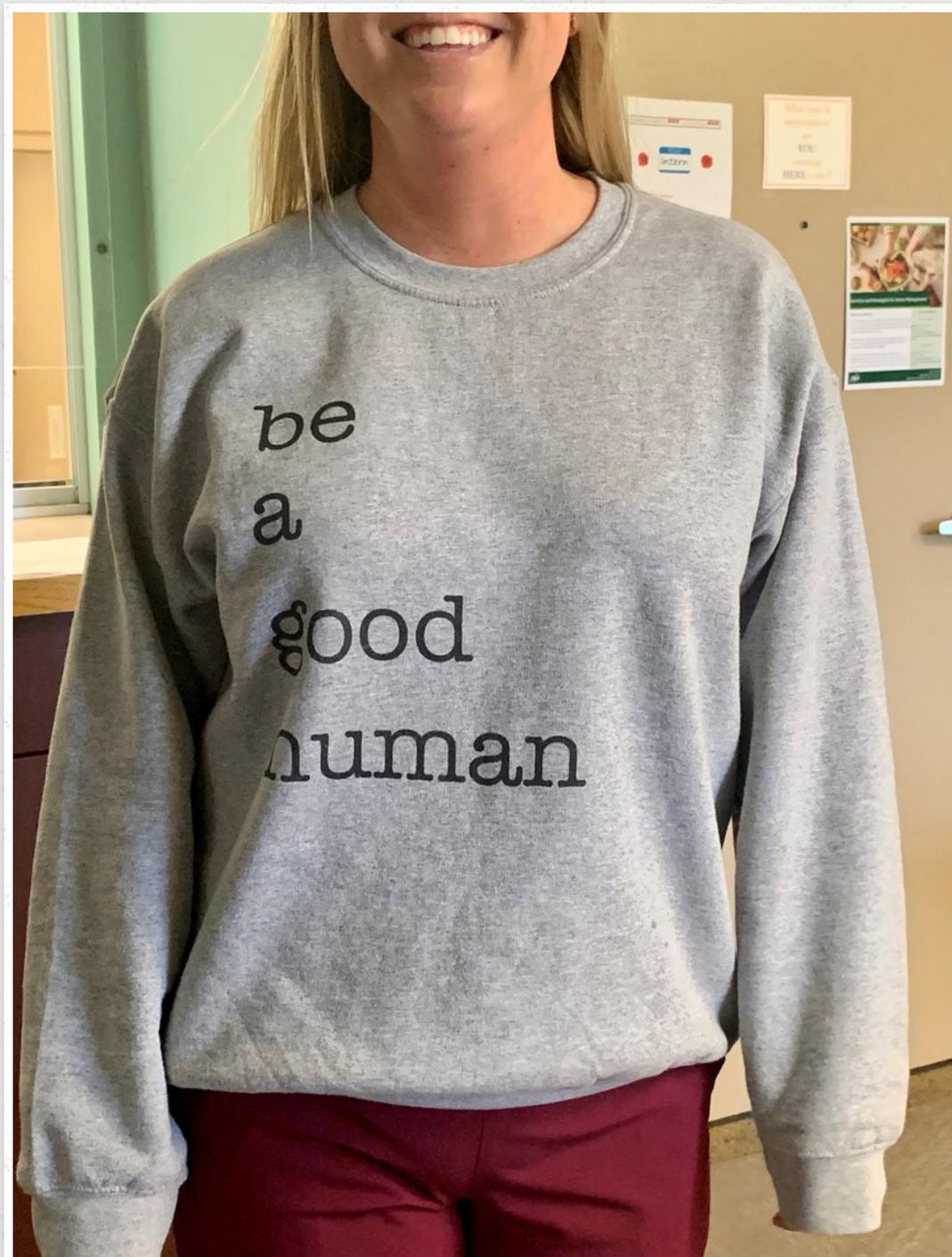
*I have seen kids arrive and depart from this facility, some newcomers and some returning residents, and with the vast amount of work and heart that goes into the programs and activities that they are able to partake in while staying here, I have no doubt that each youth leaves here with their minds a bit more enlightened and their hearts a little less heavy. It has been fascinating to see how each shift, and each officer even, has a different approach to helping the residents while all still upholding the policies, procedures, and professional standards that are a part of the job. It just goes to show that each individual can bring his or her own unique ideas and experiences to the facility while still collectively working towards the same goals. Those goals being, the betterment of the facility, the residents, and the*

*community. My time has been most pleasant in regard to the things I have learned, differences I have made, and people I have met. The MCJDC has my utmost gratitude and deepest thanks."*

*~Lilly Postlethwait:)*

*NITE: Lilly has been a most wonderful addition to us these past several weeks, readily jumping in and doing anything we asked of her. Thank you, Lilly - we are going to miss you!!*

*- MCJDC staff*



**This is Lauren, one of our mental health clinicians. She was shy and did not want her face shown but we couldn't pass up her smile and the message she brings to work each day!**

### **Words From One of our Youth**

*"I'm a resident here at the MCJDC. I've been here for 20 days and am going home soon. The food is surprisingly not bad. I definitely thought the food was going to be like the movies show you, gross mushy slime on a tray, but it's just your ordinary everyday meals.*

*We have programs and activities several times a week. Some of the programs are drug and alcohol groups, art therapy, anger management, and Writers in Residence. My favorite would absolutely have to be the art therapy. Writers in Residence is a close second. During art therapy we have painted with water color and acrylic, used colored pencils, and made an owl, octopus, and a forest. During art, we learn new ways to create and make some outstanding pieces. In Writers in Residence, a group of college students Zoomed in and had discussions and questions for us. It's interesting to see everyone's' point of view of different topics.*

*One of the best things about being here is you get time to think about what you did and what you're going to do to not come back in here. You really get to think, 'Do I want to be in and out of juvie until I'm 18 or do I want to get my stuff together and be the best person I can be?' Being in the MCJDC isn't a punishment in the way most people would see it to be. It's a time to think of how your actions were bad and what you can do to make things right. I am thankful for the time I had here to do just that".*

**- 15 year-old female resident**

### **Only 54 More Days Until Art Experience 2021!**

We will have more details next month but for now, please plan on attending our 5th annual MCJDC Art Experience on **Thursday, September 23rd** from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. The event will be held at the **Blue Heron Event center at 3227 Blue Heron Trace** here in Medina. *Please note that it is NOT an option to NOT attend!! :-)*

Angry child to parent; *"I hate you!"*

Parent; "You have broken my **heart** but I still love you with all the pieces".



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**Contact Us!**

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Fax: 330-764-8412

Administrative Hours

Monday-Friday

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

[www.medinajdc.org](http://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."*