

Juvenile Detention Center

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

November 2020

Musings From Superintendent Stollar

What is philosophy? It is, simply put, a way of thinking; a way of doing; a belief system. And at the MCJDC, we believe we should help our kids. We do this in concert with our juvenile court which, as some of you have heard me say, leaves no stone unturned in trying to get our kids on the right path. If we can do something toward changing the behaviors that resulted in our kids having to spend part of their young lives in our building we will do it. Please allow me to share with you some of what we engage them in:



- Life skills groups
- Therapy dogs
- Equestrian therapy
- Art
- Music therapy
- Anger management groups
- Drug & alcohol groups
- Gardening
- Resiliency groups
- Girl's Circle (teaches healthy boundaries)
- Yoga
- Behavioral level system (they earn rewards for good behavior)
- Because I Said I Would curriculum (keeping promises)
- Because I Said I Would's Alex Sheen has presented to our kids (watch his Utica TED Talk)
- Faith-based services through Medina Light Ministries, Oaks Family Care Center, and St. Francis church

Our kids also have their daily education provided by Medina City Schools. During non-Covid times our county's Health Department and Medina Library come in and present to our kids along with others such as:

Medina County Park District

Armed services recruiters

Medina County Beekeepers Association

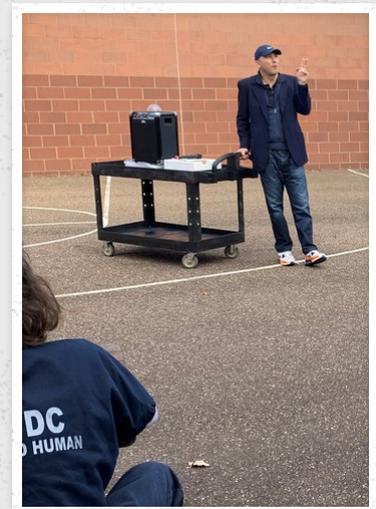
The Children's Center of Medina County (Human trafficking)

Through the Medina Library, we have had award-winning teen authors present to our youth. We have also had a host of other guest speakers come in, one of them a former NFL player for the Cincinnati Bengals. I know I am forgetting others.

I have had people comment to me that we do too much to help our kids. TOO MUCH? My response to them is, *"If your child were to spend time with us would you not want us to do everything we reasonably could to help him/her?"* I think we know the answer to that. These kids - ALL OF THEM - will continue to be part of our communities as they grow into adulthood. When considering that we can either house vs. helping them, the choice is easy.

Sing, Don't Fight!

"Sing Don't Fight," is an initiative a gentleman who goes by the name of Mr. Simon began in an adjacent county's detention center three years ago. His proposal to the kids was this; if he donated these items, the youth had to promise that violence and fighting within the facility would go down. His desire to help kids and enjoyment of singing drove his passion to donate a karaoke machine and Ipad to the kids in the facility. He required each youth to give him their word that they would do this for him. During the next three years, Mr. Simon visited the facility and sang karaoke with them. And the violence decreased!



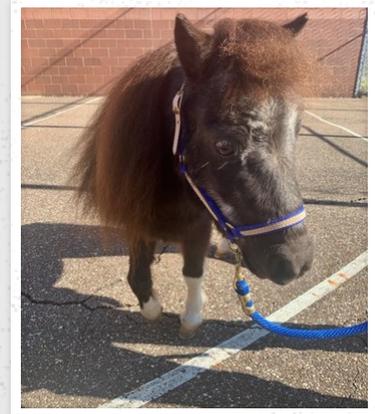
So on a sunny, warm day this month Mr. Simon visited with our kids in our outdoor recreation area. He told them about the other county and promised to donate a karaoke machine and Ipad to us if they promised to *"Sing, Don't Fight."* (Fortunately, violence in our own facility is extremely rare.) Mr. Simon shared this with our kids and told them if they keep their word he will donate karaoke machines to other facilities until each one in Ohio is equipped with one! Mr. Simon promised to return and sing with our kids once our volunteers are allowed to visit in person again. We look forward to Mr. Simon visiting us and thank him for his generous donation!

Miniature Horses

Recently, Rita Davis, April Winter, and Autumn Traylinek visited our kids, on a sunny Saturday, in our outdoor recreation area. Rita's miniature horses, Lightning and Zorro, brought smiles to the kids' faces as they were able to braid their manes, pet them, and walk them around the basketball court. Rita and her miniatures also visit the MCPAL program, the Berea Children's Home, Camp Paradise Summer Camp, and various nursing home facilities. We are looking forward to the post-Covid days when they can visit us more often! These horses are social creatures who are extremely sweet natured, and open to receiving affection! If you are interested in setting up a visit with any of Rita's fury friends, you can contact Rita at kidsonly@live.com.



Lightning



Zorro



Masks

Throughout the pandemic we have provided cloth masks to ensure the safety of our kids during their stay with us. Each designed mask stays with the youth it was given to and they are able to take it home upon their release. The designs on the fabric help to ensure that the correct mask stays with its owner. As Covid continues to spread in our communities it is imperative that we keep up with the demand for these masks. If anyone is interested in donating material, sewing expertise, or masks themselves, please contact Jaclyn Balliet (Jballiet@medinaco.org).

Kids Helping Kids

Our "kids helping kids" program has provided blankets for the Medina County Homeless Coalition and the Medina County Children's Center. We are hoping to receive more donations so that we can not only continue this program but expand it throughout Medina County. Our ultimate goal is to be able to reach first responders and medical personnel as well as ICU patients and family members affected by Covid. This is a time when many are feeling scared, isolated, and lonely. The kids at the detention center would like to make blankets as an

offering of comfort to people during this difficult time. If you have any interest in donating, please contact Jaclyn Balliet (Jballiet@medinaco.org).



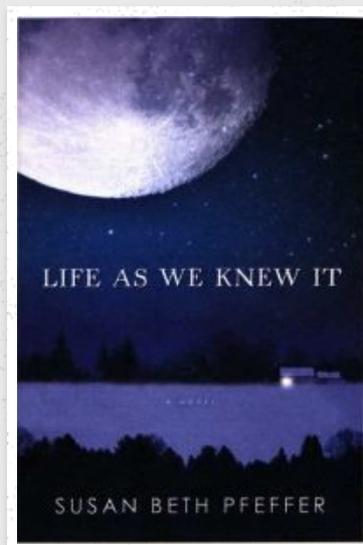
Kare Kits

Junior Leadership Medina County is a leadership program of high school students that offers a unique experience by combining students from every corner of Medina County into one cohort. High school students gather monthly to engage in hands-on and experiential activities taking them around the county to learn about what makes Medina County amazing. Several of last year's class members chose us as a service project. They raised money and obtained donations to create Kare Kits for the kids at our detention center. Each resident receives a kit when they are released. Each kit includes toothpaste, a toothbrush, deodorant, colored pencils, and a therapeutic coloring book. We are grateful for Junior Leadership's work to provide these items for every youth that stays at the detention center.

Book Club

Book Club is back by popular demand!!! Jane Back and Kelley Welch from Access the Arts have started another round of their program. "Life As We Knew It" by Susan Beth Pfeffer was named Young Adult Library Services Association's Best Books for Young Adults in 2007, and shortlisted for the Andre Norton Award for Outstanding Science Fiction or Fantasy Book of 2007. It was nominated for the 2009 Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award and won the Truman Readers Award of 2009.

High school sophomore Miranda's disbelief turns to fear in a split second when an asteroid knocks the moon closer to Earth, like "one marble hits another." The result is catastrophic. How can her family prepare for the future when worldwide tsunamis are wiping out the coasts, earthquakes are rocking the continents, and volcanic ash is blocking out the sun? As August turns dark and wintry in northeastern Pennsylvania, Miranda, her two brothers, and their



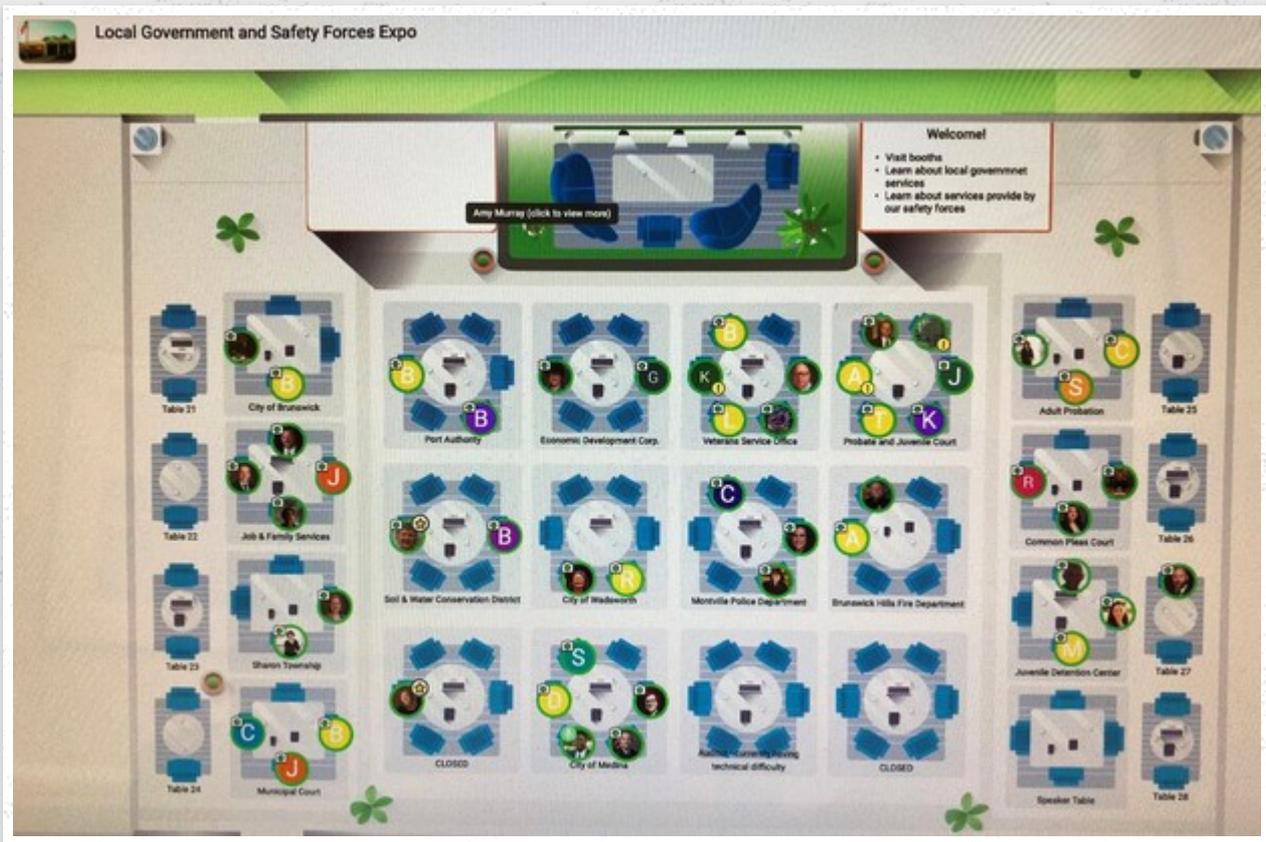
mother retreat to the unexpected safe haven of their sunroom, where they subsist on stockpiled food and limited water in the warmth of a wood-burning stove.

Told in a year's worth of journal entries, this heart-pounding story chronicles Miranda's struggle to hold on to the most important resource of all—hope—in an increasingly desperate and unfamiliar world.

Our kids have thoroughly enjoyed reading for our Book Club but enjoy even more, the discussions they have with Jane and Kelly who volunteer their time weekly for our kids.

County Government Expo

Earlier this month, Leadership Medina County held their annual Government Expo through the Remo meeting online platform. Participants were able to "visit" us and learn about our detention center. Our Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent shared information about what we do here, and answered questions. We even met three new folks who want to volunteer with us once Covid winds down! We can't wait!!





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Contact Us!

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Administrative Hours

Monday-Friday

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

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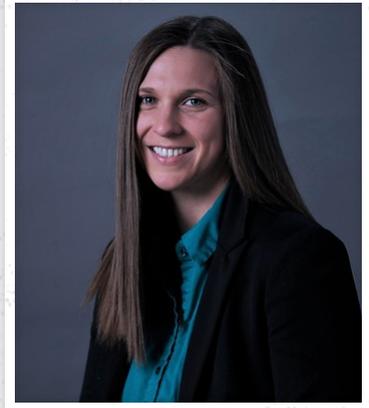




**Judge Kevin W.
Dunn;
Juvenile/Probate
Court**



**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."