

Juvenile Detention Center

— Amazing Things Are Happening Here! —

December 2020



Season's Greetings!

Ever wonder who's behind those masks and smiling faces when you stop at our front office?

From top left:

Renee Tatara (Administrative Assistant)
Ron Stollar (Superintendent)
Megan Millikin (Assistant Superintendent)

From bottom left:

Jaclyn Maddox (Administrative Officer)
Reva Keaton (Fiscal & HR)
Jaclyn Balliet (Youth Fulfilment Coordinator)

We wish you all a safe and wonderful 2021!!

Something New For Our Kids!

Writers in Residence first started as a student-run organization by Michalena Mezzopera, Anthony Shoplik, Rachel Schratz, Dr. Philip Metres, and Zachary Thomas in 2017 at John Carroll University. They wanted to share their love for reading and writing with youth that were incarcerated in Cleveland, Ohio.

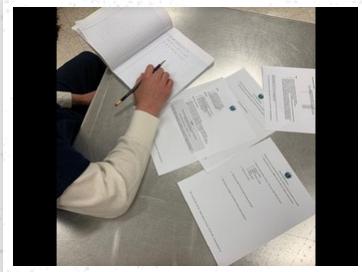


They were committed and driven "to reduce the rate of recidivism within the juvenile justice system by facilitating an open forum for artistic self-expression and constructive self-reflection while also fostering genuine, long-lasting relationships with the residents". This evolved into Writers in Residence's current mission and vision.

Currently, this organization remains active under the leadership of Zachary Thomas, who received a John Carroll University/Cleveland Foundation's Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards Grant Fellowship in 2018 to expand and develop the original JCU Writers in Residence cohort into a non-profit organization managing cohorts across Ohio.

Writers in Residence facilitated six writing workshops for our kids this month, and they gave such positive feedback about the experience and what they learned, that we will be scheduling more workshops in the future! Below is one of our residents' writing from the prompt, "Write 9 Six-Word Memoirs."

*"I am pushing on, feeling hopeful.
Love is tough, so am I.
Worry later, have fun right now.
Big Mac from McDonald's is good.
Baconator fills my tummy all up.
Keep friends close, but enemies closer.
Work hard, expect greatness in return.
Everything is earned, nothing is given.
I'll be alright in 90 days."*



Christmas in Detention

Having a virtual Christmas gathering this year held its challenges and was a bit different from our usual December 25th get-togethers in the past where we play games, listen to music, eat cookies, and open presents. The kids and I did our best to recreate that idea with lots of help from the ladies of Leroy United Methodist Church (Westfield Center), who are in their 4th year of donating gifts to our teens. Puzzles, word search books, various books to read, DVD's, and Taco Bell gift cards were just some of the presents from this wonderful church group. The Jarvis family wrapped all the gifts and brought them to the detention center. I also bought yummy Christmas treats (approved by our contracted food service provider, of course!).

At 7:00pm on Christmas Day, I skyped in and got my little band of teens together! Officers handed out the snacks which were enthusiastically devoured and washed down with cold milk! Together the teens and Susan talked through a Christmas lesson - that Jesus is the very best gift of all - and then listened to some music. Finally, the presents were opened and exclaimed over as the teens were surprised at the little pile of gifts they each received. The Christian devotionals for teens were opened and checked out immediately. The Taco Bell Gift Card was met with lip-smacking sounds of anticipation. The teens couldn't wait to start their puzzles back in their housing units!

All in all, it was a happy hour that flew by. (And P.S., the officers got to eat all the leftover snacks as a little holiday treat from the Jarvis family - LOL!)

Submitted by Chaplain Sue Jarvis



Access the Arts

Kelley Welch and Janet George, from Access the Arts, facilitated a hand made wreath project with our kids! Access the Arts donated the materials and their time to make sure the youth have something to take home (when they are released) to give to their families to spread the holiday cheer. While tying strips of colorful fabric to the circular metal frames, they also provided uplifting music which brought about many smiles!

Recognition

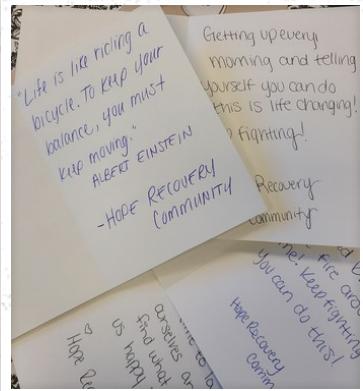
Every two years, Leadership Medina County recognizes local leaders in a variety of different categories. Congratulations to Superintendent Stollar on receiving their **Excellence in Public Service** award this year! Some of the criteria for this honor included:

- Providing an innovative benefit to the citizens of Medina County
- Promoting and fostering collaboration with Medina County to address local needs and challenges
- Pioneering programs to guide Medina County into the future



- Serving the community with the objective of improving the quality of life within Medina County

Stollar has been in public service in our county for more than 33 years, 18 as a police officer for the city of Medina, and now 15 years at our detention center. He credits any successes he has had to many, many others who have been kind enough to help him along the way. Stollar was also recognized by the president of the Ohio Senate, Larry Obhof.



Positive Encouragement

In last month's edition of this newsletter, an article explained our partnership with Junior Leadership Medina County and their Kare Kits project. We are now also partnering with Hope Recovery Community (HRC) here in Medina, to add notes of encouragement to the Kare Kits for our youth to take with them when they leave us. Our hope with these notes is that our young people will be inspired to make wise decisions concerning their futures once they leave us. Thank you to Executive Director Stefanie Robinson and HRC for making this opportunity possible. To learn more about HRC and the services they provide, please check out their website (<https://hoperecoverycommunity.org>)!!

Art Experience 2021

When contemplating next year's Art Experience, we are reminded of the year that is coming to a close. 2020 has been hard on so many people in so many ways and it sometimes feels like it's trials and tribulations will never end. We are looking forward to 2021 and in so doing, we will approach the upcoming year with optimism, strength, and fortitude. This is why we have decided on **"Be a Light in the Dark"** as the theme for Art Experience 2021!



We Would LOVE Your Help!!

Covid-19 has brought illness, and taken the lives of many loved ones from our community. Our kids want to help support as many of those impacted as much as they can. Medina General Hospital has not been able to obtain fleece blankets since the beginning of the pandemic. They often place a blanket on a patient who is nearing the end of his/her life and then give the blanket to the family when their loved one passes. *"Families*

really cherish this gesture," according to Donielle Finding, Nursing Director at MGH.

We are kindly asking for donations of fleece fabric so our youth can make blankets for grieving families. If you are able to help, please contact Jaclyn Balliet at Jballiet@medinaco.org. THANK YOU!!



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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."