

# MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT NEWSLETTER

JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN APRIL 2015

## COMMUNITY MEMBERS GATHER FOR 27th ANNUAL SHARE CLUSTER BREAKFAST

Community members from local agencies and Court personnel joined Medina County Share Cluster for their 27th annual Share Cluster Breakfast April 24 at Williams On the Lake. More than 170 people attended the event to celebrate the organization's dedication and work toward non-violent, drug-free living.

"When you combine all the Leadership programs we have sponsored in 27 years, we have had more than 20,000 leaders impact more than 160,000 middle school and high school students," Court Administrator and Share Cluster Co-Chair Sharon Danko said. "This is a very powerful group of individuals. Medina County is very lucky to have the energy, resources and experience this group of individuals brings to the table."

After breakfast, provided by Williams On the Lake, Gail Houk, Director of Alternative Paths, introduced the three finalists for the Medina County Suicide Prevention Coalition video contest.

"Just a Few Words," created by students



From left to right: Wally Schaedel, Network Administrator Mike Stiles, Lou DeLoss, Judge Kevin Dunn, Will Koran, Evelyn Czyn and Court Administrator Sharon Danko at the Share Cluster breakfast.

*Photo courtesy of Russ Houston*

from Highland High School, took first place, taking home \$1,000 and earning a \$1,000 check for their school. In a close second was "The Letter," created by students from Cloverleaf High School while third place went to students from the Medina County Career Center for their video submission titled "Reach Out."

In addition to the suicide coalition PSAs, this year's outstanding seniors, in conjunction with Brunswick Area Television,

created "Putting a Face on Prevention," a video where the teens explain why they choose to live a drug-, alcohol-, and violence-free life. Many students cite positive role models in their family or their aspiration to be positive role models themselves.

Also taking home an award was Dr. Suzanne LeSure of Cornerstone Psychological Services, earning the annual Community Service Award for her dedication to the betterment of Medina County.

Share Cluster is comprised of members from local schools, Cornerstone Wellness, Medina County Home, Juvenile and Probate Court, the Juvenile Detention Center, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Rape Crisis Center, Medina District Library, Medina County Drug Abuse Commission (MCDAC), Medina County Health Department, Medina County Sheriff's Department, Solutions Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., the Children's Center of Medina County, and United Way of Medina County.

## VGP HOSTS SECOND IN-SERVICE AT AVENUE AT MEDINA



Kelly Rose Stallard, ClearPath Home, Health and Hospice Account Executive, VGP Coordinator Nicki Shook and Magistrate Alicia Hathcock at the VGP In-Service training April 2.

The Medina County Volunteer Guardianship Program hosted its second in-service training of the year at Avenue at Medina April 2. The open discussion and presentation was provided by Kelly Rose Stallard and Cheryl Biros from ClearPath Home, Health and Hospice.

While the 18 Volunteer Guardianship Program volunteers in attendance ate dinner provided by Avenue at Medina, Biros spoke about her personal perspective on the impact of cancer and how to help embrace those who are dealing with cancer in their lives. She discussed how to approach the

topic, how to remain updated on conditions of those who are fighting cancer, and how to support someone who is undergoing chemotherapy, radiation or remission.

"Cheryl's personal perspective on being a cancer survivor allowed the volunteers a very real approach on how to embrace and live, as well as moving forward with life when physical changes occur in treatment," said Volunteer Guardianship Coordinator Nicki Shook.

To learn more about the Medina County Volunteer Guardianship Program, visit [www.MedinaProbate.org](http://www.MedinaProbate.org).

**Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court will be closed Monday, May 25 for Memorial Day.**

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## COMMUNITY SERVICE GAINS NEW SUPERVISOR



Nicolette Novak with Judge Dunn after being sworn in as Community Service Supervisor April 8.

Nicolette Novak was sworn in as the newest Juvenile Community Service Supervisor April 8 by Judge Kevin Dunn.

Novak will work alongside the Senior Community Service Supervisor Sheila Shuttera to help monitor Court-involved youth who are ordered into the program as they work to “pay back” the community.

Novak, who has lived in Medina County since 1996, previously worked as a loss prevention officer, earning her way up to management, experience she believes will translate as she begins her work with juveniles in the program.

“In loss prevention, I learned that by approaching the situation with a calm and collected attitude toward the juvenile, they tend to act in a calm manner,” Novak said.

“Never knowing how fast the situation can escalate, always stand ready and confident and show respect and treat others as you want to be treated.”

Youth ordered in the Community Service Program meet on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays to complete various work around Medina County, including clean up around the community where needed, washing police cars and helping to plant and maintain the Feeding Medina County garden.

“Everyone has welcomed me to the team,” Novak said. “The kids are good and seem to open up and want to do their best.”

To learn more about the juvenile Community Service Program, visit [www.MedinaProbate.org](http://www.MedinaProbate.org).

## WALKING TO RAISE AWARENESS

### Community Plants Pinwheels for Abuse Prevention



Judge Dunn and Chief Magistrate Lewis walk to plant a pinwheel for National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The Medina County Children’s Center hosted a walk Saturday, April 18 to help raise awareness about abuse in our community for National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Judge Kevin Dunn, Chief Magistrate Susana Lewis, members of the Northern Ohio Bikers Against Child Abuse (B.A.C.A.), and Keepers of the Children—groups dedicated to supporting the needs of abused children and their families—and numerous

other supporters gathered on the Square in Medina to walk to St. Francis Church where they planted 437 blue and silver pinwheels, the national symbol for child abuse and neglect prevention.

Each of the 437 pinwheels planted represents one child in Medina County who suffered from reported abuse or neglect in 2014.

*Photo courtesy of Russ Houston*

### Supporters Step Up for Suicide Prevention



Left to Right: Chief Magistrate Susana Lewis, Mary Masterson, Thom Feher, Probate Deputy Clerk Lisa Feher and Court Administrator Sharon Danko at the Suicide Prevention Walk April 26.

More than 650 supporters joined the walk for Suicide Prevention Awareness Sunday, April 26, led by Judge Dunn and his wife Lisa Dunn. This was the second Step Up to Prevent Suicide 3.5 mile walk, organized by the Medina County Coalition for Suicide Prevention, which began in Public Square.

“The mission of the coalition is to educate our community and generate awareness about the issue of suicide,” said Gail Houk, Alternative Paths Director of Forensic Services and event organizer.

Court Administrator Sharon Danko and Chief Magistrate Lewis are both committee

members for the Medina County Coalition for Suicide Prevention.

Sponsors of the event include Automation Tool and Die, the Medina County ADAMH Board, Clear Choice Lasik Center, Medina Hospital, Hunter Insurance, Leadership Medina County, RICO Manufacturing, United Way of Medina County, Lodi Community Hospital, United Sports Apparel, Grange Insurance, LLA Therapy, Kohl’s of Wadsworth, DS Benefits Group, Sandridge Food Corp., Medina County Health Department, Homestead Insurance, HMC Hospice of Medina County, Bereavement Center, and Target.