

MEDINA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

Probate and Juvenile Divisions 93 Public Square, Room 104, Medina, Ohio 44256

KEVIN W. DUNN Judge

> MEDIA RELEASE September 29, 2017

MCJDC Art Show Raises More Than One Thousand Dollars to Continue Art Therapy



The Medina County Juvenile Detention Center (MCJDC) hosted its first art show September 28 to showcase pieces created by youth during their detainment, raising nearly \$1,050 from the silent auction and additional donations.

"I don't know what my expectations were going into this event, but whatever they were, they were far exceeded," said Ron Stollar, MCJDC Superintendent.

Approximately 160 guests attended the event to view more than 100 pieces of artwork. The artwork centered around the theme "Oh, The Places They're Going," giving the youth a chance to express how they believe others perceive them and how they want to be seen now and in the future.

Eleven pieces were available for silent auction, all exceeding expectations for bids, Stollar said. Money raised from the event

will be used to continue art therapy in the facility, which began in January of this year. Art-based programs have been shown to be effective in promoting positive youth development, addressing social skills, interpersonal communication and problem solving, as well as increasing creativity, critical thinking, and emotional management. Participation in the art show was voluntary for residents, but Stollar reports that nearly every youth wanted to create a piece.

"It was amazing to see prior residents return with their families and demonstrate pride in their work," said Judge Kevin Dunn. "The participation level from the youth and from the community was great."

Dan's Dogs provided hotdogs, donating all proceeds to the facility. Donuts and cookies were donated by Donut Land Bakery and Rito's Bakery in Brunswick. Pat Masalko of Ohio Regional Music Arts and Cultural Outreach (ORMACO) also provided live entertainment, singing and playing guitar.

Stollar said plans for next year's art show are already underway with a volunteer agreeing to be the designated art coordinator for the MCJDC. Donations of money or supplies will be accepted all year for the art therapy program and can be dropped off or mailed to 655 Independence Drive, Medina, Ohio 44256.

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To learn more about the Medina County Juvenile and Probate Court or Court programs, visit our websites at www.MedinaJuvenile.org and www.MedinaProbate.org.