

MEDINA COUNTY JUVENILE AND PROBATE COURT NEWSLETTER

JUDGE KEVIN W. DUNN NOVEMBER 2016

80 STUFFED ANIMALS PREPPED AND DELIVERED DURING ANNUAL BUILD-A-BEAR PROJECT

Judge Kevin W. Dunn, Court Administrator Sharon Danko, court staff, and nine Juvenile Court Community Service youth stuffed and dressed 80 bears, dogs, monkeys and bunnies to deliver to young children, as well as wards involved in the Medina County Probate Court Volunteer Guardianship Program, during the holiday season.

Funded by donations given to the Medina County Juvenile Court, seven Volunteer Guardianship Wards, 50 children at the Medina County Windfall School, and 10 children placed in foster care in Medina County will be surprised with a Build-A-Bear stuffed animal to be delivered in December just in time for the holidays.

With the assistance from the Build-A-Bear Strongsville-Southpark team, the stuffed animals were assembled in approximately one hour November 15 at the Medina County Juvenile Detention Center. The Happy Hugs, Hazelnut Cubs, Little Pups, Velvet Hugs, Pawlettes, Vanilla Cubs, and Cookies and Cream Pups were dressed in superhero pajamas, camouflage outfits, plaid hoodies and sparkly dresses. Each animal was then bagged and boxed with a birth certificate for each child and ward.



Judge Dunn finishes dressing a Cookies & Cream Pup to be delivered in December.

“I look forward to the Build-A-Bear delivery day each year,” Judge Dunn said. “The excitement and absolute joy from both the children and the wards when they receive their bears is incredible.”

Judge Dunn, court staff and three Community Service youth delivered 50 of the bears to children at the Windfall School December 7.

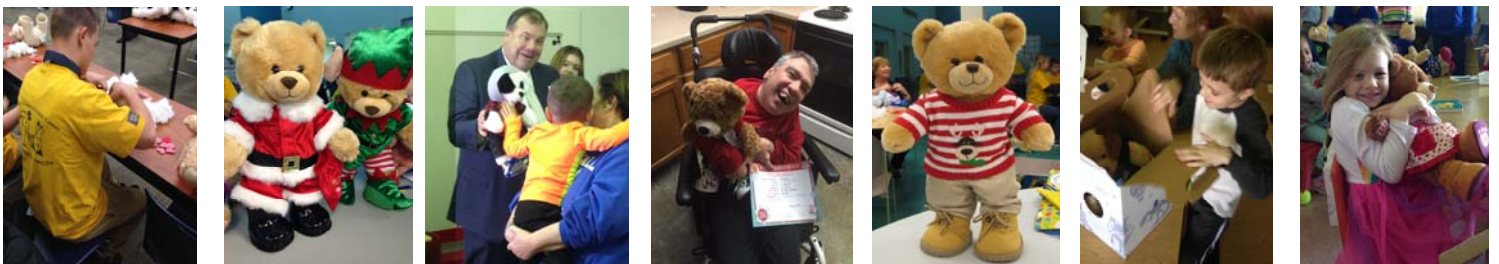
“This was really cool and eye-opening,” one Community Service youth said. “Sometimes you don’t realize how much we take small things like a stuffed animal for granted, but then it means the world to these little kids.”

Windfall Superintendent Annette Davis echoed those sentiments.

“You saw the smiles on their faces and can see how important it is to them,” she said, adding that she often gets calls from the Windfall students’ parents applauding the Build-A-Bear surprise.

The remaining Build-A-Bears will be delivered to Volunteer Guardianship Wards and Job and Family Services for foster children later this month.

Since the Build-A-Bear delivery project began in 2007, 846 bears have been delivered to young children in Medina County and wards involved with the Medina County Probate Court Volunteer Guardianship Program.



Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court will be closed Monday December 26, 2016.

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MORE THAN 70 PAIRS OF SHOES CREATED FOR SOLE HOPE DURING UNITED WAY YOUTH DAY OF ACTION

Approximately 200 Medina County high school students and community members joined the United Way Youth Day of Action Saturday, November 12, completing various hands-on county projects. Just one of the many projects included collecting and cutting materials to create shoes for children in Uganda, Africa through the Sole Hope project.

Kristyn Cooke, Medina County Juvenile Court Administrative Assistant for Juvenile Probation and Leadership Medina County Emerging Leader, and Kayla Cramblett, Wadsworth High School Junior and member of Junior Leadership Medina County, facilitated a team of three students for the Sole Hope project through the Kiwanis Club of Medina. This team of students spent two weeks collecting plastic jugs, denim and safety pins before the Day of Action, far exceeding their goal of collecting 50 pairs of denim and 50 plastic jugs.



Medina County students cut denim during the Youth Day of Action to be shipped to Uganda, Africa for the Sole Hope project.

During the Day of Action, the Sole Hope team, along with nearly one dozen other students who voluntarily jumped in to help, traced and cut out enough materials to create more than 70 pairs of shoes. Once the denim and plastic were grouped together based on size, they were given to Kiwanis Club of Medina President Barb Smith, who will ship the materials to Uganda where shoemakers will finish building the shoes.

Not only does the Sole Hope project create jobs for shoemakers and tailors in Uganda, the recycled-material shoes are necessary to help prevent Jiggers from infecting children's feet. Jiggers are insects that burrow into feet and lay eggs which then multiply and damage tissue, causing pain and infections.

The surplus of denim and plastic jugs from the Day of Action was also given to Smith for use at future Kiwanis of Medina Sole Hope cutting events. To learn more about the Sole Hope project, visit www.solehope.org.

HNIZDIL SWORN IN AS DRUG COURT PROBATION OFFICER



Joseph Hnizdil was sworn in by Judge Kevin W. Dunn as the newest Drug Court Probation Officer December 5.

Prior to joining the Medina County Juvenile Drug Court team, Hnizdil worked with the Parma Police Department doing data entry in the records department, he worked as a field investigator at Infoquest investigating workman's compensation fraud, and also conducted pre-employment screenings for Research Associates.

"My previous positions taught me the ability to deal with different personalities and emotions,"

Hnizdil said. "It was never the same experience day to day and it helped me learn to deal with whatever situation is thrown at me with patience."

Hnizdil said he anticipates utilizing his patience with the youth he will be monitoring in the Juvenile Drug Court Program.

"Being a Juvenile Drug Court Probation Officer will be more hands on than my previous employment," he said. "That's why I applied for this position. I want to make a positive impact on the community I grew up in and be a positive influence for these youth."

Hnizdil will be responsible for monitoring Juvenile Drug Court youth living in the Cloverleaf and Brunswick School Districts in Medina County.

KIWANIS CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DAY



Fourteen Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court employees assisted Medina Kiwanis for their annual children's shopping day December 5 and 6.

Each court employee was paired with a student ranging from Kindergarten through 12th grade and traveled to Kohl's and Walmart to assist the students in selecting needed articles of clothing and footwear.

Children in Kindergarten through 8th grade were given 110 dollars for their shopping trip while 9th through 12th grade students were provided a budget of 135 dollars. This is the twelfth year Probate and Juvenile Court employees volunteered to participate in Medina Kiwanis' generous shopping day.