



MEDINA COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

Probate and Juvenile Divisions

93 Public Square, Room 104, Medina, Ohio 44256

KEVIN W. DUNN
Judge

MEDIA RELEASE
December 3, 2020

Medina County Probate, Juvenile Court Continues the Bear Necessities in 2020



Judge Kevin W. Dunn dresses a stuffed bear for delivery later this month.

MEDINA – Despite the challenges and change of plans 2020 has brought, one event will go on: the annual Medina County Build-A-Bear Project. Judge Kevin W. Dunn and Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court staff spread out in courtrooms and at desks to dress and box 52 stuffed bears for holiday delivery.

For the past 13 years, Court staff has made the trip to the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities Windfall School to personally hand-deliver bears to young children, but that is not an option this year.

“We were determined to continue this project and find a way to get the bears to the children and other Medina County agencies in time for the holidays,” said Tony Miller, Director of Programming and Grants. “The Build-A-Bear store made sure we had everything we needed. We will not get to deliver them personally, but we decided that we would get them ready and let the school take the reigns on delivery day.”

The Strongsville-Southpark Build-A-Bear team chose all of the outfits this year, including sports uniforms, sparkly dresses and princess costumes. To maintain social distancing, they packaged all of the bears and outfits in-store and notified

Miller when it was ready for pick-up.

A majority of the bears will be delivered to Windfall, although Court staff will not be permitted to enter the building. If students continue in-person learning, Court staff will drop off the bears to school personnel who will deliver them to students. Windfall staff has also volunteered to deliver the bears to students’ homes if remote-learning is enacted. The rest of the bears will be given to Job and Family Services and to wards with the Medina County Volunteer Guardianship Program.

In addition, the Medina County Juvenile Court Community Service Program is taking part in the project again this year. Youth ordered into the Community Service program were provided packets to

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create personalized holiday cards. Included in the packet is a pre-addressed envelope to the Court so that the cards can be returned and included in the box with the bear.

“The Build-A-Bear project is always a highlight for our staff, and we need it more than ever this year,” said Judge Kevin W. Dunn. “When people look back on the year 2020, I hope they remember the moments they overcame obstacles, the moments they offered a helping hand, and the moments that brought joy. This project brings me joy.”

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