

# **Wayne County, Ohio Court of Common Pleas Juvenile Division**



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2015**



# WAYNE COUNTY Probate & Juvenile Court

107 West Liberty Street, Wooster, Ohio 44691

*Latecia Wiles, Judge*



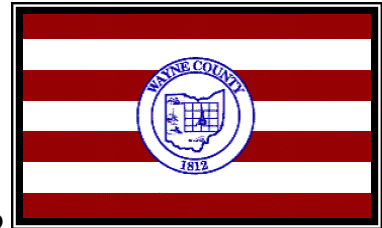
Judge Latecia Wiles

To:

The Honorable Ann M. Obrecht  
The Honorable Scott S. Wiggam  
The Honorable Jim Carmichael

Commissioners of Wayne County, Ohio

June 1, 2016



Ohio Revised Code §2151.18 requires Juvenile Courts in Ohio to annually report to their Board of County Commissioners and the communities they serve - showing the number of cases, kinds of cases, and disposition of cases coming before the Court for the preceding year, plus any other pertinent information on the work of the Court.

We are pleased to present to you the Court's Annual Report for 2015. If you are accessing this report on-line, please use the links provided throughout the report for additional information from our website and from other related sources.

The Court is always seeking to improve its service to the community through innovative and efficient means. I extend the Court's, and its staff's, continuing gratitude to the many friends in the community for their support, collaboration, and encouragement.

We hope you find this report informative, and we welcome any questions or comments.



Respectfully Submitted,

*Latecia Wiles*

Latecia Wiles, Judge

[www.wayneprobateandjuvenile.org](http://www.wayneprobateandjuvenile.org)

## SUPREME COURT REPORTS

Ohio Courts are subject to the Rules of Superintendence of the Ohio Supreme Court. The Rules of Superintendence include rules governing the operations, funding, standards for courthouse facilities, and a requirement that all Ohio courts file monthly reports with the Supreme Court in order to verify that the Court is hearing and resolving cases in a timely fashion.

Each month, Ohio Juvenile Courts file reports to inform the Supreme Court on the number of new cases filed or transferred into the Court, along with cases heard and terminated in the month of the report. The detail of the reports also includes information on whether the cases were heard by the judge or a magistrate. The Supreme Court provides guidelines that recommend the maximum time a case may be before the Court from filing to termination.

The following table is a recapitulation of all of the cases filed, transferred into the Court, and terminated by the Court in the calendar year 2015. Each case type is tracked on the report and every case is accounted for each year. Cases carried over from the previous year are counted only as terminations. In 2015, 417 cases were carried over from the previous year.

### CASES FILED AND TERMINATED 2015

	Delinquency	Traffic	Dependency, Neglect or Abuse	Unruly	Adult Cases	Transfer for Permanent Custody	Custody/Visitation	Support	Parentage	U.I.F.S.A.	All Others	Total
<b>NEW CASES FILED</b>	327	456	108	76	105	0	122	189	5	0	33	1421
Cases transferred in, reactivated or redesignated	53	1	0	9	5	26	80	719	74	0	0	967
<b>Total</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2388</b>
<b>TERMINATIONS BY:</b>												
Trial by Judge	0	0	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	6
Trial by Magistrate	2	1	0	1	1	0	111	0	0	0	0	116
Dismissal	30	1	18	18	84	0	47	8	0	0	1	207
Admit to Judge	0	1	83	0	0	12	0	382	1	0	0	479
Admit to Magistrate	236	415	6	55	19	6	9	131	11	0	0	888
Certification/waiver granted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unavailable Party	8	0	0	0	3	0	0	49	5	0	0	65
Transfer	66	13	0	16	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	98
Referral to private judge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Other	23	2	7	1	0	2	7	372	72	0	36	522
<b>Total</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>2381</b>

## **WAYNE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT TYPES OF CASES HEARD IN JUVENILE COURT**

**DELINQUENT CHILD:** When a person under the age of eighteen commits an act which, if committed by adult, would be a crime, the juvenile is determined to be “delinquent;” that is, late in developing proper judgment to follow the requirements of law. **In 2015, the Court addressed 380 Delinquency cases.** [Click here](#) to read more about Delinquency on the Juvenile Court’s website.

**TRAFFIC:** When a juvenile violates a traffic law, the juvenile is referred to as a Juvenile Traffic Offender. Juveniles are subject to different penalties, referred to as “consequences,” compared to adult traffic offenders. **In 2015, the Court addressed 457 juvenile traffic cases.** [Click here](#) to read more about Traffic on the Juvenile Court’s website.

**ABUSED, NEGLECTED, OR DEPENDENT:** The Court may determine that a child is abused, neglected, or dependent under the definitions of the law. The Court may remove the child from an inappropriate or dangerous environment in order to place the child in foster care, with relatives, or remain with the family, but under supervision. **In 2015, the Court addressed 108 abuse, neglect, and dependency cases.** [Click here](#) to read more about abuse, neglect, and dependency on the Juvenile Court’s website.

**PARENTAGE:** A parentage action may be commenced by a child, a person claiming to be the parent of a child, such person’s representatives, or the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA). Determination is usually made by the use of DNA testing of the parents of the child. Once parentage is established, the issues of parental rights and support may be addressed. **In 2015, the Court addressed 79 parentage matters.** [Click here](#) to read more about Parentage, Support, Custody, or Visitation on the Juvenile Court’s website.

**UNRULY:** A child who does not submit to the reasonable control of the child’s parents, teachers, or guardian may be adjudicated an unruly child. A child who is truant from school, or behaves in a manner as to injure or endanger his or her health or morals, or the health or morals of others, also may be adjudicated an unruly child. The Court has broad discretion to fashion a remedy to resolve the unruly behavior. **In 2015, there were 85 unruly cases filed.**

**ADULT:** Adult cases are prosecutions against persons over the age of eighteen years, accused of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. **In 2015, the Court addressed 110 adult cases.**

**MOTION FOR PERMANENT CUSTODY:** Motions for permanent custody are filed in situations where the child's environment is so inappropriate, and the parents' ability to care for the child is so inadequate, that it warrants permanently terminating the rights of parents in the parent-child relationship. **In 2015, the Court addressed 26 motions for permanent custody.** Such motions may be filed as a part of an abuse, neglect or dependency case. [Click here](#) for more information about Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency.

**CUSTODY/VISITATION:** Issues of custody and visitation between parents of children of parents who were married to each other, then divorced, are heard by the domestic relations division of the Court of Common Pleas. The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over issues of child custody and visitation (parenting time) for children whose parents were never married to each other, and whose parents are married but living separately, prior to filing for divorce in domestic relations. **In 2015, the Court addressed 202 custody and visitation matters.** [Click here](#) for more information about Custody/Visitation.

**SUPPORT:** The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over issues of child support for children who parents were never married to each other, or whose parents are separated but have not yet filed for divorce in the domestic relations division. **In 2015, the Court addressed 908 support cases filed.** Issues of child support between parents of children who were married to each other then divorced are heard by the domestic relations division of the Court of Common Pleas. [Click here](#) for more information about Support.

**U.I.F.S.A.:** The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act is embodied in Ohio law in §3115.01 et seq., and provides a procedure whereby court orders of support in different states may be enforced in Ohio, if one of the parties is an Ohio resident. **In 2015, there were no UIFSA cases filed.**

**ALL OTHERS:** Cases that do not fall into the categories listed here are recorded in the Supreme Court Report. These cases include Grandparent Powers of Attorney/Caretaker Affidavits, Judicial Bypass, Marriage Consents, Civil Protection Orders, Reclassification Petitions, and other miscellaneous matters that do not fall into other categories. **The Court addressed 33 miscellaneous cases in 2015.**

## Case Termination Explanation <sup>1</sup>

As a part of the Court's accounting for all cases filed or transferred into the Court, the Supreme Court requires each juvenile court to report the manner in which the cases were terminated. The following is an explanation of the terminology used in the report.

**Trial by Judge:** This line reports the cases in each category that were terminated as a result of an adjudicatory and dispositional hearing by the judge.

**Trial by Magistrate:** This line reports the cases in each category that were terminated as a result of an adjudicatory and dispositional hearing by a magistrate.

**Admit to Judge:** This line reports uncontested cases that are terminated by admission or agreement before the judge.

**Admit to Magistrate:** This line reports uncontested cases that are terminated by admission or agreement before a magistrate.

**Certification/Waiver Granted:** This line is used exclusively on the delinquency column to report cases transferred in accordance with §2152.03 and §2152.12 O.R.C.

**Transfer:** Cases transferred from the reporting judge to the judge in another juvenile court pursuant to Juvenile Rule 11 are reported on this line.

**All Other:** Any case terminated in any manner not specifically required to be reported on the lines described above.



<sup>1</sup> Ohio Supreme Court Report Implementation Manual—Form D Juvenile Courts

## **Roles in the Juvenile Court**

### **Judge**

The Judge of the Wayne County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, is elected to a six-year term, and is the chief judicial officer of the Court. The judge of the Juvenile Court is also the Clerk of the Court. In order to qualify to seek the office of judge, a person must have received a law degree from an accredited college of law, must have taken and passed the Ohio bar examination, and must have been admitted to the bar and been engaged in some form of law practice for at least six years. Judge Wiles is also the Judge and Clerk of the Probate Division.

### **Magistrates**

Magistrates hear cases and conduct hearings in the same manner as the judge, however, their decisions are subject to objection by one or both of the parties to the legal action being decided. Upon written objection, the judge may decide to re-hear the case, may modify the magistrate's decision or may remand (send back) the case to the magistrate for further hearing. Magistrates must also be attorneys admitted to the bar. Magistrates are appointed by the elected judge and serve an indefinite term. In 2015, the Juvenile Court employed one full-time and two part-time magistrates.

### **Court Administrator**

The Court Administrator is the person charged with responsibility for the overall operations of the Court. The CA supervises staff, manages the processes of the Court and Clerk offices, and implements policies and procedures in concert with the judge to provide for the efficient operation of the Court. It is not necessary for a court administrator to be an attorney, but the Court's Administrator is an attorney as well.

### **Deputy Clerks**

Since the judge of the Court is also the Clerk of the Court, the judge is authorized to appoint deputy clerks to assist in the administration of the Court. Deputy clerks receive pleadings and other documents filed with the Court, receive and distribute payment of fines, court costs and fees, issue notices and generally maintain the records of the Court by processing the paperwork of the Court from case filing to termination. The Court employed six deputy clerks in 2015, and one Chief Deputy Clerk.

### **Probation Officers**

Probation officers manage juveniles who have been adjudicated delinquent and unru-ly to assist in the rehabilitation of the youth. The Court employed five full time probation officers in 2015. More about probation programs can be found later in this Report.



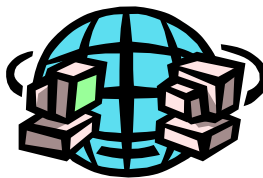
## **AUTOMATION**

With the implementation of Benchmark Case Management System, the juvenile court utilizes paperless procedures and anticipates becoming completely paperless internally in the future. The Court has embraced service by e-mail for registered users of the system. The Court continues to perfect processes that will make the Court more environmentally friendly and electronically available.



### **Public Records Access**

Although most of Juvenile Court records are non-public, the Court provides access to the few case types that are public through the Internet, on the Court's docket. Public case types may be accessed through the Wayne County Clerk of Courts web site at



<http://courtsweb.waynecourts.org/publicaccess/Home.aspx/Search>. To acquire copies of public records that have been filed on public case types, a public records request must be made to the Court, and hard copies of the requests documents will be provided. There may be a small copying fee per document.

### **E-Filing**

The Court now accepts e-filed documents from registered users of the Benchmark system, cutting down on time spent and paper used. E-filing also gives attorneys 24/7 access to file pleadings from their own computer any time of the day or night, and on weekends.

### **Credit Card Acceptance**

The Juvenile Court accepts credit cards as a method of payment, subject to a small convenience fee.





## VOLUNTEER GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM

Karin Connolly Wiest became the coordinator of this program in October 1998. Her position is funded through a one year VOCA/CASA grant with the County providing matching funds.

**The program had ten volunteers handling cases in 2015, with 81 children being served.** Attorneys, or specifically trained individuals, are appointed as GALs when volunteers are not available.

## APPOINTED COUNSEL



The U.S. and Ohio Constitutions require that parties to a criminal or quasi-criminal case understand their legal rights. In cases where there is a need for legal representation, and the parties are financially unable to pay for private counsel, attorneys must be appointed at public expense. The right to counsel arises when there is a potential for loss of liberty or when a fundamental substantive legal right is at issue, such as termination of parental rights. The Court paid a total of \$208,358.87 for appointed counsel in 2015.

The Court paid \$36,616.75 for non-attorneys appointed to serve as *guardians ad litem* for children involved in abuse, neglect, and dependency cases. *Guardians ad litem* are unbiased persons who assist the Court to investigate allegations of abuse, neglect, and dependency, and make recommendations regarding the best interests of the children in those cases.

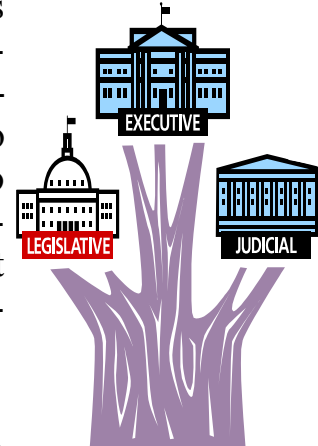
## FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL

Children who present multiple needs and specialized treatment placements are referred to the Wayne County Family and Children First Council. Numerous county agencies work together to set policy for the Council, including Wayne County Children's Services, Wayne County Schools, Wayne County Health Department, and many others. Misty Hanson, as Chief Probation Officer of the Court, serves as the Juvenile Court's representative on the Council's clinical diversion team, which also includes the Council coordinator and representatives from Wayne County Children Services Board, The Counseling Center, Wooster City Schools, Tri-County Educational Services, agencies with alcohol and drug services, and Wayne County Board of Developmental Disabilities. Through a team approach, this group formulates interagency cooperative planning (and funding) for referred youth with special needs.

## GRANTS

The Court receives several grants that assist the Court in covering the cost of services to youth.

The Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) is funded by the taxpayers of the State of Ohio. ODYS apportions a grant called “RECLAIM Ohio,” which stands for **R**easoned and **E**quitable **C**ommunity and **L**ocal **A**lternatives to the **I**ncarceration of **M**inors. The purpose of the grant is to reduce the number of youth committed to ODYS by providing funding for programs that are designed to stop delinquent behavior in juveniles who are at risk for more serious offenses.



The Court also receives grants, called the “510” Fund, from Youth Services Grant, and a grant to provide for Victims of Crime Assistance/State Victims Assistance Act (VOCA/SVAA).

The Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice Multi-Systemic Therapy (BHJJ MST) grant funds a full-time Multi-Systemic Therapist for 2015-2016, and the grant amount represents the funding for the remainder of that cost. The BHJJ MST grant is a partnership with Holmes County and is managed and paid exclusively through the BHJJ Partnership, of which the Court is a partner.

The following is a summary of the amounts awarded in the 2015 calendar year from these grants:

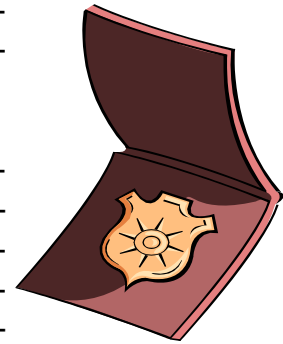
<u>Grant</u>	<u>Amount Awarded</u>
RECLAIM Ohio (7/1/15 to 6/30/16)	\$341,468.75
New Competitive RECLAIM Grant (7/1/2015-6/30/16)	\$77,000.00
“510” Fund From the Youth Services Grant	\$167,203.00
VOCA/SVAA Grant (October 1, 2015—September 30, 2106)	VOCA: \$27,531.20 SVAA: \$1,786.00 County Match: \$6,882.80
VOCA Targeted Accessibility Grant	VOCA: \$6,672.00 County Match: \$1,668.00
BHJJ (MST)	\$52,907.50

## PROBATION SERVICES

Probation is the Court-based supervision of juveniles who have been adjudicated unruly or delinquent children. Not all juveniles appearing before the Court are assigned to probation supervision. In some of these cases, the probation department may have been ordered to gather additional information for the hearing officer, and compile it in a pre-disposition report with recommendations to substantiate the findings.

Youth may be assigned regular probation or TEMP probation. TEMP Probation is a specialized probation caseload created to respond to chronic truants. For those juveniles placed on regular or TEMP probation, the probation officer is responsible for monitoring the activities of assigned probationers, and ensuring compliance with Court orders. Five full-time probation officers were employed by the Court in 2015 and are assigned cases based on the home school district of the juvenile. This allows for efficiency in the department, since probation officers consult with school personnel, conduct in home visits, and confer with local law enforcement.

Probation officers have arrest authority over any juvenile assigned to the department, and are responsible for filing the necessary legal documents when doing so. The probation officers administer drug tests and assessment instruments, as well as obtain psychological and risk assessments from outside resources to supplement their information. The Court's probation department is certified by ODYS to complete assessments for juvenile sex offenders. Additionally, probation officers refer the juvenile and his/her family to local agencies for services to address the areas of need.



In cases where the juvenile fails to respond to probationary efforts, or presents a safety risk to the community or him/herself, an out of home placement may be ordered by the Court. Probation officers are responsible to seek an appropriate residential placement and monitor the juvenile's progress while in placement, as well as assist in after-care when the juvenile is returned to the community. The probation officers fulfill other duties as ordered by the Court, such as conducting community safety evaluations, collecting DNA specimens, and monitoring electronic house arrest.

**In 2015, the probation department supervised a total of 94 youth on probation (60 at the beginning of the year and 34 throughout the year). The probation department completed 40 pre-dispositional reports. Ninety youth (37 at the beginning of the year and 53 throughout the year) were assigned to TEMP Probation. Including all services performed by the probation department, the probation officers worked with a total of 220 youth this past year.**

## OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS

The Court's practice is to make use of local resources to rehabilitate youth whenever possible. In some cases, community-based programs are not a viable option because of community safety issues, or because the child's behavior presents a danger to his/her health and well-being, or because the child has not been amenable to other efforts to effect change. In instances where it is necessary to place juveniles in private treatment facilities, group homes, therapeutic foster homes, or Multi-County Juvenile Attention System (MCJAS) facilities, the Court system refers to this generally as "Out of Home Placement."

Juveniles found delinquent because they have committed a misdemeanor or felony may be placed in detention locally. Those juveniles who have been delinquent because they have committed an act which, if committed by an adult, would be a felony, may be committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services or a Community Corrections Facility.

In 2015, no youth were committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS). At disposition, out of home placements may be made into the MCJAS. Four such placements were made in 2015:

<u>MULTI-COUNTY FACILITIES</u>	<u>TOTAL YOUTH PLACED</u>
Community Corrections Facility	0
Residential Treatment Center	2
New Philadelphia Group Home	2
Rogers Group Home	0

Where appropriate, a juvenile may be placed in a facility other than detention or ODYS. As a part of disposition, the Court determines which facility will be the most appropriate to reform the juvenile's behavior. The following is a summary of the eight youth in such placement facilities in 2015:

<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>TOTAL YOUTH PLACED</u>
Village Network— Treatment Foster Care	2
Village Network—Knox County CRC	1
Mohican Youth Academy	1
Pathway—Treatment Foster Care	2
Bright House	1
Children's Center of Ohio	1

## COMMUNITY CONTROL COMPLIANCE

All youth who are adjudicated delinquent or unruly in the Court may not come to probation for monitoring. Many youth are placed under Community Control and given a variety of sanctions. Those sanctions can include community service, the requirement to obtain a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalence, the requirement to obtain an alcohol/drug assessment and/or alcohol/drug counseling, attendance in anger management counseling, to serve monitored time, to have electronic monitoring with house arrest, to pay restitution, write letter of apology, and/or any other remedy the Court deems reasonable. In 2012, a designated probation officer was assigned to monitor compliance of those Community Control sanctions by these non-probation youth. This probation officer also monitors a probation caseload.

Once a youth is ordered on Community Control with sanctions (excluding probation), a copy of that entry is forwarded to the probation officer in charge of monitoring. The probation officer will track the due dates of the sanctions and send letters 30 days in advance to remind the youth of the upcoming due date. Once all sanctions under Community Control are met, the probation officer will make a Motion to the Court requesting Community Control be terminated. If the youth has not been granted an extension, and the due date passes with no proof of completion submitted, the probation officer will file a complaint for Violation of a Court Order or a Motion for Contempt.

**In 2015, the Community Control Compliance Program monitored 142 cases, with 101 cases terminating showing all sanctions being completed, and 41 cases remaining open and monitored into 2016.** The Community Control Compliance program has allowed the Court to be more efficient in monitoring its Orders and holding individuals who violate Community Control accountable.

## TRUANCY ENFORCEMENT MONITORING PROGRAM (TEMP)

The judicial system seeks to keep youth in school and receiving an education. A probation officer of the Court serves as a monitor for TEMP, a program that monitors youth who have been adjudicated as truant and must become compliant with a Court order of attendance. The monitor investigates the causes for youth who continue to be truant after the initial adjudication. The monitor enforces the initial adjudication, leading to further sanctions from the Court on non-compliance issues with the initial Court order.



**In 2015, eight youth were monitored for Court Ordered attendance.**

## TRUANCY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (TIP)

The Court believes that early intervention is essential in addressing truancy. The goal of the program is to address truancy issues in a timely manner, reduce chronic truancy problems in all grades, and avoid formal Court action. The program provides supports and resources to the family and student in an effort to increase attendance.

To be eligible, a student must attend a Wayne County or charter school, be in grades K-12, accumulate a minimum three unexcused absences, and have a parent or guardian present at the Truancy Intervention Meeting. Any staff member at the school may make a referral by calling the Probation Department. A meeting is set up with the school staff and the parent is sent a letter indicating the date and time of the meeting. At the meeting, a plan of action is developed by all parties, who agree and sign. After the meeting if the plan does not work and the student continues to accumulate unexcused absences, the school may file truancy. **During 2015, there were 259 referrals for the Truancy Intervention Program.**

The following school districts participate in the Truancy Intervention Program during 2015: Chippewa, Dalton, Liberty Prep Community School, Northwestern, Orrville, Rittman, Smithville, Triway, Wayne County Career Center, Waynedale and Wooster. School participation is critical in stopping truancy in the beginning stages, and coordination between schools, agencies, and the Court is essential in solving truancy issues. Thank you to the schools that have supported, and continue to support, the Court in decreasing truancy.

## WORK PROGRAM

The Work Program started in July 2012 as a replacement for the Saturday at Work Program. The Saturday at Work Program contract with The Village Network was terminated in June 2012 due to a loss of funding from the state RECLAIM grant. The Work Program is designed to provide an immediate response to youth who violate their probation or fail to complete their community service. The program also allows youth with difficult schedules or circumstances and who need direct supervision, an avenue to complete community service hours.



The program allows five juveniles per program day to complete community service hours under the direct supervision of two probation staff. The program is scheduled for one day each month, six hours per day. Work sites vary according to the availability in the community and weather conditions. The program is funded through the RECLAIM Ohio Grant and operates on a fiscal year from July 1 through June 30.

**In 2015, there were 20 referrals made to the program. Of the 20 referrals, 18 were successful in completing the program.**

## CHEMICAL ABUSE & BEHAVIOR PROGRAM

The Chemical Abuse and Behavior (CAB) group is a program initiated by the probation department in 2011. The group focuses on substance abuse and behavior issues and uses various curriculums addressing thinking errors, relationship building, problem solving skills, etc. The group is run by a certified substance abuse counselor from Catholic Charities. The Court contracts with Catholic Charities to provide this service, which is paid out of the RECLAIM Ohio grant. A youth may be assigned to this group as a result of a positive drug screen, as a sanction for possession or usage of illegal substances/paraphernalia, or as part of an aftercare plan following a more intensive treatment program. The group meets Thursdays after school and is interactive by design.



Counselor Fredy Robles of Catholic Charities works with youth in CAB

**In 2015, 38 youth were referred to the Chemical Abuse & Behavior Program.**



## JUVENILES ADDRESSING RESTITUTION-JAR PROGRAM

The judicial system seeks to hold juveniles accountable for their actions as well as requiring them to make restitution for damages experienced by the victim. In cases involving violations against property, the Court strives to aid the victim in receiving compensation for damages or loss of property, caused by the delinquent acts of juveniles. In order to do this, the Court may require the payment of restitution to the victim. The ability to collect monetary compensation for the victim can be hindered by various factors, such as the limited sources of revenue for the juvenile, the age or functioning level of the juvenile prohibiting employability, the availability of jobs, lack of transportation in order to obtain a job, and/or parental inability to pay.

JAR is a program operated by the Court that provides a means for juveniles to pay Court-ordered restitution. Referral to the program is made from the bench by the Judge or Magistrate. The program allows juveniles to perform community service work that is converted to minimum wage per hour worked. The Court's Compliance Officer monitors and tracks the community services hours performed by the juvenile. The Compliance Officer arranges community service work sites or in cases where the juvenile has access to a volunteer work source, they may make their own arrangements at an approved work site. Work hours are documented and the Compliance Officer submits proof of completed hours to the Court for processing of payment. Restitution payment is made by the Court directly to the victim using money secured through the Youth Services/RECLAIM grant.



Should a juvenile be appropriate for the JAR program and was not referred from the bench, the Compliance Officer may file a request with the hearing officer for the referral. A juvenile may be dismissed from the JAR program for failure to comply with the conditions of the program.

The purpose of the JAR program is to aid the victim of certain crimes committed by the delinquent acts of juveniles in receiving restitution for their losses as determined by the Court. While the primary goal is to repay the victims, the program does provide for the offender to be held directly accountable for his/her actions by giving of their time and effort.

**In 2015, ten youth were admitted to the JAR program and \$1,336.75 was paid to victims for losses. Two youth successfully completed the JAR program in 2015, and five youth were still active in the program into 2016.**

## **A.S.M.A. (After School Martial Arts)**

A.S.M.A. is a program taught by Robert Kelley, a Juvenile Probation Officer and Martial Arts Master, in which Juvenile Court-involved youth have the chance to learn and practice Martial Arts. This program allows youth to study self-defense, as they learn to control their anger, fear, and self-doubt. A.S.M.A. teaches the core values associated with leading a productive and positive lifestyle, such as establishing a positive self-image, character building, and learning life skills. These core values help the participants to develop a strong sense of self and aids them in resisting negative influences and peer pressure.

**In 2015, 39 youth participated in the A.S.M.A. program. Participants have the option to participate in tournaments if they so choose. Youth have earned several placements at tournaments in which they participated.**



## **SATURDAY SCHOOL**

Saturday School was started in 2015 as an alternative sanction for Court involved youth demonstrating behavioral, attendance or academic issues at school. The program runs two Saturdays a month during the school year and is staffed by two teachers and one probation officer. The Court coordinates with the youth's school to ensure the youth has school work to complete, and to determine any areas that the youth could benefit from additional assistance, and passes that information along to the teachers at the program.

**In 2015, 46 youth were ordered into the Saturday School Program and 43 successfully completed the program.**



PO Rob Kelley teaches Saturday School participants how to change a tire, and the oil in a car

## BOOK CLUB

Since the Book Club was established in 2003, the Court has participated in an alternative community service option and invited appropriate youth to join the Juvenile Court Book Club. Youth are referred to the Book Club by either the Probation Officers or the Prevention and Intervention Officer.

Participants read the book *RIP in Heaven*, by Jeanine Cummins, and those who are successful receive community service credit. They must show that they have read the book and participate in weekly “club meetings” to obtain credit. A library of books for participants was created from funds made available through a mini grant from the Mental Health and Recovery Board and the Martha Hawks Bequest.



**In 2015, ten youth participated and eight were successful in completing**

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service is a frequently used dispositional order that requires a youth to perform work beneficial to the community. The program provides youth with an opportunity to “repay” the community for the problems caused by the youth’s behavior, as well as provide the youth with the opportunity to gain work experience. Youth who participate in the Court’s Diversion program may also be assigned community services as a condition of that program.

**In 2015, 2552.5 hours of community service were ordered, and 2292.5 hours were completed.**



## LIFE SKILLS

Since 1982, the Court has cooperated with Goodwill Industries to provide a job skills program that allows youth to develop appropriate work skills and experience. Youth are also able to earn funds to pay fines, costs and restitution. The Probation Department is responsible for supervising these placements and working with the Goodwill staff to provide a support system for the youth. Goodwill also provides a life skills class to help those in the program learn about different careers, interview tips, and how to apply for employment. This program is funded by the RECLAIM Ohio grant.



**In 2015, fourteen youth were referred to life skills. Eight of those referred were successful, two were not successful, and four remained working in the program.**



## FIAT PROGRAM (FITTING IT ALL TOGETHER)

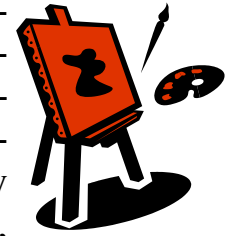
A significant number of youth involved in the Court system lack, or are delayed, in social skills, and have limited exposure to appropriate activities. These youth may suffer from a lack of structure in their home environment and in their free time, and have no positive adult role models, or their families may not have the financial means or ability to access resources. Research shows youth learn social skills and develop positive assets by being directly involved in appropriate activities. Exposure to recreational, vocational, and educational activities broadens their awareness and increases their knowledge. Furthermore, youth connected with a mentoring program tend to be less involved in criminal activity.

As a result of this need, the Court developed a program, now referred to as the FIAT (Fitting It All Together) program, with ANA·ZAO Community Partners. The partnership allows the Court to refer youth who need structured, positive social activities to the FIAT Program.

Two Youth Development Specialists coordinate and supervise the FIAT program, which provides educational and social activities for youth. Activities may be co-ed or specifically for females or males, depending on the participant's needs. One activity is Hoops and Homework, which is done in cooperation with the College of Wooster. The youth receive homework assistance as well as an opportunity to be involved in a physical activity (such as basketball or dodge ball), both with college students.

(F.I.A.T. continued)

Another activity is the A.S.M.A .(After School Martial Arts) program, done in conjunction with a probation officer who is a martial arts instructor. The ASMA program provides a structured forum for development while focusing on self-discipline and control. FIAT incorporates other activities to enhance social skills and educational awareness such as attending sporting events, cooking classes, and pottery classes. Recreational activities such as camping, fishing, biking, swimming, bowling, playing basketball, etc. promote physical activity and helps to foster recreational interests.



In addition to group activities, FIAT customizes one-on-one activities to address individual needs of each youth. The program utilizes resources such as libraries, bike trails, parks, recreation centers, and local businesses as much as possible to expose the youth to what is available to them locally. The Youth Development Specialist also works with youth to transition them from adolescence to adulthood by linking them with community resources that can provide ongoing services and assistance.

**In 2015, 40 youth participated in FIAT, 10 girls and 30 boys.**

### **M.S.T. (MULTI SYSTEMIC THERAPY)**

In August of 2013, due to a Behavioral Health and Juvenile Justice grant that was awarded to the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Wayne and Holmes County, the Court was able to implement the M.S.T. program in a continued effort to keep youth in the community and out of placement. The M.S.T. program targets juvenile offenders with serious behavioral issues that cause them to be at a significant risk for out of home placement.

A specially trained M.S.T. therapist from the Crisis Intervention and Recovery Center of Stark County, Inc. is assigned to work with the families of Wayne County who are candidates for this type of program, and provides intensive family and community based treatment that addresses the multiple factors that contribute to a juvenile's delinquent behavior. The M.S.T. therapist works to bring key participants of the juvenile's life together to form a support system, so that once the Court is out of the family's life, the family has support to continue on a positive path.

**In 2015, 16 total families participated in the MST Program, including four who began the program in 2014.**



## **MULTISYSTEMIC THERAPY FOR PROBLEM SEXUAL BEHAVIORS (MST-PSB)**

In January 2015, the Court applied for and received a three-year Competitive Reclaim grant through the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The Court used the funds to implement the MST-PSB program. This evidence-based program allows youth who are either adjudicated of a sexually-oriented offense, or youth who are displaying problem sexual behaviors, to receive treatment in their community rather than placement outside of the home. Referrals for this program are made by either the Court or Wayne County Children Services.

An MST-PSB therapist from the Crisis Intervention and Recovery Center of Stark County, Inc. works intensively with the youth and their families in a home-based setting. MST-PSB is unique, goal-oriented, and comprehensive evidence-based intensive treatment program designed to promote victim safety and reduce the likelihood of future problem behaviors and criminal activities.

**In 2015, seven families participated in the MST-PSB program, two successfully completed the program, one family ceased participation for reasons unrelated to the program, and four were still active in the program at the end of 2015.**

## **CHARACTER BUILDING GROUP**

In January of 2014 in collaboration with Catholic Charities, the Court launched the Character Building Group. This intervention was designed to address several criminogenic needs of the participants which include; poor problem solving skills, poor self-control and self-management, antisocial attitudes and identification and association with antisocial role models. The overall goal is to help the participants identify and problem solve the factors that landed them in the court system and assist them in formulating a plan to not return to the court system. Participants attend one, three hour group session.

**In 2015, 58 youth were referred to the program, 55 of those youth successfully completed.**

## PARENTS AND CHILDREN COOPERATING TOGETHER (PACCT)

PACCT is a home-based family therapy program provided by contract through Catholic Charities Community Services. To be eligible for services, families must reside in Wayne County, have one or more children in the family who was referred as a condition of a diversion contract, or who has been adjudicated delinquent or unruly. The program is funded by the agency, United Way and the Court. Youth at high risk for out-of-home placement are referred to this program along with youth who may avoid any Court involvement by being successful with the program. The program is flexible and works with the family to address whatever issues are creating problems for the youth and their family. Services may be short term and intensive or continue for a longer period of time depending on the specific needs of the youth. **During FY 2015, 29 youth participated in the PACCT program.**



A major focus of the program is to provide home-based counseling to referred youth and their families. This approach allows the therapist to address family issues that may impact the functioning of the referred youth as well as assist siblings to avoid future problems. Youth and families, at the time of the referral, also do not necessarily see the value of family counseling and one of the elements of the program is to find ways to interest families in engaging in the therapy process.

As a result of PACCT, Catholic Charities Community Services has developed anger management groups to aid youth in better controlling their feelings of anger and aggressive behavior.



## CARTEENS

The Court requested the assistance of The Ohio State University Extension Office in seeking Americorp funds to develop a Driver's Education Program for first time moving violations. The program is now called Carteens. **Four hundred fifteen (415) teen traffic offenders were referred to Carteens in 2015.**





## INTERVENTION SERVICES

The Prevention and Intervention Officer is responsible for implementation of the Diversion Program. The goal of the Diversion Program is to divert first time juvenile offenders from the court system. The Officer receives referrals from the Prosecutor's Office of juveniles who have had police reports filed. First time offenders with misdemeanor offenses and occasional felony offenses may be eligible for Diversion. The youth will comply with the program components, which may include:

- \*90 day minimum agreement
- \*daily attendance at school
- \*curfew, essays, community service
- \*no additional charges filed within 90 days
- \*referral to community resources (counseling, drug/alcohol education, anger management)



If the youth completes all requirements of the agreement, the youth will be removed from the program and no further action will occur. If the youth does not meet the requirements of the Diversion agreement, the youth is then terminated from Diversion as unsuccessful. The original complaint that brought him/her to Diversion is returned to the Prosecutor for possible formal action.

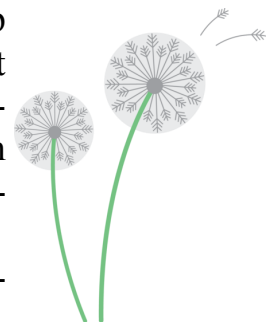
**In 2015, the Prevention and Intervention Officer received 78 new referrals. Seventeen referrals were pending from 2014, and 19 remained pending at the end of 2015. Of the youths in Diversion in 2015, 58 were successful, 18 were unsuccessful, and 19 remained open at the end of 2015.**

## GIRLS CIRCLE

New in 2015, the Court launched the Girls Circle Program. This eight to twelve week program is a structured support and developmental group for girls between the ages of 9 and 18. Girls Circle aims to counteract social and interpersonal forces that impede girls' growth and development by promoting an emotionally safe setting, and structure within which girls can develop caring relationships and find their own beliefs, utilizing a strength-based approach.

Referrals for Girls Circle can be made by the Court, or any local providers, including schools.

**In 2015, 27 youth participated in Girls Circle and 25 successfully completed the program.**



## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SCREENING PROGRAM

In order to identify the needs of Court-involved youth as early in the process as possible, the Court developed the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Screening Program in May of 2014. Through a contract with Catholic Charities, the Court is able to have a clinician on site for eight hours per week to perform screenings. The program serves both youth participating in the Court's Diversion Program as well as any youth adjudicated of an offense through the Court prior to disposition.



The screenings allow the Court have the information necessary to put in place the most appropriate interventions specific to each individual youths needs to prevent future Court involvement.

**In 2015, 197 youth received mental health and substance abuse screenings through this program.**

## CLINICAL AND DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATIONS

The Court obtains psychological evaluations and risk assessments for a variety of reasons. The findings and recommendations of these evaluations are used for case planning, dispositional options, amenability, sex offender classification purposes, or for cases where out of home placements are being considered. The Court contracts with outside sources to obtain these evaluations. **In 2015, seven psychological and risk assessments were performed. The evaluations and assessments are funded by the RECLAIM Ohio grant.**

Drug screens are administered by the Court's probation officers and prevention and intervention officer as an aid in monitoring youth's compliance with probation and diversion or for evaluation purposes. The drug screens are paid for by the youth and from the Probation Services Fund.

## COMMUNITY AGENCIES -

### THANK FOR YOUR VALUED ASSISTANCE

As has been noted in prior reports, community-based programming would fail without the aid of local partnering agencies. The help of ANA·ZAO, STEPS (Substance Abuse, Treatment, Education and Prevention Services), the Counseling Center of Wayne-Holmes Counties, Catholic Charity Services, Goodwill, Mental Health and Recovery Board, and many other community agencies is greatly appreciated.

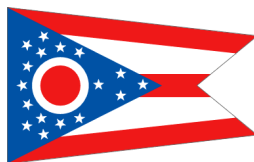
### ANNUAL REPORT COVER PHOTOS

This year's cover features an image of the historic Wayne County Courthouse undergoing significant, historically accurate renovations necessary to restore and preserve the Courthouse. The renovations began in October 2014 and are scheduled for completion sometime in 2016. The image was taken by Jane Robbins, Administrative Secretary to Judge Wiles. The courthouse is located at 107 West Liberty Street in Wooster. It was designed by architect Thomas Boyd and built in 1879. The courthouse is built of stone and is attached to a brick office building that was built in 1869. The courthouse was constructed in the French Renaissance style.

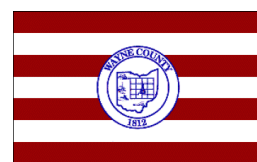
The Wayne County Courthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. Additional information on more of [Ohio's historic courthouses](#) is available on the web site for the Supreme Court of Ohio.



The United States of America



The State of Ohio



Wayne County, Ohio

### Printing Costs

Ohio Revised Code §2151.18 requires that the Court include on each printed copy of the Annual Report the cost of each printed copy. The 2015 Annual Report was printed using the Court's color laser printer so no exact costs are associated with its printing. Only two printed copies are being made in order to satisfy the legal requirement that two copies remain on file with the Court. Distribution of the Annual Report is again being made on-line in order to minimize costs. Click on Annual Report on the Court's web site at [www.wayneprobateandjuvenile.org](http://www.wayneprobateandjuvenile.org).