

A photograph of the Wayne County Court of Common Pleas building, a large, ornate, multi-story structure with a prominent central tower and arched windows. The building is illuminated at dusk, with warm interior lights visible through the windows. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is overlaid on the upper portion of the image, containing white text.

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**WAYNE COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
JUVENILE DIVISION**

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

**SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO  
OHIO REVISED CODE  
SECTION 2151.18**

# FROM THE JUDGE

Ohio Revised Code § 2151.18 requires Juvenile Courts in Ohio to annually report to their Board of County Commissioners, the Supreme Court of Ohio, 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 2021. If you are accessing this report online, 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 E. WILES,**  
**JUDGE**



# SUPREME COURT REPORTS

Ohio Courts are subject to the Rules of Superintendence of the Supreme Court of Ohio. The Rules of Superintendence include rules governing 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 the cases filed, transferred into the Court, and terminated by the Court in the calendar year 2021. 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 2021, 232 cases were carried over from 2020. The Juvenile Court has a clearance rate of 99% for all new, transferred, reactivated, and redesignated cases.

## Cases Filed and Terminated in 2021

		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	T
		Delinquency	Traffic	Dependency, Neglect, or abuse	Unruly	Adult Cases	Motion for Permanent Custody	Custody, Change of Custody, Visitation	Support Enforcement or Modification	Parentage	U.I.F.S.A	All Others	TOTAL
Pending Beginning of Period	1	23	33	22	7	8	3	101	29	6	0	0	232
New Cases Filed	2	164	349	154	118	58	0	141	80	20	1	14	1099
Cases transferred in, reactivated or redesignated	3	16	1	0	23	5	24	117	365	31	0	0	582
Total (Add lines 1 - 3)	4	203	383	176	148	71	27	359	474	57	1	14	1913
Terminations By		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	T
Trial By Judge	5	0	0	109	0	0	11	1	0	0	0	0	121
Trial By Magistrate	6	0	1	9	0	0	0	106	0	0	0	0	116
Dismissal by party, judge, or prosecutor	7	23	3	26	32	8	7	54	14	9	1	1	178
Admission to judge	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	357	30	0	0	394
Admission to magistrate	9	78	328	3	50	48	0	84	42	9	0	0	642
Certification/Waiver granted	10	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0
Unavailability of party for trial	11	12	1	0	17	11	0	4	29	1	0	0	75
Transfer to another judge or court	12	57	25	0	24	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	107
Referral to private judge	13	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	0
Interlocutory appeal or order	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other terminations	15	9	0	0	6	0	0	2	1	0	0	12	30
Total (Add Lines 5 - 15)	16	179	358	147	129	67	18	259	443	49	1	13	1663

# TYPES OF CASES

**Delinquent Child:** When a person under the age of eighteen commits an act that, if committed by an 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 2021, the Court addressed 179 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 2021, the Court addressed 358 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 or with relatives, or the Court may leave the child in the care of his or her family but under supervision. In 2021, the Court addressed 147 abuse, neglect, or dependency cases. [Click here to read more about abuse, neglect, and dependency 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 2021, the Court addressed 129 unruly cases.

**Adult:** Adult cases are prosecutions against persons over the age of eighteen years, accused of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. In 2021, the Court addressed 67 adult cases.

**Motions 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 the situation warrants permanently terminating the rights of parents in the parent-child relationship. Such motions may be filed as part of an abuse, neglect, or dependency case. In 2021, the Court addressed 18 motions for permanent custody.

**Custody/Visitation:** The domestic relations division of the Court of Common Pleas hears issues of custody and visitation concerning parents who are or previously were married to each other. The Juvenile Court, on the other hand, has jurisdiction over issues of custody and visitation where the parents have never been married to one another. In 2021, the Court addressed 259 custody and visitation matters. [Click here to read more about custody and visitation on the Juvenile Court’s website.](#)

**Support:** Issues of child support between parents who are or were once married to each other are addressed by the domestic relations division of the Court of Common Pleas. The Juvenile Court hears issues over child support for children whose parents were never married to each other. In 2021, the Court addressed 443 support cases. [Click here to read more about child support 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 parent'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, issues of parental rights and support may be addressed. In 2021, the Court addressed 49 parentage matters. [Click here to read more about parentage on the Juvenile Court's website.](#)

**U.I.F.S.A.:** The Uniform Interstate Family Support Act is embodied in Ohio law in § 3115.01 *et seq.* of the Ohio Revised Code. This Act 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. Cases brought under this Act are typically brought by the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA). In 2021, there was 1 U.I.F.S.A. case filed with the Court.

**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 any other matters that do not fall into other categories. In 2021, the Court addressed 13 miscellaneous cases.



# **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 rehear 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 2021, the Juvenile Court employed one full-time and four part-time magistrates.

## **PROBATION OFFICERS**

Probation officers manage juveniles who have been adjudicated delinquent and unruly to assist in the rehabilitation of the youth. The Court employed five full-time probation officers in 2021. More about probation programs can be found later in this Report.

## **COURT ADMINISTRATOR**

The Court Administrator is the person charged with responsibility for the overall operations of the Court. The Administrator 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.

## **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 five deputy clerks in 2021, and one Chief Deputy Clerk.

## **FDTC COORDINATOR**

The Family Dependency Treatment Court Coordinator acts as a liaison between drug court participants, the FDTC treatment team, and the Judge. The FDTC Coordinator helps recruit interested and eligible participants for FDTC, submits participants to ongoing drug screening, helps secure financial and programming support for participants, monitors participants' treatment progress, and reports this progress to the treatment team and the Judge.

# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

On March 9, 2020, the Governor of the State of Ohio declared a public health emergency in response to growing concerns of spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). A Stay-At-Home order was issued later that same month, and numerous mandates such as those pertaining to masks and social distancing were issued in subsequent months. Efforts to reduce spread of the virus remained ongoing throughout the remainder of 2020 and the entirety of 2021.

The Wayne County Juvenile Court remained open to the public throughout the public health crisis, and significant changes were implemented to help reduce virus spread. The Court upgraded its audio and video technologies and began conducting video hearings through Zoom™ conferencing software. Administrative orders were issued to encourage more electronic filings. Many staff worked remotely full- or part-time utilizing remote access to the Court's several information systems.

Despite these significant changes and continued nationwide concern for public health, the Court continued to achieve standards of accessibility and fairness throughout 2020 and 2021. Cases proceeded and resolved in a timely fashion. Probationers were effectively monitored whether in or out of school. Family Dependency Treatment Court participants continued to receive treatment and support. In short, through the combined efforts of the Court, partner agencies, the community, and case participants themselves, families continued to succeed in spite of the crises of 2020 and 2021.



Above: Magistrate Martin Frantz, Administrative Secretary and Chief Juvenile Clerk Jane Robbins (ret.), Judge Latecia Wiles, and Prosecutor Dan Lutz pose for a brief photo in masks.

Below: Deputy Clerk Amanda Hill greets the public at the Court's counter.



# GRANT FUNDING

The Court applies for and receives several grants that assist the Court in covering the cost of services to youth and families. In 2021, the Court received awards through 10 grant programs. A summary of these funding sources and their projects follows.

GRANT NAME	GRANTOR	AWARD	PROGRAM/BENEFIT
<b>Addiction Treatment Program (ATP)</b>	Supreme Court of Ohio	\$1,785.00	Family Dependency Treatment Court
<b>BHJJ Grant</b>	Ohio Dept. of Youth Svcs.	\$135,006.75	Multi-Systemic Therapy
<b>JDAI Program (Continuation)</b>	Ohio Dept. of Youth Svcs.	\$51,417.06	Juvenile Detention Alternatives
<b>Legal Representation Pilot</b>	Supreme Court of Ohio	\$144,600.00	Legal Representation Pilot Program
<b>OhioMAS Grant</b>	Ohio Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Svcs.	\$35,000.00	Family Dependency Treatment Court
<b>RECLAIM Grant</b>	Ohio Dept. of Youth Svcs.	\$199,578.20	Juvenile Probation, Diversion, Out-of-Home Placement
<b>Remote Technology Grant</b>	Supreme Court of Ohio	\$26,995.50	Courtroom Recording System
<b>SVAA Grant</b>	Ohio Attorney General	\$1,786.00	Volunteer Guardian ad Litem Program
<b>VOCA Grant</b>	Ohio Attorney General	\$24,291.52	Volunteer Guardian ad Litem program
<b>Youth Services Grant</b>	Ohio Dept. of Youth Svcs.	\$167,203.00	Juvenile Probation, Diversion, Out-of-Home Placement

## **VOLUNTEER GUARDIAN AD LITEM PROGRAM**

Karin Connolly Wiest became the coordinator of the Volunteer Guardian ad Litem program in October 1998. Her position is funded through a one-year VOCA/CASA grant with Wayne County providing matching funds. 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 children in those cases.

In 2021, the program had 20 volunteer guardians handling cases, plus the coordinator as well as one attorney working through the *pro bono* program. Through these volunteers, coordinator, and attorneys, the Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem Program served 113 children in 2021. When volunteers are not available, the Court must appoint attorneys or otherwise trained and approved individuals to act as guardians ad litem.

### **APPOINTED COUNSEL**

The United States 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 \$265,291.57 for appointed counsel in 2021.

In 2021, the Court also paid \$20,051.59 for non-attorneys appointed to serve as guardians ad litem.



*Pictured: New volunteer guardians receive their oath.*

### **HELP DESK**

The Court started the Help Desk program at the start of 2018 in an effort to assist unrepresented individuals unable to afford legal representation or advice. Qualifying participants sign up through court staff for scheduled time slots to meet with local attorneys who volunteer to assist these individuals. Participants can then meet with the attorneys as arranged and receive legal advice relevant to the participants' current or anticipated legal issues. The Help Desk is offered for Juvenile Court matters as well as Probate Court matters.

In 2021, 5 local attorneys volunteered to provide legal advice at 35 scheduled sessions. Of those sessions, 12 were designated for probate, and 23 were designated for juvenile. For probate, there were 44 appointments scheduled for a total of 28 participants who received no-cost legal advice. For juvenile, there were 114 appointments scheduled and a total of 57 participants who received services.

# FAMILY DEPENDENCY TREATMENT COURT

In 2017 and in partnership with various Wayne County public and private entities, the Juvenile Court started the Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC). The FDTC was established as a specialized docket on the abuse, neglect, and dependency docket in an effort to better assist parents in need of substance use treatment. Wayne County's FDTC was first certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio's Specialized Docket Section in 2017.

The FDTC consists of weekly court hearings and meetings with a multidisciplinary treatment team, made up of representatives from the Court, Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, Wayne County Public Defender, Wayne County Children Services Board, OneEighty, Anazao Community Partners, and A New Day. This treatment team coordinates services throughout their respective agencies to help provide ongoing treatment and support to parents seeking reunification with their children or otherwise working to address underlying concerns in the household.

In 2021, the FDTC worked with 29 adult participants as well as their collective 62 children. A total of 5 participants successfully graduated from the program in 2021. A total of 10 participants continued into the program in 2022.



Pictured: Judge Wiles, FDTC Coordinator Marissa Hartman, and former FDTC participants at their graduation ceremonies.

# **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 predisposition 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 2021 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 or 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- or 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 2021, the probation department supervised a total of 65 youth on probation (53 at the beginning of the year and 12 throughout the year). The probation department completed 14 pre-dispositional reports. 31 youth (11 at the beginning of the year and 20 throughout the year) were assigned to TEMP Probation. Including all services performed by the probation department, Court probation officers worked with a total of 109 youth this past year.

## **JUVENILE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE (JDAI)**

Beginning in 2010, Ohio joined the nationwide Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), starting with just five counties. Wayne County joined the initiative in 2018. Established by the Annie E. Casey Foundation over 20 years ago, JDAI is designed to address the efficiency and effectiveness of juvenile detention. JDAI is designed to help counties make prudent use of secure detention, promote efficient use of resources, and support public safety. At the statewide level, JDAI is coordinated through the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

Since implementation in 2018, Wayne County has worked with a multidisciplinary collaboration to address better ways of keeping youth in the community and out of secure detention. Examples of a 2021 JDAI project included revision of standard rules of probation to improve transparency with probation-involved youth and their families.



## **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, the child's behavior present a danger to his or her health or well-being, or the child has not been amenable to other efforts to affect change. Out of home placement is an option 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.

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 that, 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 2021, no new youth were committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services, and no youth were committed to a community corrections facility.

At disposition, out of home placements may be ordered. Where appropriate, a juvenile may be placed in a facility other than detention or the Ohio Department of Youth Services. As a part of disposition, the Court determines which facility will be the most appropriate to reform the juvenile's behavior. In 2021, 1 youth was ordered into out of home placement other than detention or the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The youth was placed with The Village Network.

## **FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST COUNCIL (FCFC)**

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 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, 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.

## **COMMUNITY CONTROL COMPLIANCE**

Not all youth who are adjudicated delinquent or unruly come to probation for monitoring. Many youth are placed under Community Control and given a variety of sanctions, including community service, completion of schooling, obtaining a substance use assessment or treatment, attendance in anger management counseling, monitored time, electronic monitoring, restitution, letters of apology, or any other remedy the Court deems reasonable. Starting 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 deadlines 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 2021, the Community Control Compliance Program monitored 113 cases, with 77 cases terminating, showing all sanctions being completed, and 36 cases remaining open and monitored into 2022. 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 DIVERSION**

In April, 2017, Ohio Revised Code § 2151.27 was amended to address habitual truancy. The Annual Report must specify the number of children placed in alternatives to adjudication under § 2151.27(G), the number who successfully completed alternatives to adjudication, and the number who failed to complete alternatives to adjudication and were adjudicated unruly.

In 2021, 25 youth were placed in the truancy diversion program. 17 youth successfully completed the program, and 5 youth were unsuccessful in their attempt and adjudicated unruly. 2 youth remained in the program into 2022.

## **DIVERSION AND 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, substance use 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 2021, there were 74 new referrals for Diversion. Of the youths in Diversion, 65 were successful, 5 were unsuccessful, and 4 remained open going into 2022.

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

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.

In 2021, 87 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 2021, 6 psychological and risk assessments were performed. The evaluations and assessments are funded by the RECLAIM Ohio grant.

# WORK PROGRAM

The Work Program started in July 2012 as a replacement for the Saturday at Work Program. 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 2021, 19 youth successfully completed the program.

# 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 2021, 1176 hours of community service were ordered, and 970 hours were completed.



Above: Youth collect litter as part of the Work Program.

Below: Youth assist with the community garden.



## **MULTI-SYSTEMIC THERAPY (MST)**

Starting in 2013 through 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 2021, a total of 5 families participated in the MST Program, including 2 who completed the program successfully and 3 who continued into 2022.

## **MULTI-SYSTEMIC 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 a 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 2021, 6 families participated in the MST-PSB program, and 5 were still active in the program going into 2022.

## **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 2021, 34 youth were referred to the program, and 32 of those youth successfully completed. Due to COVID-19, the program was conducted via live video until resuming in person in June of 2021.

## **TRANSITIONS**

Transitions is an individualized case management program provided through a contract with Anazao Community Partners with the goal of improving life skills and social skills in youth. Expected outcomes will be an increase in general life skills, increase in positive relationships, stability in employment or school, and the ability to plan steps toward future goals. The program follows the Transitions to Independence model and focuses on Community Life Functioning, Personal Wellbeing, Educational opportunities, Employment, and home environment stability.

The youth and parent/guardian complete an intake assessment. The results of the assessment are used to develop an individualized plan for each youth. Youth are involved in the process so they learn how to access assistances needed and make a plan to reach goals. Youth meet weekly with a caseworker. Incentives such as baseball games, movies, or dinners are given to youth who consistently participate and make efforts to reach their goals.

Plans are reviewed each month with probation staff to ensure youth are progressing and to discuss issues that may develop. The length of the program may vary from 6 months to 18 months, depending on each youth's needs and goals. Youth are terminated from the program when their goals are met.

In 2021, 9 youth participated in the program, and 2 successfully completed. 6 youth remained in the program into 2022.

## **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 Catholic Charities, United Way, and the Court.

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 or continue for a longer period of time depending on the specific needs of the youth. During fiscal year 2021, 18 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 and also 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.

## **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST**

Originating from a need presented by local law enforcement agencies, in 2020, the Court contracted with Catholic Charities Community Services to provide a Youth Engagement Specialist to the Wayne County community. This program provides a licensed clinician to assist families in need of services after involvement with a local law enforcement agency. This clinician can assess youth and families and refer them for further services. In 2021, 73 youth participated in this service.

## **JUVENILES ADDRESSING RESTITUTION (JAR)**

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 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 2021, 8 youth were admitted to the JAR program and \$1,487.65 was paid to victims for losses. 6 youth successfully completed the JAR program in 2021, and 2 youth were still active in the program into 2022.

## **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 2021, 5 youth were referred to Life Skills. 1 of those referred was successful, 1 was not successful, and 3 remained working in the program into 2022.

## **SATURDAY SCHOOL**

The Court's Saturday School program 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.

## **STRIVE MENTORING PROGRAM**

The Strive Mentoring Program began in late 2017, through a collaboration with Catholic Charities Community Services. The year-long program pairs at-risk or court-involved youth ages 10-17 with a community volunteer, who serves as a supportive individual to help the youth deal with various life challenges. The youth and their mentor spend time together one on one, and also participate in monthly group activities. Examples of activities include baking cookies, laser tag, making crafts, and similar activities.

In 2021, 7 youth were paired with mentors with 1 youth remaining with mentors into 2022.



*Pictured: Youth and STRIVE mentors participate in an art project.*

## **CHEMICAL ABUSE AND BEHAVIOR (CAB)**

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 as-

signed to this group as a result of a positive drug screen, as a sanction for possession or usage of illegal substances or 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.

In 2021, 21 youth were referred to the Chemical Abuse & Behavior Program. 15 youth successfully completed CAB, and 2 youth remained ongoing into 2022.

## **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 six books, including *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson and *Holes* by Louis Sachar. Those youth 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 an award from the Mental Health and Recovery Board and the Martha Hawks Bequest.

In 2021, 4 youth participated, and 4 were successful in completing the program.

# CARTEENS

Carteens is a driver education program designed for low-level or first-time juvenile traffic offenders and has operated in Wayne County for over 20 years. In 2021, 202 teen traffic offenders were referred to Carteens.

## COMMUNITY AGENCIES: A THANK YOU

As has been noted in this and prior reports, community-based programming would fail without the aid of local partnering agencies. The help of Anazao Community Partners, OneEighty, the Counseling Center of Wayne and Holmes Counties, Catholic Charities, Goodwill, the Ridge Project, the Wayne-Holmes Mental Health and Recovery Board, and many other community agencies is greatly appreciated.



Above: Court staff dressed in Halloween costumes to celebrate the holiday.



Pictured: Youth participate in Carteens driver education alongside troopers with the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

## WAYNE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

This year's cover features an image of the historic Wayne County Courthouse after undergoing significant, historically accurate renovations that were necessary to restore and preserve the Courthouse. The renovations began in 2014 and were completed in 2016. The image was captured by Jane Robbins. The Courthouse is located at 107 West Liberty Street in Wooster. It was designed by architect Thomas Boyd and built in 1870. 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 Supreme Court of Ohio's website.](#)

## IMAGES AND COPYRIGHTS

Photographs of the Wayne County Courthouse are courtesy of Jane Robbins. Other photographs were either taken by Court staff and agency partners of actual programming or obtained freely from voluntary submissions through Pexels, an online stock image sharing service.

## 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 2021 Annual Report was printed at a cost of \$12.84 per copy. 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 online in order to minimize costs. [Click here for additional links to Annual Reports from this year and previous years.](#)

