

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



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2011**



# WAYNE COUNTY Probate & Juvenile Court

107 West Liberty Street, Wooster, Ohio 44691

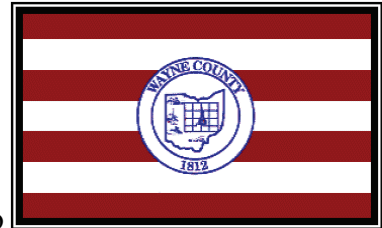
*Raymond E. Leisy, Judge*



Judge Raymond E. Leisy

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

Commissioners of Wayne County, Ohio



March 8, 2012

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 2011. If you are accessing this report on-line, please use the [links](#) provided throughout the report for additional information from our web site and from other related sites.

The Court is always seeking to improve our service through innovative and efficient means of providing service to the community. I extend our continuing gratitude to our 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,

*Raymond E. Leisy*

Raymond E. Leisy, Judge



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



Judge Raymond E. Leisy

Judge Raymond E. Leisy has been Judge of the Wayne County Probate and Juvenile Court since 2003. Judge Leisy holds a Bachelor's Degree from Heidelberg College, a Masters Degree from Bowling Green State University and a Juris Doctorate Degree from University of Toledo.

Judge Leisy previously served for ten years as Director of the Wayne County Child Support Enforcement Agency and was a Wayne County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney.

Judge Leisy is an active member of the Ohio Juvenile Judges Association and the Wayne County Bar Association.



Magistrate Roger W. Kienzle, Jr.

Magistrate Roger W. Kienzle, Jr. has been a Magistrate of the Court since 1991. His assigned docket includes delinquency, traffic, support, abuse, neglect and dependency. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Malone College and a Juris Doctorate Degree from The Ohio State University. He is admitted to practice before the Ohio Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of the United States. Magistrate Kienzle is a member of the Wayne County Bar Association.



Magistrate Joi E. Hemphill

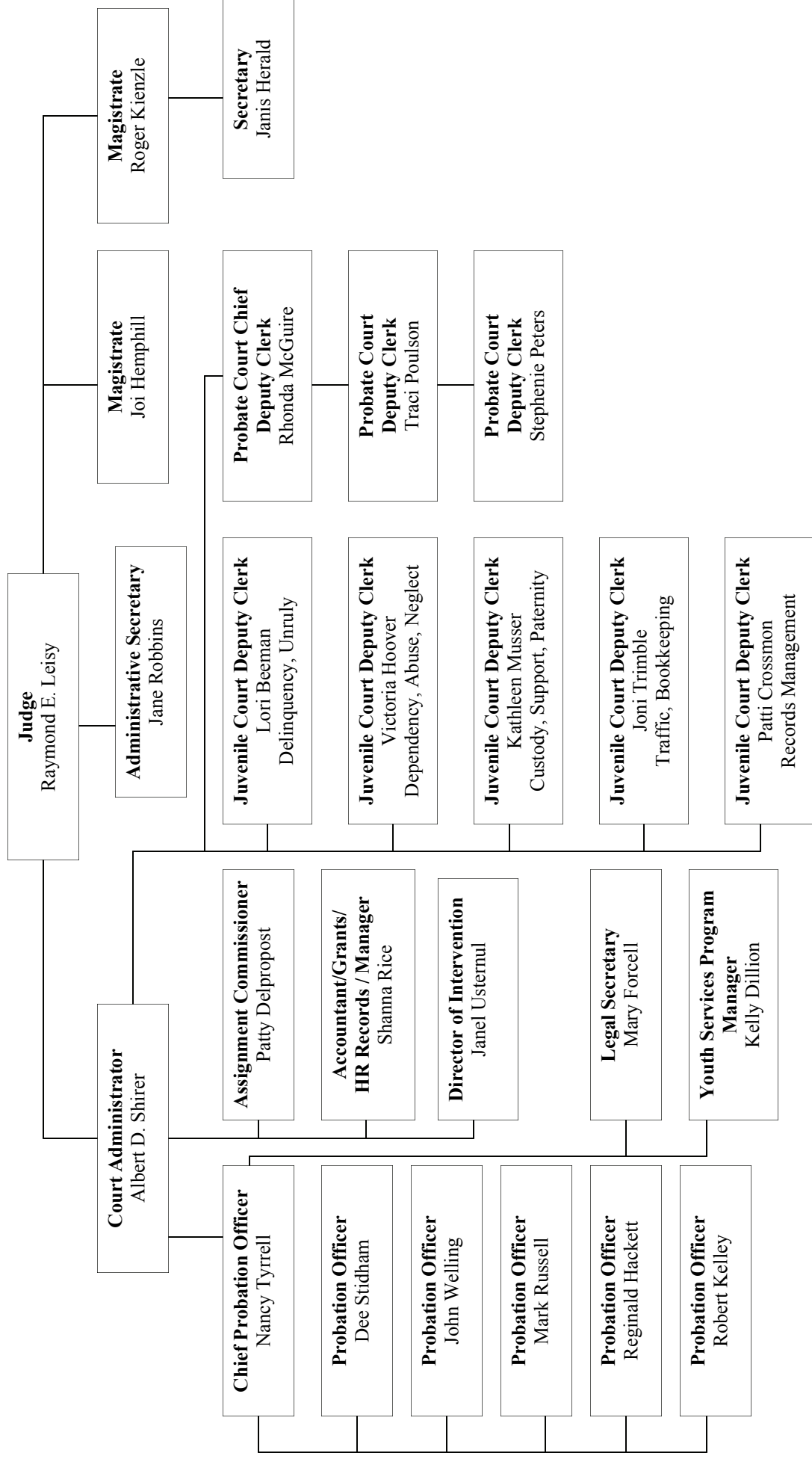
Magistrate Joi E. Hemphill has been a Magistrate of the Court since 1999. Her assigned docket includes delinquency, unruly and abuse, neglect and dependency cases. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Hiram College and a Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of Akron. She is admitted to practice before the Ohio Supreme Court and the U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio. Ms. Hemphill previously served as the Wayne County Public Defender. Magistrate Hemphill is a member of the Wayne County Bar Association



Court Administrator  
Albert D. Shirer

Albert D. Shirer has been the Court Administrator since April of 2007 and is the first full time administrator of the Court. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Kent State University and a Juris Doctorate Degree from Cleveland Marshall College of Law. He is admitted to practice before the Ohio Supreme Court and the U.S. District Court - Northern District of Ohio. Mr. Shirer was previously Court Administrator and a Magistrate at Medina County Probate and Juvenile Court. He is a member of the Wayne and Medina County Bar Associations.

**WAYNE COUNTY PROBATE  
AND JUVENILE COURT**  
Table of Organization

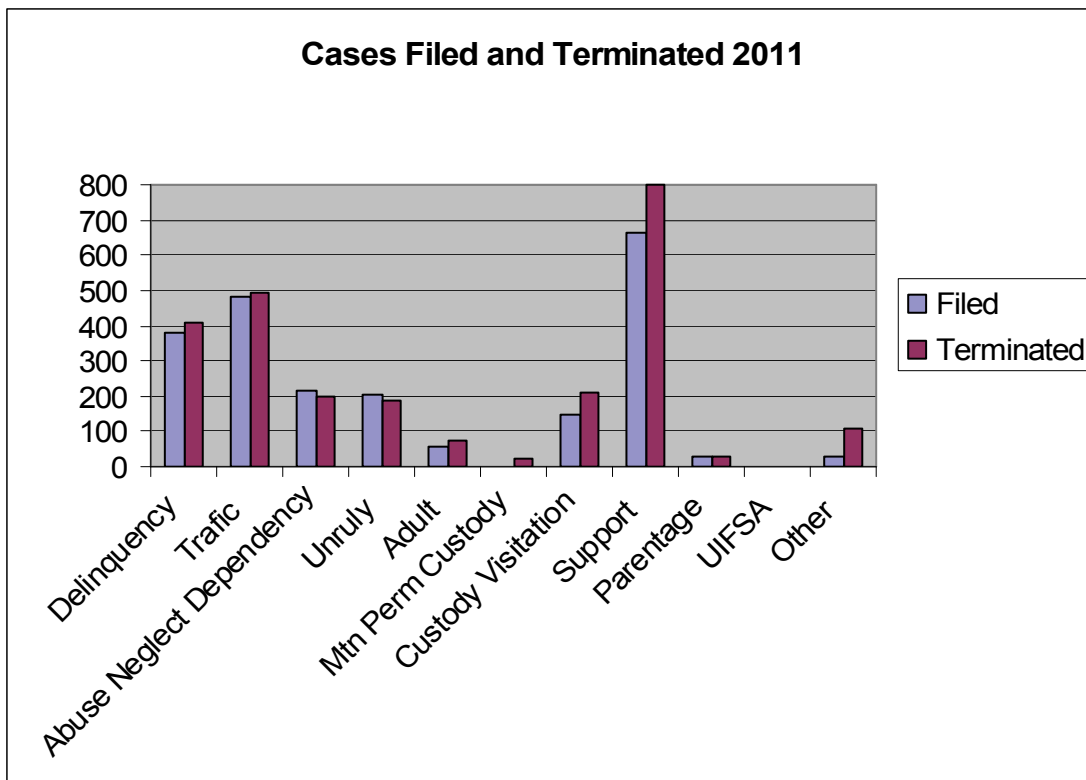


## SUPREME COURT REPORTS

Ohio Courts are subject to the Rules of Superintendence of 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 periodic reports with the Supreme Court in order to verify that the court is hearing and resolving cases in a timely fashion.

Ohio Juvenile Courts each month file what is referred to as Form D which specifically sets guidelines for juvenile courts and the period of time allowed for each case type.

The reports inform the Supreme Court on the number of new cases which were 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 magistrates. The Supreme Court provides guidelines which recommend to the trial courts the maximum recommended time a case may be before the court from filing to termination.





## 2011 SUMMARY OF CASES HEARD

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 2011.

Each case type is tracked on the report and every case is accounted for each year.

### CASES FILED AND TERMINATED 2011

	Delinquency	Traffic	Dependency, Neglect or Abuse	Unruly	Adult Cases	Motion for Permanent Custody	Custody/Visitation	Support	Parentage	U.I.F.S.A.	All Others	Total
<b>NEW CASES FILED</b>	380	483	215	202	57	0	146	666	27	0	28	2204
Cases transferred in, reactivated or redesignated	9	3	0	2	8	30	66	190	10	0	126	444
<b>Total</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>2648</b>
<b>TERMINATIONS BY:</b>												
Trial by Judge	0	0	3	0	0	15	4	0	0	0	1	23
Trial by Magistrate	6	2	0	1	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	23
Dismissal	65	4	51	39	24	3	61	62	5	0	18	332
Admit to Judge	3	0	106	1	1	2	8	478	4	0	1	604
Admit to Magistrate	284	401	24	125	38	0	108	241	18	0	67	1306
Certification/waiver granted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unavailable Party	1	0	1	0	5	0	0	19	3	0	19	48
Transfer	45	89	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	156
Referral to private judge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Other	6	0	14	2	3	5	13	2	0	0	2	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>2539</b>

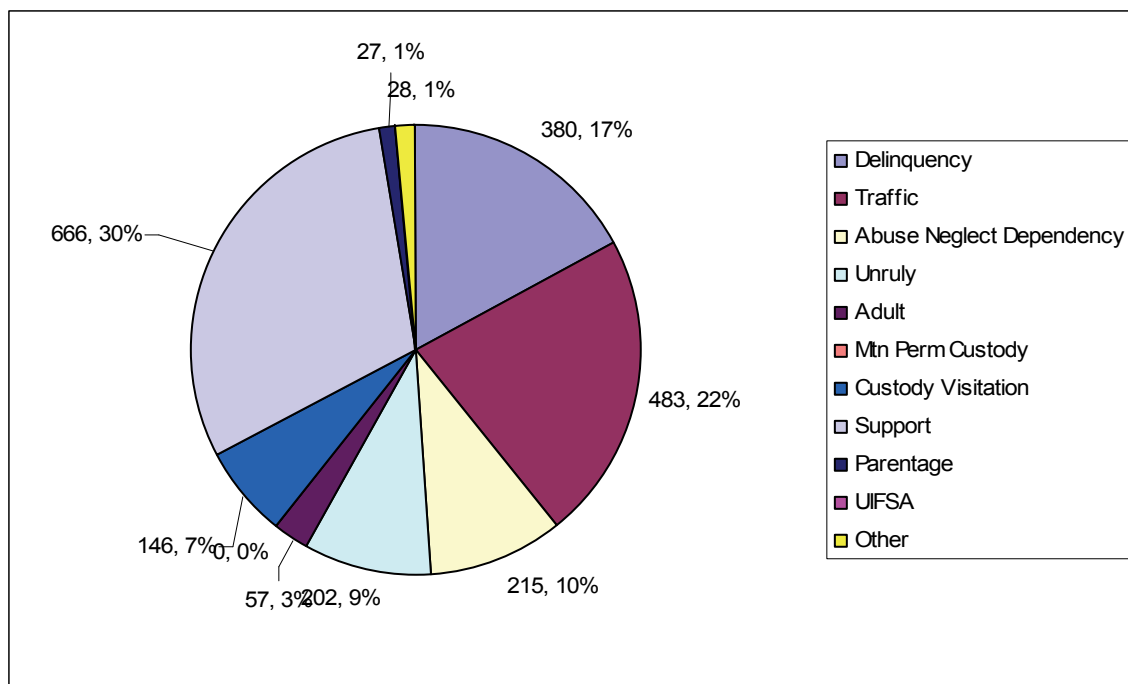
## CASE TYPE MIX

The juvenile court has a broad diversity of case types which make juvenile court jurisdiction one of the most challenging in the state.

The pie chart below illustrates the mixture of cases and the relative percentage of each case type.

Although the combination of delinquency and traffic cases make up almost half of the total case load, it should be noted that case types such as abuse, neglect, dependency and motions for permanent custody take up a considerable amount of the court's trial time due to the highly contested and emotional nature of the legal and family issues in such cases. Delinquency cases, which include misdemeanors or felonies require a substantial amount of trial time and involve the efforts of the probation department and program managers in recommending dispositions and monitoring juvenile behavior.

Juvenile Court Caseload by Case Type 2011



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

**DELINQUENT CHILD:** When a person under 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 2011, there were 380 Delinquency cases filed.

Click here for link to our web site on [Delinquency](#)

**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 2011, there were 483 juvenile traffic cases filed.

Click here for link to our web site on [Traffic](#)

**DEPENDENCY, NEGLECT OR ABUSE:** 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 with their families under supervision. In 2011, there were 215 abuse, neglect and dependency cases filed.

Click here for link to our web site on [Dependency, Neglect or Abuse](#)

**PARENTAGE:** A parentage action may be commenced by a child, a person claiming to be the parent of the child, their 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 has been established, the issues of parental rights and support may be addressed.

Click here for link to our web site on [Parentage](#)

**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 which results in a cessation of the unruly conduct. In 2011, there were 202 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 2011, there were 57 adult cases filed.

**MOTION FOR PERMANENT CUSTODY:** Motions for permanent custody are filed in situations where the environment of the children 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 2011, there were no motions for permanent custody filed. Such motions may be filed as a part of an abuse, neglect or dependency case.

Click here for link to our web site on [Abuse, Neglect, 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. In 2011, there were 146 custody and visitation matters filed.

Click here for link to our web site on [Custody, Visitation](#)

**SUPPORT:** The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over issues of child support for children who parents were never married to each other. In 2011, there were 666 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 link to our web site on [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 2010, there were no UIFSA cases filed.

**ALL OTHERS:** Cases which do not fall into the categories listed here are recorded on this line of Supreme Court Report.

## 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 legal manner in which the cases were terminated. The following is an explanation of the terminology used in the report.

### Trial by Judge:

This line is used to report 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 is used to report 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 is used to report uncontested cases that are terminated by admission or agreement before the judge.

### Admit to Magistrate

This line is used to report 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

## 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.

## Magistrates

Magistrates must also be attorneys admitted to the bar. Magistrates are appointed by the elected judge and serve an indefinite term. 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 they are deciding. 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.

## Court Administrator

The Court Administrator is the person charged with responsibility for the overall operations of the court. The CA supervises staff, prepares and administers the budget, 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 a growing number of court administrators are admitted to the bar.

## 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.

## AUTOMATION

In late 2009 the Judge of the Wayne County Juvenile Court along with the Judges of the Courts of Common Pleas and Municipal Court established Court Technology Committee. The CTC is made up of representatives of the administrative judges of each of the courts. Their purpose is to assist the judges in administering the combined computer fees generated by all of the courts.

The court periodically updates equipment as new technology becomes available. Computer funds generated by user fees controlled by the courts' Court Technology Committee are used to purchase equipment.



### Public Records Access



Although most of the juvenile court records are non-public, the court provides access to the few records that are public through the Internet. Records may be accessed through the Wayne County web site at [www.wayneohio.org](http://www.wayneohio.org) or through the court's web site at [www.wayneprobateandjuvenile.org](http://www.wayneprobateandjuvenile.org)

### E-Filing

The Court is working in conjunction with the Clerk of Common Pleas Court and Wayne County Municipal Court on an electronic filing procedure which will allow litigants and attorneys to file documents on-line.

### Document Imaging

Wayne County elected officials including the courts are working on a plan for imaging documents on computer rather than relying on paper pleadings and records.

### Credit Card Acceptance

The Juvenile Court is planning on introducing the use of credit cards for the payment of fines, costs and fees. Credit card acceptance is also a condition precedent to making e-filing available.



## APPOINTED COUNSEL



The U.S. and Ohio Constitutions require that parties 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. The Court paid a total of \$167,919.32 for appointed counsel in 2011. Expenses by case type are as follows:

Delinquency / Unruly	\$ 6,430.68
Adult (Contributing)	\$ 356.00
Juvenile Protection Order	\$ 243.00
Dependent, Neglect and Abuse Cases	\$153,135.64
Permanent Custody	\$ 2,983.00
Support	\$ 226.00
Custody	\$ 1,545.00
Appeals	<u>\$ 3,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$167,919.32

The court paid \$73,957.35 of the \$153,135.64 for the dependent, neglect and abuse cases for attorneys appointed to serve as *guardians ad litem* for children involved in the court system. *Guardians ad litem* are unbiased persons who assist the court to investigate and make recommendations regarding the best interests of the children in court cases.

## OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS

The Court's practice is to make use of local resources to rehabilitate youth. In some cases, however, community-based programs are not a viable option because of community safety issues, because the child's behavior presents a danger to his health and well being, or because the child has not been amenable to other efforts to affect 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 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.

## OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS

(Continued)



In the year 2011, a total of three youths were committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services. Three youth were released by ODYS on parole.

Disposition Placements may be made into the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System (MCJAS). Fifteen such placements were made in 2011:

<u>MULTI-COUNTY FACILITIES</u>	<u>TOTAL YOUTH PLACED</u>
Community Corrections Facility	3
Residential Treatment Center	7
New Philadelphia Group Home	2
Rogers Group Home	1
Canton Group Home/711	2

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 youth in such placement facilities in 2011:

<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>TOTAL YOUTH PLACED</u>
Village Network	11
Central Ohio Youth Center	5
Abraxas	1
Berea Children's Home	1
Buckeye Ranch	1
Bair Foundation	1
Children Center of Ohio	3

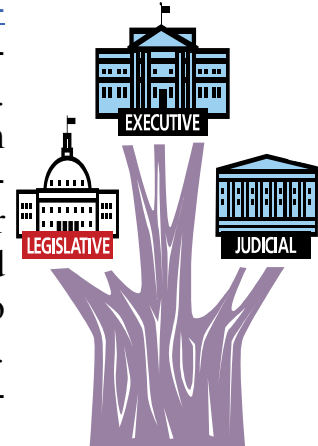




## GRANTS

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

The Ohio Department of Youth Services, which is itself funded by the taxpayers of the State of Ohio, apportions a grant called [RECLAIM Ohio](#) which stands for Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors. The purpose of the grant is to reduce the number of youth committed to ODYS by providing funding for programs designed to stop delinquent behavior in juveniles 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 (VOCA/SVAA). The RECLAIM Ohio and the “510” Fund from Youth Services grants are both on a fiscal year running from July 1 through June 30, and the VOCA/SVAA grant is on a fiscal year running from October 1 through September 30.



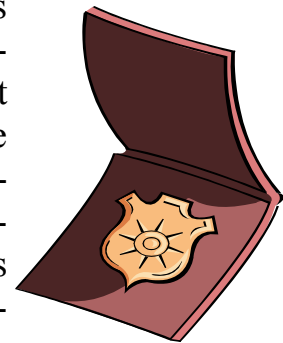
The following is a summary of the amounts received in the 2011 calendar year from these grants.

<u>Grant</u>	<u>Amount Received</u>
RECLAIM Ohio	\$159,096.53
“510” Fund From the Youth Services Grant	\$167,203.00
VOCA/SVAA Grant	\$26,746.00

## 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 though, 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. In 2011, the probation department completed 59 pre-dispositional reports with another 12 reports remaining open at the end of the year. For those juveniles placed on probation, the probation officer is responsible for monitoring the activities of assigned probationers and ensuring their compliance with court orders. Six full-time probation officers are employed by the Court 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. To best identify and address the juvenile's needs, 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 the Ohio Department of Youth Services to complete assessments for juvenile sex offenders. Additionally, probation officers refer the juvenile and their family to local agencies for services to address the area of need. In cases where the juvenile fails to respond to probationary efforts or presents a safety risk to the community or their self, 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 aftercare when the juvenile is returned to the community. In addition to working their caseload, 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 2011, the probation department supervised a total of 107 youth on probation. Fifty two youth were released from probation and thirty nine were placed on probation throughout the year. Including pre-dispositional reports and other services performed by the probation department, the probation officers worked with a total of 142 youth during this past year.



## 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 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 Youth Services Program Manager (YSPM) monitors and tracks the community services hours performed by the juvenile. The YSPM arranges community service work sites or in cases where the juvenile has access to a volunteer work source, they may make their own arrangements with YSPM approving the work site. Work hours are documented and the YSPM 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.

A probation officer of the Court serves as a compliance monitor for restitution cases. The probation officer/compliance monitor confers with the YSPM for those juveniles referred to the JAR program. Should a juvenile be appropriate for the JAR program and was not referred from the bench, the probation officer/compliance monitor 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 2011 eleven youth were admitted to the JAR program and \$2,400.58 was paid to victims for losses.



## **SATURDAY AT WORK**



Saturday At Work (SAW) 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 SAW program allows five juveniles per Saturday to complete community service hours under the direct supervision of two trained social service professionals through a contractual agreement between the Court and the Village Network. The program is scheduled for two Saturdays each month, eight hours per day. Work sites vary according to the availability in the community and weather conditions. Youth are evaluated by the supervisory staff and are rewarded accordingly. The program is funded through the RECLAIM Ohio Grant and operates on a fiscal year from July 1 through June 30.

In FY 2011, there were 119 referrals made to the program. Of the 119 referrals 106 were successful and four of the 13 unsuccessful referrals were due to illness.

## **CHEMICAL ABUSE & BEHAVIOR PROGRAM**

The Chemical Abuse and Behavior (CAB) group is a new program initiated by the probation department this year. There are two components to the program. The Tuesday group focuses on substance usage and is structured around the AA model. 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 Thursday group focuses on behavior issues and uses various curriculums addressing thinking errors, relationship building, problem solving skills, etc. A youth may be referred to the group as a sanction for violating their probation or as a means to address problem behaviors. The groups meet after school and are interactive by design. A probation officer from the Court with experience in conducting groups facilitates the program. The other probation officers are available on a rotating basis to provide assistance as needed. The program became operational in September, and during the four months, seven youth were referred to the program; 3 girls and 4 boys. All successfully completed the program.

## **TRUANCY ENFORCEMENT MONITORING PROGRAM (T.E.M.P.)**

The judicial system seeks to keep youth in school and receiving an education for their future. A probation officer of the Court services as a monitor for T.E.M.P., a program that monitors youth who have been adjudicated as truant and now must be in compliance 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.



This program was new to the Court and started in September 2011. Since the start of this program, 44 were monitored for Court Ordered attendance. Four youth were terminated from the list due to their age and 40 youth are still being actively monitored. There have been five warnings and 25 additional motions filed with the Court for further sanctions including time served at the Linda Martin Attention Center and community service hours.

## **CLINICAL AND DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATIONS**

The Court obtains psychological evaluations and risk assessments for a variety of reasons with the findings and recommendations of these evaluations 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 2011, 16 psychological and risk assessments were performed.



Drug screens are administered by the Court's probation officers as an aid in monitoring youth's compliance with probation or for evaluation purposes. In 2011, there were 198 drug screens administered.

Both the drug screens and the risk assessments are funded by the RECLAIM Ohio grant.



## **COMMUNITY CONTROL COMPLIANCE**

All youth who are adjudicated delinquent or unruly in the Court do 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, obtain a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalence, obtain an alcohol/drug assessment, obtain alcohol/drug counseling, obtain anger management counseling, serve monitored time, electronic monitoring with house arrest, pay restitution, letter of apology or any other order the Court deems reasonable. In 2011, 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 placed on Community Control with sanctions (excluding probation) a copy of that entry is forwarded to the probation officer in charge of monitoring. That 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 in that case. 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 2011 the Community Control Compliance Program monitored 151 cases, 82 cases were terminated with all sanctions being completed, and 69 cases remain open and monitored into 2012. 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.

## **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. 134 teen traffic offenders completed Carteens in 2011.





## YOUTH SERVICES PROGRAM MANAGER

The Youth Services Program Manager supervises the community services and Job Skills programs. She also organizes the Court's "Adopt a Road" litter program and arranges transportation for youth to community service sites, Job Skills program, Book Club Program and recycling projects.

The Youth Services Program Manager also tracks all community service hours ordered by the Court and follows up with complaints on those cases with uncompleted hours.



## 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 2011, 3,485 hours of community service were ordered and 3,643.25 hours were successfully completed.

## RECYCLING

Throughout 2011, youth on probation placed recycle collection containers purchased by a grant from the Wooster Rotary Club at various sites in Wooster during public events. The containers were used at the Wayne County Fair, Wooster Arts Jazz Fest, Kid's Day and the downtown Cruise-Ins, and also the Wayne County Home & Garden Show. As a result, a large amount of recyclable material was removed from the waste stream. An estimated total of almost two tons of recyclable material was collected by the program in 2011.



## 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 Youth Services Program Manager. Participants read three to four books each session for which the youth receive community service credit. They must show that they have read the book and participate in bi-weekly “club meetings” to obtain credit. The Court offers special thanks to Carol Rueger and David Weisenberg, owners of The Wooster Book Company, who allow the club to meet at their store for discussions, also the Wayne County Public Library Rittman branch, and the Orrville Public Library. A library of books for young people is being created from funds made available through a mini grant from the Mental Health and Recovery Board and the Martha Hawks Bequest. Funds received are used to purchase books and create a library for on-going use by the Book Club.



In 2011, 24 youth participated and 19 were successful in completing the program.

### 2011 Book Club Titles and Authors

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>
<u>Touching Spirit Bear</u>	Ben Mikaelson
<u>Gathering Blue</u>	Lois Lowry
<u>Freedom Writer's Diary</u>	Erin Gruwell
<u>Al Capone Does My Shirts</u>	Gennifer Choldenko
<u>The Last Book in the Universe</u>	Rodman Philbrick
<u>Rules of Survival</u>	Nancy Werlin
<u>RIP in Heaven</u>	Jeanine Cummins
<u>Beyond the Board</u>	Doug Brown
<u>Freak The Mighty</u>	Rodman Philbrick
<u>The Revealers</u>	Doug Wilhelm

## **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 Youth Services Program Manager 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.

During Fiscal Year 2011, 10 youth were referred to job skills. Nine of those referred were successful and one was unsuccessful, four youth remained in the program working.



## **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT WORKER**

Keith Waggoner serves as a Youth Development Worker for youth referred by the Court. The Court uses grant funds to contract with Your Human Resource Center for Mr. Waggoner's services. His main function is to provide opportunity for development of basic socialization skills, and to this end, develops and supervises recreational and social skills programming.

During the fiscal year, 15 youth were served in the boys' program. Of those 15 youth, four were terminated from the program successfully as having completed their goals.

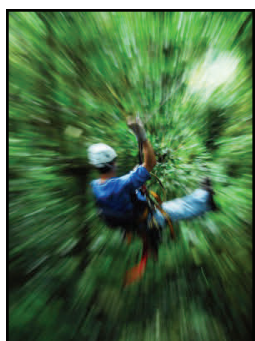
The FIAT program has a successful weekly program entitled Hoops & Homework that takes place during the school year. Done in cooperation with the College of Wooster, Hoops & Homework allows youth to develop a one-on-one relationship with volunteers from the College of Wooster Men's Soccer Team. Once a week the youth receive tutoring, a meal, and a chance to get involved in some physical activity with the volunteers. Both the youth and volunteers enjoy the program, which has been running for seven consecutive years. Most of the youth have shown improvement in their academic performance and have developed better self confidence. Seven youth participated in Hoops from September 2010 through May 2011. All the boys participating in the program advanced to their next grade level.

The Youth Development Worker also organized weekly educational and/or recreational programs throughout the entire fiscal year. Such activities are

## Youth Development Worker

(Continued)

designed to provide structured pro-social activities in an ongoing format focused on enhancing life skills for juvenile males. Practical topics, coupled with hands-on activities, permit the youth to improve their social abilities while developing additional skills. Highlights in 2011 included attending Cirque du Soleil's theater performance of "Holidaze" at the Cleveland Playhouse and the outdoor drama "Tecumseh" in Chillicothe along with trips to the Great Lakes Science Center, Akron Zoo and the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Other activities involved zip lining at Hocking Hills State Park, canoeing, and snow tubing. In addition, clients



attended a Cleveland Indians and Akron Aeros baseball game and a basketball game at the University of Akron with a tour of the campus. Seven boys had the opportunity to attend a Cleveland Cavaliers basketball game via donated tickets. Two boys who had shown significant improvement in their behaviors, were selected to attend PRIDE, a national youth drug and alcohol prevention conference in Toledo.

In addition to the large group activities, the FIAT program customizes activities to address the individual needs of the boys. These include small group or one-on-one activities which incorporate educational development through recreational means. For instance; fishing, hiking, biking and swimming allows the boys to engage in healthy activities that promote physical activity that could contribute to style of living. By making use of local resources offered by the park services and nearby hike/bike trails, the boys learn what can be done on a limited budget. The program utilizes other local resources such as the YMCA, Rittman Recreation Center, Wayne County Public Library, OARDC, Skateland, "Reins for Life" horse therapy program at CCHO, and Wayne Center for the Arts to expose youth to what is available in their own back yard. These resources help foster new interests and give the youth an opportunity to develop a skill or enhance existing skills which often results in improved self-esteem.



Youth are expected to complete community service projects to earn certain trips or gain special privileges. Youth completed projects like painting and landscaping work at Your Human Resource Center Offices and helped with the Meals Together program at the United Methodist Church. They also did cleaning and weeding around the Rittman F.O.P. Lodge, and participated in litter patrol at various parks in Wayne County. Two youth volunteered to help the Pinwheels for Prevention Program which was required to earn their trip to PRIDE.

## INTENSIVE CASE MANAGER

Angie Giltner, LSW, LCDC III serves as supervisor for the Intervention Program and as Intensive Case Manager at Your Human Resource Center providing services for youth referred by Wayne County Juvenile Court personnel. The Program receives monies from the Juvenile Court, Mental Health and Recovery Board, and raises approximately \$500 annually through private fundraisers.

The Youth Experiencing Success (YES) Group is an extensive 16-week program designed to empower girls, as well as develop acceptable social, vocational, and educational skills, while improving their self-image, increasing their self-awareness, and developing internal assets. YES also teaches resiliency skills against drugs and alcohol, as well as healthy coping skills. This group provides the girls opportunity to experience a variety of activities targeted at specific areas of learning. For instance, instruction in cooking, painting, perfume and jewelry making focuses on creative development; attending musicals and plays stresses the fine arts, learning to budget, exploring job skills and discovering community resources build on life skills. Other activities addressed physical fitness and general health. Two girls were selected to attend PRIDE, an anti-drug youth conference held in Toledo. At the conference the girls gained knowledge regarding stress/anger management, harmful affects of drugs and alcohol, strength and resiliency skills, and made friendships with positive youth from all around the country. The YES program strongly emphasizes the importance of education. In FY11, four young ladies successfully completed the YES Group. One young lady graduated high school and enlisted in the Army, two are students doing well and the other has obtained part-time employment.



The step-up group, In It To Win It, meets the growing needs of young ladies who successfully completed YES and desire further interaction and supportive services. The In It To Win It Group helps youth “have better, be better, and do better than their former selves;” It addresses independent living skills and being a positive role model. In FY11 only one young lady chose to be in the group. Services were terminated when she moved out of the county.

Two young ladies received Intensive Case Management (ICM) Services in FY11. ICM is designed to help youth transition from adolescence into adulthood. The ICM works with the teen on an individual basis and helps link them to resources in the community that can provide ongoing services and assistance.

All of these young ladies participated in Child Abuse Prevention week/month activities, engaged in community service not required by the Wayne County Juvenile Court, and other community events that promote a sense of belonging and community pride.



## **PARENTS AND CHILDREN COOPERATING TOGETHER**

PACCT is a home-based family therapy program provided by contract through Catholic Charities Community Services. Anita Miller, Kate Burke and Sheryl Villegas serve as therapists for this program. To be eligible for services, families must reside in Wayne County, have one or more children in the family referred as a condition of a diversion contract or be 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 2011, 52 youth participated in the PACCT program. Youth and their family members were provided 468.25 hours of counseling.

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.



## **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 now has nineteen active volunteers. 77 children were served by these volunteers in 2011. Attorneys are appointed as GALs when volunteers are not available.



## INTERVENTION SERVICES

The director of Intervention Services, Janel Usternul, LSW, 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 Director 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
- \*community service
- \*essays
- \*no additional charges filed during Diversion Program
- \*referral to community resources (counseling, drug/alcohol education, anger management, shoplifting group)



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 2011, The Director of Intervention Services received 151 new referrals. The number of youth who completed Diversion was 115. Of these, 76 were successful, 20 were unsuccessful, 15 were dismissed, and 4 were returned.

The Director of Intervention Services also coordinates the Truancy Intervention Program for the county's elementary schools. The goal of this program is to reduce chronic truancy problems in grades K-6.



For the 2010/2011 school year, there were 32 referrals made and 17 IAT meetings held. The referrals were from the following schools: Cornerstone Elementary (5), Lincoln Way Elementary (9), Orrville Elementary (2), Kean Elementary (1), Norwayne Elementary (3), Rittman Elementary (1), Shreve Elementary (6), Wooster Township Elementary (1), Fredericksburg Elementary (1), and Melrose Elementary (3).

A new program was implemented at the beginning of the 2011 school year called The Truancy Intervention Program. This is similar to the elementary school

## **INTERVENTION SERVICES**

(Continued)

program, and it addresses truancy issues in grades 7-12th for the Wayne County Schools. The Wayne County Juvenile Court believes that early intervention is essential in addressing truancy. The goals of this program are to identify truancy concerns early, as well as to provide support and resources to the student and family to increase attendance. It is the intention of the Court to address truancy issues in a timely manner through mediation services in an effort to avoid formal court action. To be eligible, a student must attend a Wayne County or charter school, be in grades 7-12, accumulate a minimum 3 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 Director of Intervention Services. 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. At the beginning of the 2011 school year, there were 65 referrals made to this program until the end of the 2011 calendar year. Of those, there were 22 meetings with a parent/guardian in attendance. There were 43 meetings set in which the parent did not attend and a formal action plan was not made at that time. Data will be gathered for the second half of the 2011 school year as the school year has yet to be completed.

## **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. Administrative representatives of [Wayne County Children Services Board \(WCCSB\)](#), the [Mental Health and Recovery Board](#), [Wooster City Schools](#), Wayne County Schools, the [Mental Retardation and Development Disability Board \(MRDD\)](#), the [Wayne County Health Department](#), the Wayne County Human Services Department, and other agencies work together to set policy for the Council.

Janel Usternul, as Director of Intervention Services for the Court, serves as the juvenile court's representative on the clinical diversion team which also includes the Council coordinator and representatives from WCCSB, The Counseling Center, Wooster City Schools, Tri-County Educational Services, agencies with alcohol and drug services, and MRDD. Through a team approach this group formulates interagency cooperative planning (and funding) for referred youth with special needs.

## COMMUNITY AGENCIES -

### THANK FOR YOUR VALUED ASSISTANCE

As has been noted in prior reports, a belief in community-based programming would fail without the aid of local resources. The help of The Village Network, Your Human Resource Center, STEPS (Substance Abuse, Treatment, Education and Prevention Services), the Counseling Center of Wayne-Holmes Counties, Catholic Charity Services, Goodwill, Wayne Center for the Arts, and other community agencies is greatly appreciated.



### ANNUAL REPORT COVER

This year's cover features an image of the historic Wayne County Courthouse from Market Street looking Southwest with the street light and hanging flower baskets in the foreground. The image was taken by Jane Robbins, Administrative Secretary to Judge Leisy. 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 annex 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

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### 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. 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).