

- Monitoring those youth involved with the Probation or Diversion Programs or those under court supervision;
- Attending ongoing education and training sessions;
- Writing and filing reports;
- Assist local school districts with truancy team meetings;
- Public speaking;
- Filing violations of law/court orders through the Prosecutor's Office;
- Utilizing arrest authority when appropriate;
- Testifying in court hearings.

The Probation/Diversion Department of the Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, of Holmes County is an active department, consisting of a Chief of Probation, two (2) Probation/Diversion Managers and a Probation/Diversion Services Secretary. All managers have caseloads assigned to them in which they are actively involved.



PROBATION & DIVERSION DEPARTMENT

Probation/Diversion Managers work closely and regularly with the Prosecutor's Office, schools, police, community, and the various support agencies in the county. Attempts are made to have personal "face to face" contact with not only those on probation or diversion, but all agencies with which this department has a business relationship.

In order to be an effective, knowledgeable operation it is vital to be involved with the schools, law enforcement and the community as much as possible in order to properly supervise those involved with Probation/Diversion services.

It is also of the utmost importance that the Probation/Diversion Managers know the environments of those they supervise and the issues the youth face on a daily basis. An increase in use of illegal substances, deterioration in parental supervision and lack of positive home environments are the primary reasons more and more youth become involved in the criminal justice system.



Rehabilitation of the juvenile offender is our objective through accountability, responsibility, treatment, incentivizing and supervision. However, the public safety and welfare are also considered when deciding the appropriate action to be taken.



PROBATION RESULTS

9 successful
3 unsuccessful

During 2024:
11 juveniles were placed on probation. (10 male and 1 female)
12 were removed from probation. (11 male and 1 female)
**Note: Statistics related to youth in the Diversion program were mentioned previously in this report.*



COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Probation/Diversion Department also continued its duty of organizing and supervising Community Service performed by juveniles as part of their sentence. Community Service requires a youth to perform work beneficial to the community without pay. The program provides youth with an opportunity to "repay" the community for the problems caused by their behavior, as well as provide the youth with valuable work experience.

In 2024, a total of 226 hours were completed by 8 juveniles for their community service commitment. At a minimum wage rate of \$10.45 per hour, those 226 hours represent services valued at \$2,361.70 to the Holmes County community.



All youth are assessed with the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) to measure the risk of recidivism. Youth assessed as "Moderate" or "High" to recidivate are provided with Evidence Based Programs to help reduce their risk.



FIELD TRIP

The Holmes County Juvenile Court sponsored a field trip for West Holmes students and faculty at Bounce Innovation Hub on April 25, 2024.

Bounce is a nonprofit organization located in downtown Akron which serves northeast Ohio entrepreneurs, innovators, and startup companies.

Field trip attendees toured the Bounce Innovation Hub building and met with local entrepreneurs who operate their businesses out of the building, including the founders of The Green Photograph and Any Means Necessary.

Students participated in a photography session with the founder of **The Green Photograph**, who specializes in Color Theory.

The founders of **Any Means Necessary**, a dark art clothing brand, showed the students their business space and merchandise, and engaged the students in a motivational discussion regarding the challenges they overcame to start their successful business in the Bounce building.

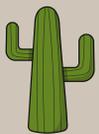
Field trip attendees found the Bounce Innovation Hub field trip to be very inspiring and appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the organization.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

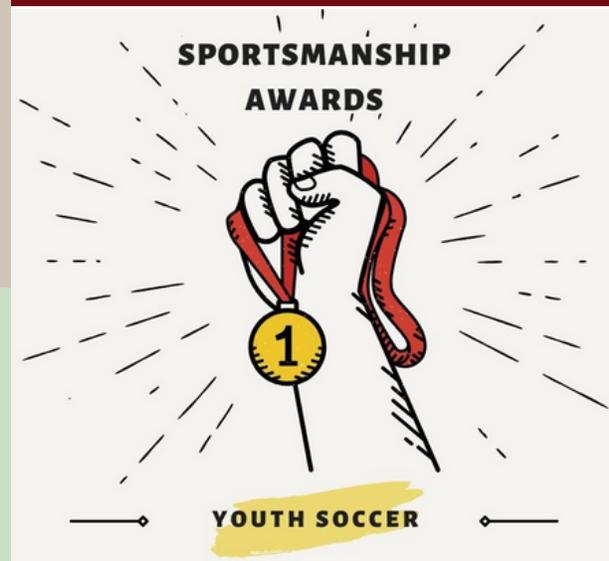


The West Holmes Soccer Club 5th and 6th grade girls soccer team, coached by [Magistrate Julie Dreher](#), received the Sportsmanship Award for their participation in the Wooster Recreation Fall 2024 youth soccer league.

The girls were *recognized for their hard work, respect for teammates and opponents, and dedication to the game of soccer*. Magistrate Dreher was very proud of the students for this special recognition!



Also receiving a Sportsmanship Award was the 5th and 6th Grade Boys Hiland team coached by Coach Conn.





Wayne and Holmes Counties

Probate & Juvenile Court staff participated in the 17th Annual Walk and 5K for Wellness.

Walk and 5K for WELLNESS

NAMI Wayne and Holmes Counties

An event dedicated to raising awareness about **mental health**. Proceeds from the event help to provide vital mental health resources to Wayne and Holmes county residents, making a positive impact in our communities.



BEST DECORATED TEAM:

Dressed in a Wizard of Oz theme, staff were rewarded with a day of painting ceramics at LincWay Ceramics for their efforts.



THERAPY DOG

Marlee is certified as a therapy dog through The Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dog Organization, a national certification accepted through AKC.



Since Marlee has been a certified therapy dog (May 2024) until now, she has spent 132 hours of direct contact with Probation and Diversion youth.

This is accomplished by working with youth at the courthouse, at the schools, transporting juveniles to services, and working and attending wrap around services with agencies that help our youth.

In addition, Marlee and handler, Rachel Cornell, also visit different facilities in Wayne and Holmes counties such as nursing homes, MOCA House etc. to provide comfort to community members of all ages. This has accounted for 18 hours of work.

Total Hours Worked:

149

CREDENTIALS

Puppy Star

Basic Obedience

Advanced Obedience

AKC Canine Good Citizen

AKC Community Canine

The Bright & Beautiful Therapy Dog

AKC Therapy Dog Novice



Parent Mentoring

Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)

The Holmes County Juvenile Court implements services through Catholic Charities. Participating youth meet some if not all of the following criteria:

- At risk of out-of-home placement or returning from out-of-home placement.
- Multiple system involvement.
- Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) willing and committed to participating in the program.
- Previously failed treatment attempts.
- Significant history of involvement with the juvenile justice system.



These services occur in the families' natural environment (home, school, community) and include the families' support system (relatives, friends, neighbors, etc.). Families have access to Triple P therapist 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for crisis situations.

GOALS

The goal of Triple P is to empower the caregivers with the skills to manage the youth's current behaviors and any new behaviors that might arise, as well as to be able to apply those skills to other youth in the home.



Throughout the duration of participation in Triple P the therapist stays in close communication with the youth's Probation/Diversion Manager and/or other key participants, through regular phone calls and meetings.

Determining when the youth has successfully completed the program is a collaborative decision between Catholic Charities, Probation/Diversion Manager, youth, parents and other support systems that may be involved with the youth. In making the decision the team determines if the treatment goals (i.e., referral behaviors) have been achieved for at least 3-4 weeks, and if the family is able to effectively manage any future problems with success.

7 Youth/Families Served in 2024

2 successful
2 unsuccessful
1 neutral
2 ongoing

OUTCOMES

The instrumental outcomes are:

- Evidence the primary caregiver has improved the parenting skills necessary for handling subsequent problems;
- Evidence of improved family relations;
- Improved network of informal social supports;
- Evidence of success in an educational setting;
- Youth involved with prosocial peers and activities;
- Changes in behavior of the youth and in the systems contributing to the referral behaviors have been sustained for 3-4 weeks.



Through both the Probation & Diversion programs, referrals are made for a variety of services that are available in the community to the youth and their families. The Judge or Magistrate may also order a youth to participate in these services as their disposition (sentence).

The “Connections” Mentoring Program

of the Holmes County Juvenile Court addresses the problem of young people who lack positive adult role models. Parents often do not have the time and energy needed to spend time with their children and model general life and decision-making skills.

Connections matches these young people with adult volunteers who are trained by the Program Coordinator and are willing to commit to spending 4-8 hours per month with the young person for a period of at least 12 months.

The youth targeted for the mentoring program are elementary age through high school and include those adjudicated delinquent and unruly as well as those who are in the Court’s Diversion Program or are simply at-risk children living in the community.



It is the **GOAL** of the program to *provide a relationship for the child with a caring adult* who will assist them in **reaching their highest potential** as they grow into responsible adults.

2024 SNAPSHOT

9 Active Matches

8 Active Volunteer Mentors

These children are served by compassionate residents of Holmes County and are being exposed to learning new life skills, improved self-esteem, and a consistent example of positive family life.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

Nicole Lepley, the Program Coordinator, presents the program to the community in an effort to make the public aware of this Court Program, as well as to secure **VOLUNTEERS** as mentors. She conducts training sessions for the adult volunteers. Ms. Lepley also meets with youth and their families to determine if the young person is a good candidate for the Mentoring Program and to facilitate good matches of youth to mentors.

MISSION STATEMENT

Holmes County Juvenile Court exists to foster the development of a healthy community for children and families through the timely administration of justice and the delivery of quality services in a cost-effective, courteous, and professional manner.



The Court of Common Pleas
Probate & Juvenile Divisions
Thomas C. Lee, Judge