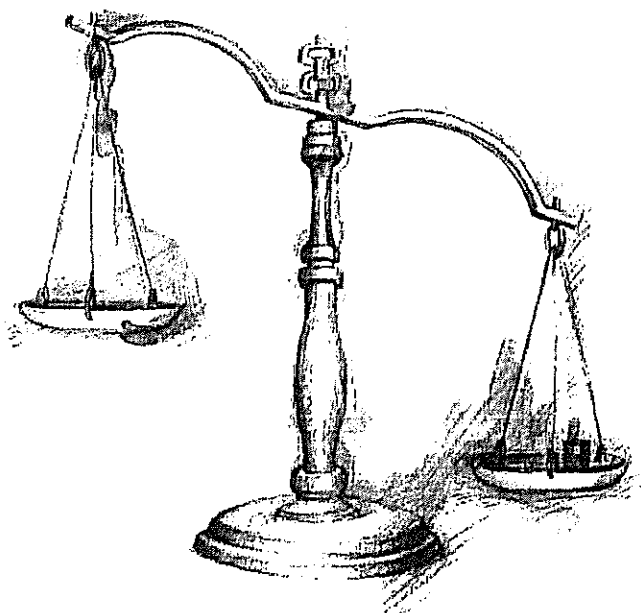


**HOLMES COUNTY JUVENILE COURT**

**2006 ANNUAL REPORT**



**JUDGE THOMAS C. LEE**

1 East Jackson Street  
Suite 201  
Millersburg, Ohio 44654

PROBATE: (330) 674-5881  
JUVENILE: (330) 674-5841  
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Glennis R. Menez  
Court Administrator

## The Court of Common Pleas

PROBATE & JUVENILE DIVISIONS

HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO  
THOMAS C. LEE, Judge

May 16, 2007

To the Citizens of Holmes County:

On behalf of Holmes County Juvenile Court and its staff, I am pleased to present the 2006 Annual Report. This Report contains information on the Court's cases, as well as the services and programs offered by the Court to Holmes County families and children.

It is my sincere desire that the Court provide quality assistance to Holmes County families and children. If you have questions or suggestions as you read this Report, please feel free to contact me. I value your input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Lee", written over a horizontal line.

Thomas C. Lee  
Juvenile Court Judge

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This Annual Report of the Holmes County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, for the calendar year 2006 is prepared pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.18(B).

### **COURT PERSONNEL**

Judge	Hon. Thomas C. Lee
Court Administrator Grant Administrator	Glennis R. Menez
Bailiff	Bradley S. Conn
Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk Deputy Clerk/Receptionist/Probation Office Secretary	Christine Jenkins Virginia Sandison  Debora J. Helms
Chief Probation Officer Probation Officer Probation/Truancy Officer	Janice Shroyer, L.S.W. David Williams, L.S.W. Robert Porter
Project STAY Office Clerk	Judith Winegar
Advocacy Program Coordinator	Beverly Theil, R.A.

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## **PURPOSE OF THE COURT**

Ohio Revised Code Section 2152.01 sets forth the purpose of the Juvenile Court as follows:

- (A) To provide for the care, protection, and mental and physical development of children subject to Chapter 2152 of the Revised Code;
- (B) To protect the public interest and safety;
- (C) To hold juvenile offenders accountable for their actions, restore the victim, and rehabilitate the offender through a system of graduated sanctions and services;
- (D) To provide judicial procedures through which Chapters 2151 and 2152 of the Revised Code are executed and enforced, and in which the parties are assured of a fair hearing, and their constitutional and other legal rights are recognized and protected.

## **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.

## **JURISDICTION**

The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction under Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.23 to hear the following types of matters:

**Delinquent Child** – Those who commit an offense, prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

**Unruly Child** – Those who commit an offense that only applies to someone under the age of 18.

**Juvenile Traffic Offender** – Those who commit a traffic offense prior to attaining the age of 18.

**Abused Children** – Children who have been physically or sexually abused by parents, guardians, or another adult.

**Neglected Children** – Those children who are not properly cared for or are abandoned by their parents or guardians.

**Dependent Children** – Those children who are without proper care or support through no fault of their parents or guardians.

**Adults** – Criminal charges against adults who have contributed to the delinquency or unruliness of a child.

**Paternity** – Actions to determine the father of a child born out of wedlock.

**Custody** – Actions to determine the custody of any child not a ward of another Court of this State.



## JUVENILE COURT DOCKET

The following cases were filed in Juvenile Court in 2006:

Delinquency	138
Traffic (Details provided below)	247
Dependency, Neglect & Abuse	42
Unruly	70
Adult Cases	0
Permanent Custody	0
Custody/Visitation	78
Child Support	60
Paternity	10
U.I.F.S.A.	0
Others	<u>4</u>
TOTAL:	649

**NOTE:** Five (5) juveniles who were first-time offenders were referred to the Diversion Program, thus reducing the number of cases brought formally before the Court.

## **TYPES OF TRAFFIC CITATIONS**

The following types of citations were issued against juveniles and dealt with by the Court in 2006:

Seat Belt Violations	15
Failure to Control	21
Red Light Violations	1
Failure to Yield	10
Reckless Operation	2
Speed	64
No Operator's License	6
Left of Center	4
Assured Clear Distance	10
Stop Sign Violation	11
Expired Plates	0
No Registration	0
No Plates	0
Parking on Roadway	0
Following Too Closely	3
Driving Without a Licensed Driver	0
Passing School Bus	2
Improper Lane	2
No Eye Protection	3
No Helmet	1
Fictitious Plates	1

## **TYPES OF DELINQUENT CHARGES**

Aggravated Menacing	3
Assault	7
Breaking & Entering	1
Criminal Damaging	5
Criminal Trespassing	1
Domestic Violence	4
Menacing	1
Petty Theft	10
Possession of Marijuana or Drugs	4
Probation Violation	22
Prohibitions (Under-Age Consumption)	12
Theft of Motor Vehicle	1
Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle	1

Falsification	1
Attempted Gross Sexual Imposition	1
Vandalism	9
Criminal Mischief	1
Felonious Assault	1
Grand Theft Firearm	1

(These figures reflect the number of charges dealt with by the Court in 2006, not necessarily the number of cases filed in the year 2006.)

**TYPES OF CASES HANDLED THROUGH DIVERSION (First-Time Offenders) IN 2006:**

Assault	1
Unruly	1
Criminal Damaging	1
Tobacco violations	1
Menacing	1

**FELONIES COMMITTED BY JUVENILES IN 2006:**

Total felony charges:	13
Males:	8*
Females:	0

\*One individual may have committed more than one felony.

**Felony Adjudications by the Court in 2006:**

Breaking & Entering	1
Theft of Motor Vehicle	1
Grand Theft of Firearm	1
Trafficking in Marijuana	1
Vandalism	9

## **DISPOSITIONS**

The following dispositions were made in the year 2006:

### **Delinquencies**

Community Service	906 hrs. ordered 673.5 hrs. completed
Apologies	2
Insight (Drug & Alcohol Assessment)	14
Psychological/Psychiatric Evaluations	7
House Arrest	2
No Association Provision	4
Court Costs	50
Fines	11
Operators License Suspensions	1
Counseling/Assessments	10
Detention	9
Suspended Detention	12
Restitution	8
Suspended Placement	1
Probation/Continued Probation	115
Ohio Dept. of Youth Services	
Suspended Commitments	0
Victim Offender Reconciliation Program	0
Project STAY	2

## **OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS**

The Court strives to achieve its purposes while keeping a child in a family environment, separating the child from his or her parents only when necessary for his or her welfare or in the interests of public safety. The following out-of-home placements were made in 2006:

With extended family	3
Foster homes	2
Group homes	6
Community Corrections Facility	3
Christian Children's Home	2
Lincoln Place	2
Youth With a Purpose	3
MCJAS Residential Treatment Center	6
Smoky Mountain Children's Home	1
Central Ohio Youth Center	1
Total:	29

### **Additional Information Regarding Placements**

#### **Multi-County Juvenile Attention System**

Holmes County participates in the Multi-County Juvenile Attention System, funded jointly by Stark, Columbiana, Wayne, Tuscarawas, Holmes, and Carroll Counties. The System provides treatment and detention options to the participating Juvenile Courts, including group homes, a residential treatment center, and attention/detention centers.

Holmes County represents 5.12% of the total population of the participating counties. In the year 2006, Holmes County used 2834 "bed

days" (number of juveniles placed x number of days) at System Residential Treatment and Detention Centers. The Juvenile Court utilized 1409 bed days at the Linda Martin Attention Center (formerly Wayne-Holmes Attention Center) and 28 bed days at the Stark Attention Center for detention purposes. The Court also used 1397 bed days in residential facilities as follows: 418 bed days at The New Philadelphia Girls Group Home; 279 bed days at Rogers Group Home, and 700 bed days at The Residential Treatment Center in Canton, Ohio.

The total bed days used by Holmes County at the treatment centers and detention centers represented 4.77% of the total used by all participating counties.

### **Ohio Department of Youth Services Facilities**

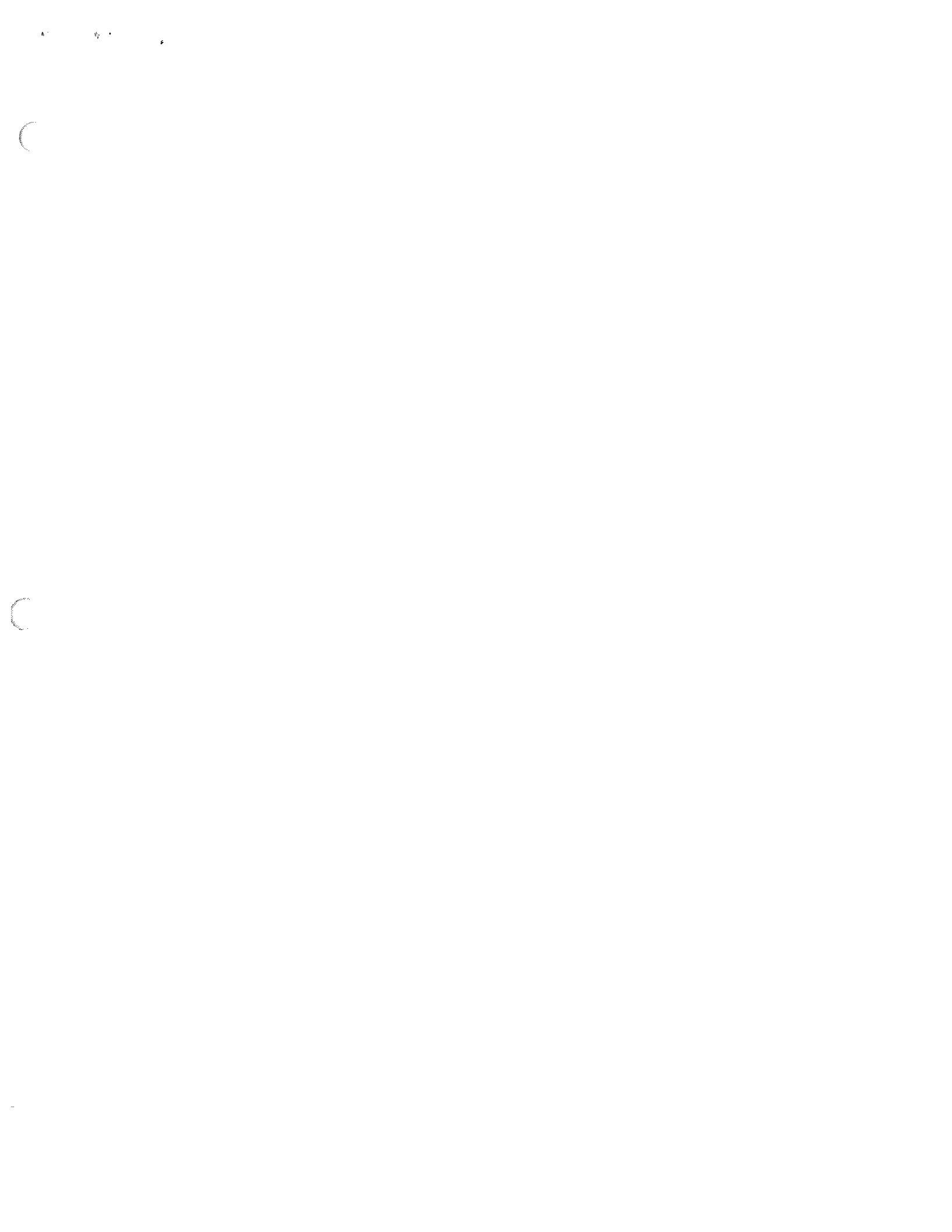
Three juveniles were committed to the Community Corrections Facility (CCF) during the year 2006. No juveniles were committed to an ODYS Facility in 2006.

## **PROGRAMS**

### **Probation Department**

During calendar year 2006, the Probation Department supervised 103 youth on probation (60 males, 43 females), including juveniles carried over from the year 2005. During this period, 103 youth were placed on probation, and 55 were successfully removed from probation.

The Probation Department also continued its duty of organizing and supervising Community Service performed by juveniles as part of their sentence. Community service requires a child 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 the child's behavior, as well as provide the youth with valuable work experience. In 2006, a total of 673.5 hours were provided by juveniles for their community service commitment. At a minimum wage rate of \$5.15/hour, those 673.5 hours represent services valued at \$3,468.53 to the Holmes County community.







## **Youth Services Grant**

The Youth Services Grant is a State subsidized program designed to assist Juvenile Courts in the development of local service options for youthful offenders. The grant is administered on a fiscal year, beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30. In Fiscal Year 2006 (covering the period of July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006) Holmes County Juvenile Court received \$173,075.51 with which to plan and provide programs which meet the requirements and standards set by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The amount received from the Department of Youth Services is based on a formula prescribed by Ohio Revised Code Section 5139. Factors included in that formula are the number of felony adjudications for the County and for the State over the past four-year period. The amount allocated to the County based on the prescribed formula is then debited by an amount based upon the number of bed days which the County has used in Department of Youth Services institutional and community correctional facilities. Funds not expended during the fiscal year may be carried-over for funding of additional or continuing programs in coming years.

The following seven (7) programs were totally or partially funded by the Youth Services Subsidy Grant in 2006:

### **1. Probation**

The function of the Probation Department has been described elsewhere in this Report. This grant program provides the entire salary and benefits for our two full-time Probation Officers. The maintenance portion of the program provides the Probation Officers with cellular phones in order to remain in contact with the Court and the Probation Office and funds with which to purchase drug test kits which the Probation Officers use in the course of their work with juveniles.

### **2. Educational Services**

The Educational Services Program provides funds for the salary and benefits of the STAY (Services To At Risk Youth) Office clerk, and additional funds which are paid directly to Holmes County Department of Job & Family Services (as fiscal agent) for a portion of the expenses related to Project STAY. Project STAY provides services to youth who cannot be placed in a regular school setting. Adjudicated delinquent or unruly youth and at-risk youth are placed in the STAY Program when they fit the criteria of STAY pupils. This would include severe behavioral problems and ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) students.

The social workers and teachers make referrals for assessments to determine what needs will be met for each youth in the project. The Alternative Learning Center is an integral part of the Project STAY Program. Behavioral and family issues are addressed in an effort to help the student attain a positive self-image and problem solve in a mature manner. Academic classes are also provided with strong emphasis placed on proficiency in the core subject areas.

In addition to the Alternative School facet of this program, in recent years Project STAY has been expanded to include the following services to youth and their families:

- \* Transportation
- \* Advocacy and service coordination
- \* Information about and referral to other area resources, wrapping services around youth and their families
- \* Parent services including family service aides, Parent to Parent support group, wellness education, parenting education, and household support

### **3. Out of Home Placement**

Out of home placements have been described elsewhere in this Report. This Grant Program provides a funding option for placement of juveniles outside the home when every effort has been exhausted to keep the child in the home.

### **4. Clinical Assessments**

This program provides funds for psychiatric, psychological, or drug and alcohol assessments for delinquent and/or unruly youth to assist the court in developing individual treatment plans.

### **5. Monitoring/Surveillance**

Electronic home supervision is an available option when a juvenile fails to respond to the guidance and supervision of the custodian. Juveniles are electronically restricted to the home unless services and education appointments are arranged. It offers constant monitoring of the juvenile's whereabouts and associations. This grant program provides funds for juveniles who are unable to pay for electronic home supervision in situations where it is the Court's order that they be placed on electronic home supervision.

## **6. Advocacy**

The Advocacy Program was initiated in September, 2005, and is designed for one-on-one advocacy for youth who need intervention in the areas of education and socialization in order to prevent recidivism in the juvenile system, reduce high school drop-outs, to develop employment (and related social) skills, teach youth alternative forms of conflict resolution through mediation and provide alternative, appropriate, family interactions. A qualified advocate and mediator will provide service to youth and their families.

It has long been known that a significant portion of the adult prison population had both juvenile court experience and educational deficits in their past. Their educational deficits made employment difficult to impossible to achieve. Lack of appropriate social and personal interaction skills, especially relating to family, led to problems in the community and at work. These combined deficits often lead to antisocial acts that result in incarceration. Our program will provide early intervention with these deficits, resulting in fewer juveniles re-entering the juvenile justice system and those in diversion having no further entry.

Further, through the use of mediation, especially victim-offender mediation, youth will develop understanding and acceptance of his/her responsibility for his/her delinquent act. Mediation between parent-child will also give the youth skills to avoid family conflicts that can lead to continued involvement with the juvenile system.

## **7. Recreation**

The goal of the Recreation portion of the grant is to provide a good, positive recreational experience for youth who often would otherwise not have the opportunity to attend camp. Programming and activities address problems which young people experience in their personal lives, such as poor peer relationships, lack of self-confidence and self-esteem, lack of social skills, lack of trust in peers and adults. In 2006 the focus of the camp experience was on greater acceptance of others from different races, cultures and belief systems. The camp was held at Christian Children's Home in Wayne County, Ohio, and the programming and activities were

planned and administered by professionals. This year, for the first time, it was decided that two separate camps would be held—one for boys and one for girls. Twenty-six girls attended the girls' camp, and 19 boys attended the boys' camp.