



# MIAMI COUNTY JUVENILE COURT 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

JUDGE W. MCGREGOR DIXON JR.

Home. Grown. Great.



Judge Dixon

The Juvenile Court of Miami County is a division of the Miami County Common Pleas Court. Its purpose is to counsel and rehabilitate youth who commit crimes; protect the Miami County community from juvenile crime; assist the victims of juvenile crime; protect children from abuse, neglect and dependency; and provide allocation of parental rights for children whose parents were never married. Under the direction of Judge W. McGregor Dixon, Jr., the court provides a broad range of community based programs. This summary is intended to help the community understand the services the Court provided in 2014.

## Piqua Office gets a Mural.



In 2014, the probation department approached one of its youth about doing a mural. This youth had demonstrated artist talent. The youth was given the theme "in the best interest of the child". The child, working with the guidance of probation officer Stephanie Henning, took about 3 weeks to complete the mural.

# Miami County Juvenile Court holds Truancy Summit

On September 11, 2014 the Miami County Juvenile Court held its first Truancy Summit at the Staunton Grange in Troy. Over 50 individuals were present representing local agencies, schools and professionals, such as Tippecanoe City Schools, Bethel School, Troy City Schools, Piqua City Schools, Milton-Union Schools, Miami East Schools, Covington Schools, Miami County Educational Service Center, David L. Brown Youth Center, Lincoln Community Center, Miami County Recovery Council, CASA, Miami County Children Services, Public Defender Office, Miami County Prosecutor Office, Upper Valley Career Center, Wellness & Recovery Center of Midwest Ohio, West Central Juvenile Detention Center, and Miami County Family & Children First Council.

Keynote speaker, U.S. Attorney Carter M. Stewart, a Harvard educated attorney, spoke about court and school systems and the way in which they discipline the youth and how exclusions in specific facets can be of great concern. Juvenile Judge Dixon expressed his enthusiasm about starting the Truancy Program and described what they hope to accomplish. Assistant Prosecutor Paul Watkins, Ashley Van Nest of the Miami County Educational Services Center, Scott Auxier, Diversion Coordinator for Juvenile Court and Shane Carter of the Lincoln Community Center all spoke concerning what their roles would be in the Truancy Program.



**U.S. Attorney Carter M. Stewart**



Left to Right: Shane Carter, Ashley Van Nest, and Scott Auxier accept the grant from the Miami County Foundation.

The Truancy Program, which is designed to get kids to attend school, does so by not only giving them consequences for not attending, but also having kids receive incentives for achieving goals and making improvements in school. The incentives were made possible through a grant from the Miami County Foundation, whose application was a joint effort between the Court and Miami County Family & Children First Council. The grant allows Judge Dixon to award the youth who are being successful with incentives such as gift cards to local businesses, including movie passes, skating passes, etc.

The program requires that a child and the parent attend court weekly to assess the child's progress in the program. Currently, there are 35 families involved in the program and juveniles have been successful. The Court is extremely appreciative of the participation by school and community supporters.

## Court Administrator Retires



In November, Charlene Prestopino, retired. Charlene had been with the Court since 1998. During Charlene's 16 years, she served as the Court Administrator, ensuring that the operations of Juvenile and Probate Court ran smoothly, which also included the Court's 3 centers: West Central Juvenile Detention Center, West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center and the David L. Brown Youth Center. Charlene oversaw the Court's major renovation in 2000.

Judge Dixon commented, "When I took the bench, Charlene was extremely helpful in providing me with the information and resources necessary to become acquainted with the court's routine and personnel. She was professional and resourceful, and always put the children's welfare first. When she retired, the court lost a valued employee and I lost a respected colleague and good friend."

The Court in response to Charlene's retirement hired J. Andrew Wannemacher as the new Court Administrator. Andrew is no stranger to the Court, having served as the public defender for the Court for 15 years.

Andrew stated "I am honored to be able to serve the Court in a new capacity and look forward to the challenges ahead in helping the children of Miami County."



## Center Spotlight

The West Central Juvenile Detention Center is a secure holding facility for youth. The center not only holds youth from Miami County, but also Auglaize, Clinton, Darke, Mercer, Preble, Shelby and Van Wert counties. The Center can house 44 youth, both boys and girls.

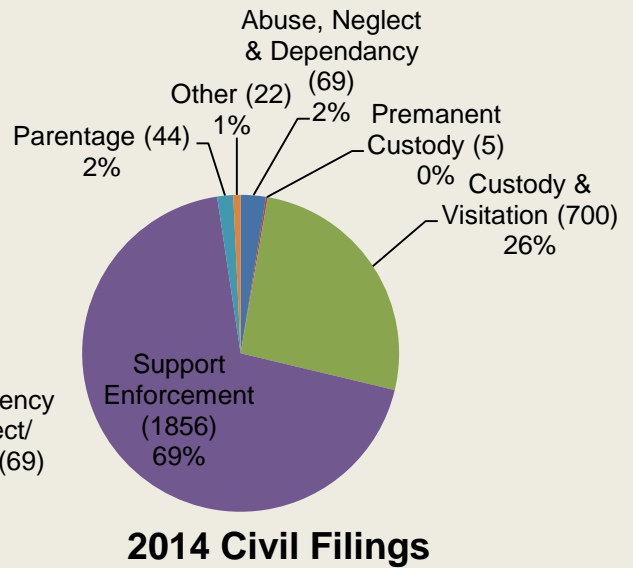
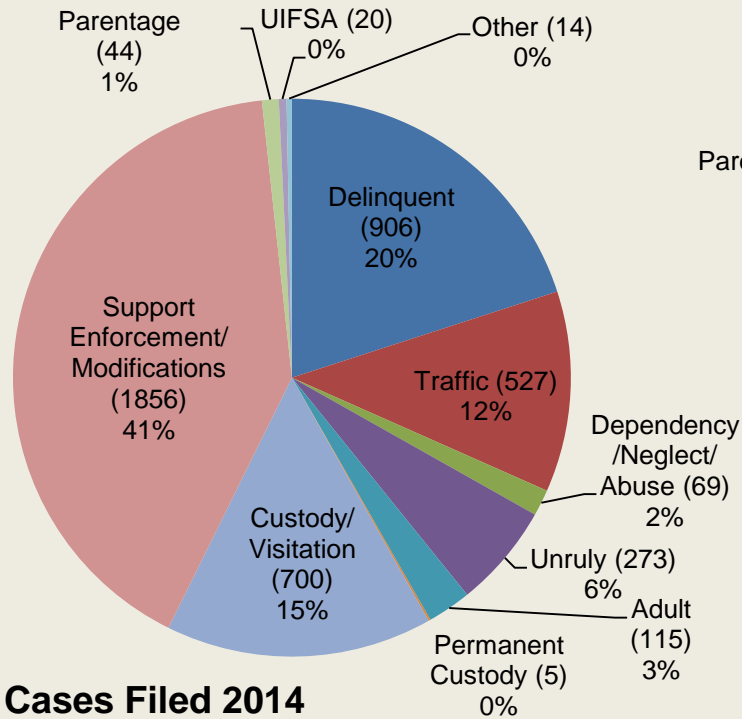


In 2014, WCJDC provided care, custody and control for 1,134 youth with an average length of stay of 13.7 days. In addition to on-site schooling, youth must participate in programs covering anger management, substance abuse, health & hygiene, planned parenthood and life skills. Twelve local ministers also provide optional religious programming.

The Center continued its history of excellence in 2014, by receiving a 100% score on the Department of Youth Services standards inspection; having received a 4.0 perfect rating from the Miami County Facilities Review Board; as well as passing all local inspections with no violations.

The Center is comprised of 36 employees under the direction of Superintendent Lance Ray and Assistant Director Kathy Ventura.

# 2014 Statistical Summary



## Court Dispositions

|                          |     |                         |              |
|--------------------------|-----|-------------------------|--------------|
| Bind over to adult court | 1   | E.M.H.A                 | 46           |
| Commitment to DYS        | 3   | House Arrest            | 256          |
| Detention                | 274 | Temp. Custody CSB       | 17           |
| David L. Brown           | 10  | Protective Super. CSB   | 35           |
| W.C. Day Treatment       | 55  | Perm. Custody CSB       | 7            |
| W.C. Rehab               | 4   | Jail Sentence (Adult)   | 59           |
| Other CCF                | 1   | Restitution             | 91           |
| Susp. Commit. to DYS     | 26  | Cases with Fines        | 471          |
| Community Service        | 314 | Cases with Costs        | 624          |
| Probation                | 71  | Cost waived (Indigency) | 601          |
|                          |     | Fines and Court costs   | \$139,941.15 |

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