



*Greene County Family Court:
Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions
2011 Annual Report*

Welcome to the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations 2011 Annual Report to the Community. We are pleased to present this report highlighting our accomplishments over the past year. Detailed information about our innovative programs, initiatives, services and the people who have been "Difference Makers" over the past year are included in this report and can also be found on the Greene County website: www.greencountymo.org/juvenile.

The challenging economic climate did not deter us in our efforts to better serve the citizens of this great community in 2011. We actively sought ways to improve services for youth and families with existing or reduced financial and human resources. In our ongoing pursuit of excellence we have a simple strategic plan called "Doing Great Things with Excellence." We recognize that we cannot do this alone so we reached out to our community to help and assist in this endeavor. In her address to the Judiciary, Missouri Supreme Court Justice, Laura Denvir Stith stated, "*Collaboration has been the foundation of our government since the drafting of our Constitution.*" We actively seek to exhibit Justice Stith's ideals through significant emphasis on community collaborations and partnerships with both the public and the private sector. We believe collaboration is necessary to achieve growth and excellence as an organization that best serves our community.

We realize the race of innovation is on-going and endless. Throughout 2011 we strived to be innovative and creative with our Juvenile Court Diversion programs. We believe that innovation does not occur with the status quo, only mediocrity. We zealously resist trading our pursuit of excellence for mediocrity. We get excited about new ideas and opportunities to better serve our community. In the future we will continue to embrace change, open our minds and explore new ideas and opportunities each day as we seek to grow so that we may better serve the citizens of Greene County.

Diversity and inclusion opens the doors of innovation while strengthening and enriching the Greene County Family Court. For that reason we have given focus this year to embracing the value and importance of diversity and inclusion through our Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP).

You can find out more about DAP and this growing partnership featured in the chapter entitled "In the Spotlight" of this report.

In 2011, we invested much time and intellect to enhancing our programming and services specifically to girls and young women who have interacted with the Juvenile Division. We want these girls and young women to understand that they have greatness within themselves and to recognize their potential and the critical and important role they have in an increasingly global society.

We have begun the transition of our Greene County Youth Academy from a boys residential group home to community based programming and services aimed at preventing both boys and girls from involvement with the juvenile justice system.

We have enhanced our utilization of "Social Media" resources to improve communication with youth and the public regarding our programming and services.

In conclusion, I want to express appreciation to the Judges and Commissioners of the 31st Judicial Circuit, Greene County Commissioners and governmental offices for their ongoing support. We are also grateful for the many community organizations, private sector businesses and our numerous and splendid volunteers who help us in our efforts to serve the youth and families who come into contact with the Greene County Family Court. I especially offer my gratitude and appreciation to the Leadership Team for their affirmation of Transformational Leadership and to all employees of the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions whose engaged work each and every day enhance the lives of so many.



Perry Epperly
Family Court Administrator/Juvenile Officer

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Front cover illustration: Artwork background provided by Hallie, age 15 program participant

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COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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CHAPTER ONE - CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

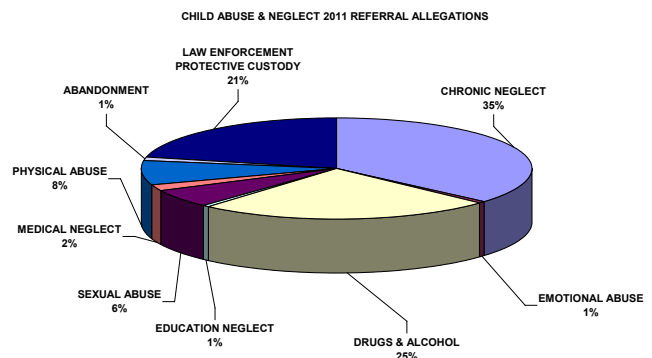


Front row from left: Chris Deck, Brooke Clarkson, Amanda West,
Back row from left: Whitley Spencer, Lisa Altis, Shayla Lowe,
Cassandra Marsh, Laina Webster, Jeremy Trapp, Kyle Collins

In 2011, the Greene County abuse and neglect deputy juvenile officers investigated allegations of abuse and neglect to determine whether 546 children should be placed into protective custody. The deputy juvenile officers also provided court case management to children in foster care which included attending court hearings and participation in team meetings to remain updated on how permanency goals are progressing. Throughout 2011 the number of children in foster care unfortunately climbed to 1034, the highest number in years. However, the last few months of 2011 began seeing a decline in the number of children in foster care. This appears to be attributed to a decline in the number of investigation referrals and an increase in the number of cases being closed due to achieving permanency, and there is hope this trend will continue. Throughout the year the deputy juvenile officers were responsible for monitoring an average of 75 families and 125 children on their caseload.



Children are placed into protective custody for a variety of concerning issues, and many cases involve multiple issues of concern.



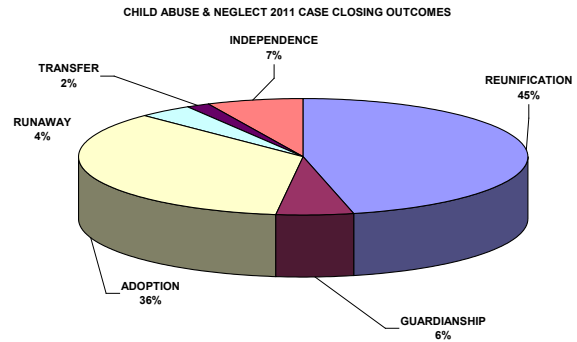
Chronic neglect, the most prominent issue of concern, includes issues such as unsafe and unsanitary housing conditions, lack of supervision & mental health issues

Protective custody indicates custody being taken by law enforcement or a doctor

CHAPTER ONE - CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

2011 Court Petitions filed in the Abuse/Neglect Unit	
Abuse & Neglect	462 children
Termination of Parental Rights	253 children
Adoption (foster care, private, step-parent & adult)	207 children

The optimal permanency goal is for reunification with a parent; however, when that cannot happen for some reason, other permanency options are sought. Throughout 2011, cases were closed for 417 children. This was an increase of 41 case closings over 2010.



The Abuse/Neglect unit is involved with a variety of programs focused toward enhancing services and improving outcomes for families with children in care.

Fostering Court Improvement (FCI) is a collaborative partnership within the local child welfare system. It measures court and case performance and seeks to assess and reduce barriers to achieving permanency goals for children in foster care. The Greene County FCI group is made up of juvenile officers, children's division and private contract agencies, attorneys, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). In 2011, FCI accomplished goals that included: established a committee to review and improve content and format of court hearing reports and parent treatment plans; implemented a Greene County visitation protocol; provided FCI training for front line staff; provided termination of

parental rights cross-training to case managers, licensing workers, and foster parents; and implemented uniform Greene County visitation rules. FCI was able to utilize \$1,500.00 in available grant monies to support their efforts throughout the year.



Fostering Court Improvement

www.fosteringcourtimprovement.org

CHAPTER ONE - CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

Road to Reunification (R2R) is a class which explains the court process, team meeting process, roles and responsibilities of team members, treatment plans and parent-child visitation and interactions to parents with children who have been placed into foster care. The course is lead by the abuse and neglect deputy juvenile officers. In 2011, over 100 parents attended the class,

which was a 25% increase from 2010 attendance. Attendees are provided a copy of the course information to keep, awarded a certificate of completion and provided a disposable camera to assist the parent in documenting meaningful memories with their child during the child's placement outside of the parent's home.

-Parent comments about what they found helpful from the Road to Reunification presentation...

"The reunification process was something I did not fully understand and they made it clear."

"I will improve on the visitation and interaction with my children."

"To do what is expected of me as a parent and the safety of my children."

Kids In Court (KIC) is a program where older youth are encouraged to attend their court hearings so that they have an active voice in their case and input into decisions made that impact them. In 2011, 37% of older youth were able to attend their court hearings.

- Older Youth comments about why it is important to them to be at court hearings...

"I want to know what the Judge says, not what others tell me he said."

"Because it inspires me and motivates me to keep doing well in my treatment."

"So if I have any questions I can ask the Judge, and I can understand and know what's going on."

In May of 2011, the 31st Judicial Circuit was recognized and given the Permanency Award from the Missouri Supreme Court by Supreme Court Judge Zel M. Fisher. The Permanency Award is given to circuits for successfully holding timely hearings in child abuse and neglect cases in which children removed from their homes are to be reunited with families or are to be placed in another permanent home as soon as possible. According to Fisher, "The nature of these cases can make it very difficult to hold timely hearings unless the officials involved exert strong and continuous efforts to do so, and those courts that achieve the highest success deserve recognition for their difficult achievement."



From the left: Jill Randolph, Karen Pierce, Stephanie Stapp, Chris Deck, Missouri Supreme Court Judge - Zel Fischer, Karen Woodward, Perry Epperly, Kyle Collins, Judge Mountjoy, Brooke Clarkson, Alison Choate, Lisa Altis, Nicole Price, Jeremy Trapp



From the left: Associate Commissioner District 1 - Harold Bengsch, Presiding Commissioner - Jim Viebrock, Missouri Supreme Court Judge - Zel Fischer, Associate Commissioner District 2 - Roseann Bentley, Perry Epperly, Judge Mountjoy

Adoptions

In 2011, 244 adoption hearings were held. The style of adoption - ranging from 44 step-parent, 132 Children's Division, 6 Recognition of Foreign Adoptions, 6 Foreign adoptions, 6 adult, and independent or agency newborn placements and adoptions - were finalized in Greene County Juvenile Division. This was also a 33% increase in the number of adoptions held in 2010. Especially noteworthy was that the month of December was packed full with more than 45 adoptions occurring that month. This added to the joy of the holiday season; what better gift than that of a child.

Adoption searches were affected by Senate Bill 351 that went effective August 28, 2011. Some major changes transpired regarding adoption searches. Consent for a search is no longer necessary from the adoptive parents. If an adoptee is deceased, their lineal descendent (daughter/son, granddaughter/grandson) can request information. The bill provides that if the birth parent is found to be deceased, their identifying information can be released. This is a significant and beneficial change.

My favorite search story for the year is this:

*A young lady sent a request for non-identifying information regarding her birth parents in the spring. After receiving the information, her curiosity was piqued and she sent a request for identifying information. I was able to locate the birth mother and speak with her. During our conversation, I shared some of the information the young lady had shared in a letter about herself: where she lived, her profession, hobbies, etc. The following day, I received several rather urgent voicemails from the birth mother. She had to speak with me immediately. She told me that her other daughter had a friend who had been adopted at birth, her date of birth matched the date that she had given birth to a baby girl. Her daughter was Facebook friends with this young lady and was a principal as I had told her the previous day. She dug through her daughter's old high school pictures and found a photo of her **daughters** together on the debate team. She just knew from looking at the photo that it had to be her. IT WAS!*

Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC) and Parents Choosing Change Court (PCCC)

These are special courts that provide comprehensive supervision, drug testing, substance abuse treatment services, and immediate sanctions and incentives to parents addicted to drugs and/or alcohol. The Drug Court Commissioner and a team that includes representatives of the Juvenile Division and Children's Division, the children's guardian ad litem, the parents' attorneys, the prosecuting attorney, adult probation officer and law enforcement agencies, work together to serve the best interests of children by helping parents provide their children with a safe and drug-free environment.

Parents participating in FDTC have had their children placed in foster care due to the parents' substance abuse issues. Parents participating in PCCC have a criminal conviction involving drugs and have children who are at risk of being placed in foster care or who are in foster care due to the parents' drug use. When their children are removed from their custody, parents may choose to participate in FDTC. Criminal charges related to the reasons for the children's placement may be filed against them. If the parents are convicted, their defense attorneys may argue for the parents to be able to remain in the community rather than go to prison. If the sentencing Judge agrees, the parents may be ordered to complete PCCC as a condition of probation. When parents transfer to PCCC from FDTC, there is a continuity of services because the same team is involved with the families. This collaboration between the Juvenile Court system and the criminal courts is unique to Greene County.

In 2011, FDTC and PCCC served 97 parents and 172 children. Twenty-eight parents completed the twelve - to eighteen - month program and 163 children were returned to their parents' custody or were never placed in foster care.



Front left: Will McCrimmons, Sharon Felton, Joel Woodward, Robyn Taft, Amy Hurley, Marie Swope, Back left: Brian Rea, David House, Nicole Pingel, Justin Baltzell, Nick Francis, David Kuykendall, Mike Scofield, Alissa Dennis, Jerod Beatty, Caitlin Shouse,

In 2011, the secure Juvenile Detention Center upheld the mission of the Juvenile Division, by providing intervention and protection services to 210 juveniles. These 210 include youth admitted more than once for a total of 255 admissions. The average daily population was 9, and the average length of stay was 12 days. The detention center operated throughout 2011 at the diminished capacity of 16, due to 8 beds in the 24-bed facility designated for the Greene County Youth Academy program.

State Court Operating Rule 28 was put in place in 2011 requiring a Juvenile Detention Admission Assessment (JDTA) be completed before a youth is admitted to any secure detention center in Missouri. While this procedure became effective January 1, 2012, it had long been the practice of the Juvenile Division to require such an assessment pursuant to involvement with the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI).

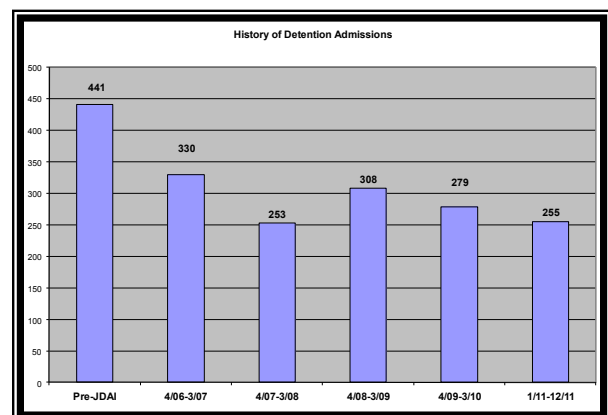
Juvenile Detention **Alternatives Initiative**

The Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) is an effort supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to improve juvenile justice systems by ensuring only youth who are at risk of committing another offense, or who may flee the jurisdiction of the court, are held in secure detention. JDAI also promotes the creation and utilization of alternatives to detention and improving conditions of confinement. With the creation and utilization of alternatives, such as the evening reporting center, shelter care bed, pre-adjudication supervision and electronic monitoring, lowered detention admissions is a trend that has continued over the last five years.

Holding juveniles for other community partners, who have a documented need for secure detention, is consistent with the value of providing safety, protection, compassion, and respect toward its partnering agencies that is held by the Juvenile Division. Of the 210 juveniles admitted, 63 were either held for the

Missouri Division of Youth Services or other juvenile court jurisdictions. It is expected that this practice will increase due to the statewide reduction of 6 juvenile detention centers in 2011.

The Juvenile Detention Center collects revenue from partnering agencies in exchange for holding youth. In addition, the Detention Center collects a small daily amount from the State of Missouri for each youth held. Finally, the Detention Center participates in the federal



CHAPTER ONE - DETENTION

school lunch program and collects a subsidy to offset the cost of breakfasts and lunches. In 2011, all revenue collected amounted to \$100,537. Though allowable by Missouri Statute, in 2011 Greene County did not bill families whose children were securely held for the cost of care.

The Juvenile Detention Center operation budget for 2011 was \$707,372. This cost includes 19 professional staff that provided services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They conducted intakes and releases; supervised and transported youth; responded to medical, behavioral, and environmental emergencies; participated in 362 after hours Orders of Protection; and conducted all Juvenile Division after-hours business.

Meaningful programming is a mainstay of high quality conditions of confinement, per the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). In Greene County high quality programming is continuously pursued as detention is viewed as a process, linked to the juvenile justice system, rather than a warehouse for youth. The most significant detention program in 2011 continues to be academic education. Springfield Public Schools has a classroom in secure detention that enrolled 152 for the 2010-2011 school year. Of those enrolled, 137 were academically tested. The results showed that 76% performed below grade level in reading and 80% performed below grade level in math. Students who remained in the program for 30 days were reassessed and 76% of these students showed improvement of at least one full grade level in reading and 80% showed improvement of at least one full grade level in math.

A noteworthy project undertaken by the summer school class and teacher in 2011 was a garden in the outdoor

enclosed courtyard. The youth researched gardening, planted fruits and vegetables, measured growth, harvested, and got to eat their tomatoes and melons.



Detention Garden

A programming element added in 2011 was a moral recognition therapy group (MRT). The group encourages youth to think differently, utilizing a series of exercises and lessons. MRT meets the established goal of being a proven, effective program and helps refocus detention programming to improve resident understanding of the behavior management process and better prepare them for re-entry.

Two detention staff were trained on the MRT facilitation methods. The cost of the training was covered by the Reclaiming Futures grant. Teaching detention staff to deliver MRT addresses the goal of training staff to ensure services and practices are highest quality. Another training goal met in 2011 included educating all detention staff on crisis prevention intervention and cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

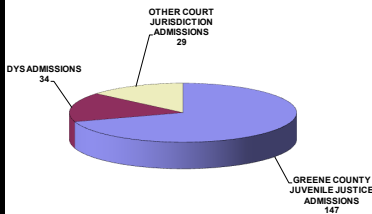
In July, the Greene County Detention Superintendent was appointed by the State Courts Administrator to a work group that is reviewing and addressing key areas of juvenile detention center operations for the Missouri judiciary. Maintaining JDAI standards and measuring progress are key components to how the Detention Center manages effective and efficient operations.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES: We believe in maintaining a structured and safe environment for residents, staff, and community. Safety and security for staff and residents is based upon trust, training, and good decisions.

We believe that detention is a place where equality is practiced, positive relationships are created, and value is added to the lives of all through professional and productive communication.

We believe that detention is a place where youth receive the education and tools necessary to succeed in the community, and where all involved are helped to realize their full potential.

2011 DETENTION ADMISSIONS

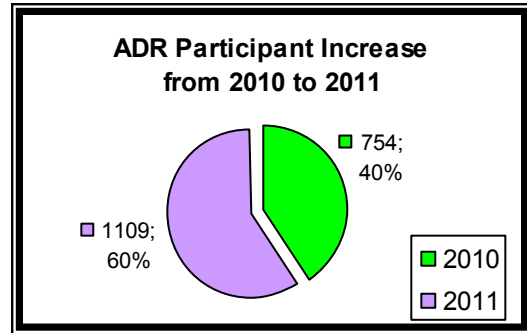


Detention Garden

In 2011, the Domestic Relations Unit (DRU) continued to serve families with cases pending in Family Court, to include dissolutions of marriage, paternity actions, motions to modify previous cases, and family access motions. All five domestic relations officers (DRO's) have a master's degree in the behavioral sciences, and three are licensed mental health professionals. Officers are located in the 31st Judicial Circuit Courthouse.



From the left: Dawn Imler, Chelsey Ortiz, Michael Metz, Karen Lehmann, Becky Clifton



Alternative Dispute Resolution Class

Greene County Local Rule 2.3D mandates that all individuals in contested family law disputes attend the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) class. The ADR class provides litigants with detailed information about the family court process, the effects of litigation on children, and the benefits of mediation. ADR is provided to litigants free of charge and is offered three Tuesdays per month from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Two DRO's teach the course and maintain the schedule and the attendance records for the classes on a weekly basis. *1,031 litigants attended the ADR Class in 2011 (approximately 86 litigants per month).* In 2011, a class designed specifically for pro se litigants was also taught, serving 78 individuals.

Comments from the ADR class...

- "I was against mediation when entering this class. I will be contacting my attorney tomorrow to set up mediation to try to settle my case."
- "This class has affected me greatly. I see where this may not be worth the time and money spent and the stress on the kids and the two of us."
- "Generally, it was just nice to get this information in a relaxed setting from knowledgeable people. This has by far been the least stressful aspect of my divorce."

Caseflow Management

Every dissolution, paternity, modification, and family access motion filed in Family Court is assigned to one of four Family Court Divisions. These petitions are tracked by domestic relations officers to ensure continuous movement towards settlement and/or trial completion. *In 2011, 2,685 petitions were filed and each officer tracked approximately 650 cases.*

Case Management Hearings

All contested cases involving children are scheduled for a case management hearing. Case management hearings provide stability for the minor children by implementation of a parent/child contact schedule, child support, and initial discussions regarding mediation. Domestic relations officers conduct conferences with attorneys and/or pro se litigants prior to the scheduled court hearings to summarize case information for the Commissioners. *DROs conducted 369 case management conferences in 2011.*



Common Ground

Families may be referred to the Common Ground Supervised Access Program for a variety of reasons. These reasons may include intense conflict between parents, allegations of child abuse, child neglect, domestic violence, substance abuse, criminal activity or introduce/reintroduce a child to a non-residential parent. Common Ground visits provide an opportunity for a child to visit with their non-residential parent before hopefully moving into unsupervised contact. Common Ground meets the national standards for supervised access programs provided by the Supervised Visitation Network. Two DROs coordinate Common Ground by offering contact for families in a safe environment, providing visits that may not have occurred at all. *47 families and 81 children participated in 405 supervised visits at Common Ground in 2011.*

Mediation

All domestic relations officers are court approved Civil and Family Mediators. DROs mediate Family Court cases by court order when the parties have a combined income of less than \$40,000. *Domestic relations officers mediated 57 Family Court cases in 2011, totaling 81 hours.*

Investigations

Domestic relations officers conduct investigations when ordered by Family Court in cases with high-conflict custody disputes between the parents. DROs work in collaboration with guardian ad litem and the Family Court Commissioners to summarize all requested records. Investigations may include interviews with parties, home visits, background checks of parties and other relevant individuals, a review of court dockets, police and sheriff's department records, Missouri Children's Division records requests, and a request from the Greene County Juvenile Division. Medical and mental health records, probation and parole records, education records, and child support records may also be requested. *In 2011, 82 investigations were conducted for Family Court.* Additionally, DROs provide record checks to the Probate Court when petitions for guardianship

and/or conservatorship are filed. *In 2011, 76 record checks were completed for Probate Court.*

In 2011, the Domestic Relations Unit presented training materials on Intimate Partner Violence to the Greene County Circuit Clerk's office. The Circuit Clerks office requested assistance in interpersonal skill building to provide consistent customer service across their department when working with victims and survivors of intimate partner violence. This training provided the clerks with information about area statistics, the impact of domestic violence on children, and gave strategies for working with litigants. A resource list was created and has been implemented in the Circuit Clerk's office to provide assistance to all litigants filing for an Order of Protection.

Therapeutic Intervention

Licensed DROs are able to provide brief therapeutic interventions if ordered by the court. These interventions often occur within the auspices of Common Ground, but can also take place at the courthouse. Issues frequently addressed in therapeutic intervention are introduction or reintroduction of a child and parent, assessment of parental alienation, and parent communication. The DRU is also able to provide clinical interviews and assessments in cases where parties have a limited income and cannot afford the cost of a full psychological evaluation. *In 2011, domestic relations officers provided services to 9 families, resulting in 32 free visits for either an assessment or therapeutic intervention.*

Success! 2011 Goals Achieved!!

- *Improved program delivery of ADR class by increasing participation from 754 litigants in 2010 to 1109 litigants in 2011. A 68% increase!*
- *Common Ground facilitated a community collaborative with four area agencies to improve supervised visitation.*
- *DRU participated in seminars and training programs offered, including the Missouri Association of Family and Conciliation Courts conference in St. Louis.*



From the left: Nick Pleshka, Sara Moore, Cheryl Puzach, Eric George,

The mission of the Evening Reporting Center (ERC) is to provide intensive supervision for at-risk juveniles who would otherwise qualify for secure detention. In 2011, the total youth provided this opportunity as an alternative to detention was 64, similar to the total youth in 2010.

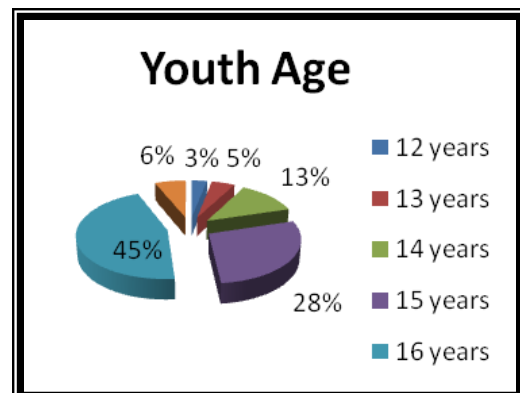
The ERC is a short-term treatment center, providing services for a period not to exceed 20 business days. The average length of stay in 2011 was 15.5 days. With the help of community volunteers, the ERC offers education programs in a structured environment, while ensuring the safety of the community and the juvenile pending a formal court hearing. Youth are offered education and support with help from community volunteers, grant funding, and juvenile division staff in the following areas: anger management, substance abuse education, coping skills, moral decision making, goal setting, restorative justice, yoga, academic enrichment, Gender Responsive Group, job skills, and expressive arts.

The ERC program, designed to influence the youth in a positive way, provides them an opportunity to make positive changes in their behavior, thus, proving to the court that they can be successful in the community and not re-offend. The overall success rate for youth that did not violate program expectations, probation rules, or obtain a new law violation in 2011 was 77%. While 23% of the youth referred to the program did not

complete program requirements and were unsuccessfully released, only three youth were terminated from the program for a new law violation. Since the inception of the Evening Reporting Center in 2008, the success rate for youth that were released from the program without a new law violation is 98%.

Placement in the Evening Reporting Center is determined using an objective screening tool to assess risk and ensure on-going public safety. Youth admitted to the program must be over the age of 12 and fall under the jurisdiction of the court. In 2011, 73% of the youth were 15 or 16 years of age. In 2011, 94% of the youth were males compared to 85% in 2010.

In 2011, many grant funds supported the Evening Reporting Center. The Department of Public Safety provided monies for weekly programming on topics of moral decision making, balanced and restorative justice, and coping with addictions through Title II Juvenile Justice Formula Grants. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education provided grant funds for educational programming and tutoring through the Getting Involved For Today's Students (GIFTS) program. The Reclaiming Futures juvenile drug court grant funded a substance abuse education group.



CHAPTER ONE - EVENING REPORTING CENTER

Additionally, the Division of Youth Services provided two part-time and one full-time staff positions to oversee the daily programming and supervise youth through the Juvenile Diversionary Funds to prevent youth from being committed to the Division of Youth Services. The Department of Health and Senior Services provided monies through the Child and Adult Food Program and the Summer Food Program to supply the youth with evening meals. Additional information on grant funds that support the juvenile division can be found page 29 and 30.

At the beginning of 2011, the Evening Reporting Center developed goals pertaining to improving facilitator relations, increasing program effectiveness, and increasing relations with the Juvenile Division. At the close of 2011, the Evening Reporting Center was successful in achieving many aspects of these goals. In honor of all of the individuals that facilitate program components, the youth and staff at the Evening Reporting Center held a facilitator dinner, which took place in April. The facilitator dinner was a success with being able to recognize the invaluable time and effort the facilitators provide to the youth. Additionally, a facilitator is recognized through youth vote upon exit of the program on a monthly basis; the facilitator is displayed on the Evening Reporting Center website as a facilitator of the month.

The Evening Reporting Center made several efforts to improve program effectiveness through facilitator surveys, review of the policy and procedures, and expansion of program components. Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) was introduced to the Evening Reporting Center in 2011, which holds youth accountable for their actions and helps them to recognize the importance of being honest with others and themselves. Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) provided several components on job skills, budgeting, and environmental awareness. Additionally, Dr. Brett Garland with Missouri State University funded a study about the Evening

Reporting Center. The completed study will be displayed on the ERC website upon completion. During the 2011 year, the Evening Reporting Center educated the youth in the program on the subject of diversity, highlighting topics such as National Women's History Month, Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, Diversity Art, Patriot Day, American Recycles Day, Bullying Prevention Day, Pearl Harbor Day, and many more. After learning about these topics, the youth in the Evening Reporting Center submitted artwork illustrating what these



Artwork created by program youth.

various topics meant to them through a book that compiled their artistic renderings as well as posting their pictures in the Juvenile Division. The Evening Reporting Center continuously strives for improvement and is working on achieving 2012 goals that highlight the strengths and needs of the youth participating in the Evening Reporting Center.



Art collage created by ERC program youth.

CHAPTER ONE - GREENE COUNTY YOUTH ACADEMY



Front Left: Jarod Denney, Barbie Mooneyham, Marie Swope, Dan Johnson *Back Left:* Eric Graham, Jim Cookson, Kim Williams, Brandy Coy, Eric Waltz, Kelly Kuhl

In 2011, the Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA) prepared for a revolution. GCYA existed as a residential treatment program for moderate risk male offenders with a capacity of six. The residential program was located in a dedicated area of the juvenile detention center. This location was temporary and change was needed.

On February 25, 2011, a vision casting session was conducted that included employees from all Juvenile Division units. Mr. Tom Breedlove, formerly a Deputy Director with the Missouri Division of Youth Services and an active trainer/consultant with the Missouri Youth Services Institute, facilitated the session. The outcome of the meeting was to capture those services considered most important by staff that GCYA needed to provide in the future, either directly or through a community partnership. The vision casting session was done to gather information consistent with the values expressed by the Juvenile Division for compassion and respect towards its employees.

On March 22, 2011, the information gathered at the vision casting session was discussed at a leadership meeting of the juvenile court diversion funds executive group. The Greene County Youth Academy is funded exclusively by the Missouri Division of Youth Services' Juvenile Court Diversion grant. The purpose of this meeting was to meet Goal One identified in 2010 to "evaluate

Juvenile Court Diversion funds utilization and modify funded programs as necessary to meet identified needs and increase community based services." The group looked at the budget available, the identified needs for services, and took into account that finding a suitable residential location was unlikely. The decision then was to transition GCYA to a non-residential community supported day treatment program that provided a continuum of services, including academic education, for boys and girls, effective January 1, 2012.

Academic education is a service that has always been a part of the GCYA residential program and is identified as a most needed future service. In the 2010-2011 school year, the GCYA classroom enrolled 22 boys. Of these, 81% tested below grade level in reading and 77% were below grade level in math. All of these boys (100%) showed improvement by at least one grade level when tested 30 days later as a result of individualized education. In time for the opening of the 2010-2011 school year, the GCYA classroom relocated to 921 Boonville in Springfield where the day treatment program was to be located. The staff and youth began spending longer hours at the Boonville location and less time at the detention center.

Throughout 2011, a group of volunteers met weekly to design a community supported day treatment program. One of the results of this program-planning group was a written level system and daily schedule. It was planned that utilization of a treatment team approach as well as individual, family, and group counseling would continue to be a vital part of the program.

A Moral Reconciliation Therapy group was added in 2011. This group utilizes a cognitive approach that encourages youth to think differently, employing a series of exercises and lessons. The group is facilitated by staff whose training was paid for by the Reclaiming Futures grant. Continued

staff training and development to ensure services and practices are highest quality is in keeping with Goal Four identified in 2010.

Further, Goal Four identified that juvenile division staff would be trained as trainers for first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The program coordinator at GCYA took on this training need and became trained as a CPR first aid trainer. She then proceeded to train all GCYA staff and residents in the life saving process, as well as other Juvenile Division staff.

During the 2010 – 2011 grant period, consistent with the mission of the Juvenile Division to provide prevention, intervention, and protective services to children, families, and the community, the Greene County Youth Academy diverted 18 out of 25 participants from the Division of Youth Services for a 72% success rate. In the calendar year 2011, GCYA provided services to a total of 26 boys, 21 of them being residential participants and 5 non-residential day students. These measures of utilization and success are expected to grow in 2012 when the program initiates the revolutionary changes that were developed in 2011. In an effort to meet Goal Five identified in 2010, and raise public awareness of the Greene County Youth Academy program, information is available on the GCYA FACEBOOK page and on the web.

Follow us on
Facebook



[Click here](#)



Grant funded Teacher,
Audrey Dillard



Springfield Public Schools
Teacher, Barbie Mooneyham

Root of Responsibility



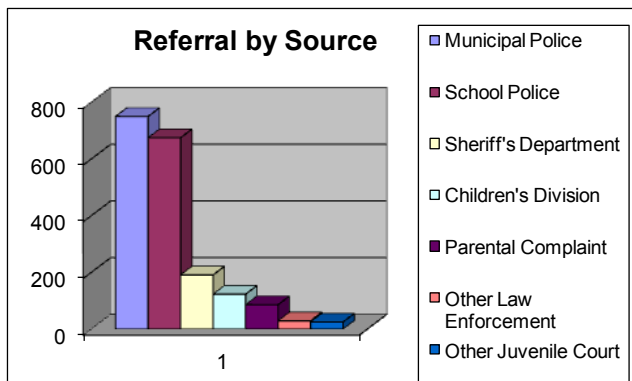
Meaning of the Root

This root stands for moral values, teamwork, and nurturance. Just as each root works with the others to anchor the tree to solid ground, so must I anchor myself to the solid ground of moral values. Just as each root works with the others to give sustenance to the tree, so must I do my part to nurture my fellow peers and family. Just as parasites can suck out a tree's life, moral decay and selfishness can weaken a person and a nation. So today I must choose to be a root.



Front Left: Kyle O'Dell, Larry Edgar Middle Left: Breeon Tolliver, Tracie Nicholson, Back Left: Jeff Englehart, Dustin Hathcock, Ashley Parsons, Brad Shelton, Justin Tidwell

The Law/Status Violation Unit received 1980 juvenile delinquency referrals and 402 non-criminal juvenile status offense referrals in 2011. The largest percentage of referrals came from city police departments in Springfield, Republic and Willard. Combined, they sent more than 750 delinquency and status offenses to the Greene County Juvenile Division. School Police Departments made up the second largest number of referrals with 675 reports. The Greene County Sheriff's Department sent 191 delinquency and/or status offense cases. The Greene County Children's Division referred 123 delinquency and/or status offense cases for follow-up investigation. In 2011, at least 86 Juvenile complaints came from parents seeking intervention from the juvenile division.



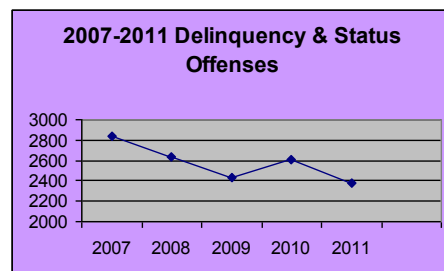
Investigations

Deputy juvenile officers (DJOs) within the Law/Status Violation Unit responded to the above referrals by assisting law enforcement or conducting follow-up investigation on the reports received. DJOs reviewed police reports, referral information, interviewed victims, witnesses and met with juveniles and their parent or custodian to gather the facts of the case. DJOs met and discussed cases with staff attorneys to determine legal sufficiency, appropriate charges and court preparation plans. As part of the investigative process, youth reported as sexual offense victims are referred to the Child Advocacy Center for follow-up interview and services. During 2011, 79 such victims were referred to the Child Advocacy Center.

Screening & Assessment

The Law/Status Violation Unit administered 323 mental health/substance abuse screenings for youth referred to the Greene County Juvenile Division during 2011.

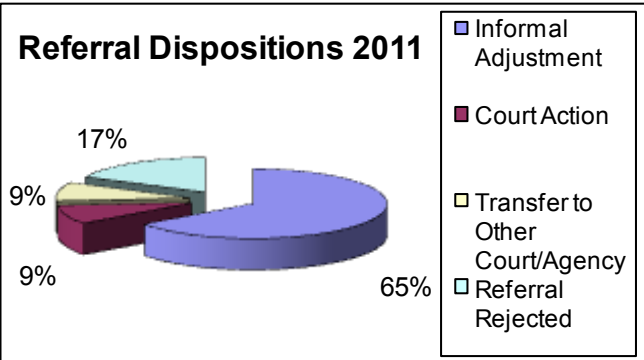
The Global Appraisal of Individual Needs Short Screener (GAIN-SS) is designed to help identify who may need further assessment and/or treatment for mental health and/or substance abuse. In an effort to appropriately identify the risk level a youth poses to the community, DJOs used two validated objective screening tools in 2011, the Missouri Juvenile Offender Risk and Needs Assessment and the Missouri Juvenile Detention Assessment. These tools help determine proper levels of detention, alternatives to detention and supervision/intervention plans for youth referred to the Juvenile Division.



Juvenile Referrals - 5 - year trend

Case Disposition

Deputy juvenile officers prepared and disposed of more than 1200 cases through an informal adjustment process. Of those, 402 were referred for follow-up probation supervision including 85 that were referred to the Greene County Teen Court Program. During 2011, 68 youth were referred to the Victim Offender Mediation program and 60 youth to the Victim Impact Panel. 157 petitions were filed to handle cases through a formal court proceeding heard by the Judge. Deputy juvenile officers attend a team staffing for each case where they share and discuss appropriate treatment recommendations in preparation for the court hearing. They also gather educational, social, psychological and offense history on these juveniles. Such information is included in a summary and made available to all parties of the case and ultimately offered to the court to assist in the disposition of the case.



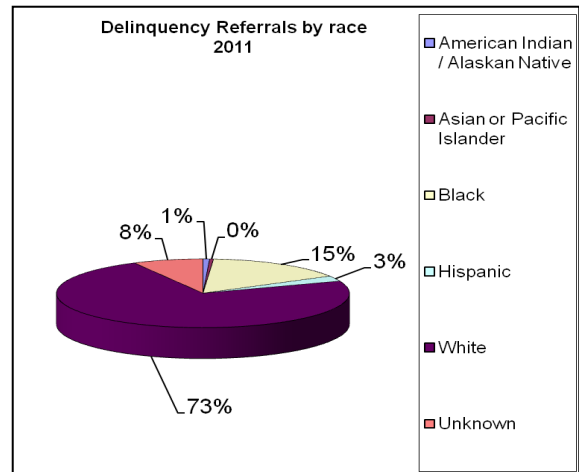
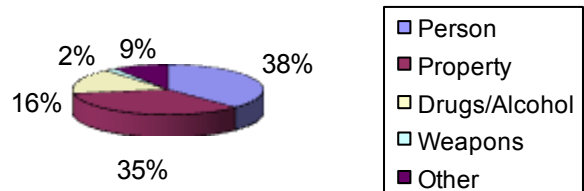
In pursuit of our goals for 2011 deputy juvenile officers within the Law/Status Violation Unit participated in the review and improvement of the case management process involving Sexually Harmful Youth referred to the Greene County Juvenile Division. In June 2011, DJO's volunteered at the Community Awareness Fair & Kids-Fest held at Jordan Valley Park in an effort to increase public

awareness of programs/services and showcase local resources. In addition DJOs within the unit prepared a new link to our website entitled "Parent Toolbox" to provide quick access to programs and services available to youth.



[Click here to follow link](#)

Law Violation Referrals 2011





From the left: Atty Angela Myers, Atty Brittany O'Brien, Senior Atty Bill Prince and Victim/Witness Coordinator Mandi Franck

In 2011, the legal unit of the Greene County Juvenile Division consisted of two full-time attorneys, one part-time attorney, and a victim/witness coordinator. The unit welcomed aboard Angela Myers as the newest member. The legal unit provides representation, both in and out of court, to the Greene County Family Court, Juvenile Court, the Domestic Relations Division, and all deputy juvenile officers and probation officers.

UNIT HEARING STATISTICS

In 2011, the legal unit attorneys appeared before the court in 3022 hearings. The breakdown between units is as follows: 564 delinquency hearings, 2302 abuse and neglect hearings, and 156 were termination of parental rights cases. The legal unit was also involved in 21 appeals; the majority of these cases were before the Southern District of the Missouri Court of Appeals.



Attorney Bill Prince (left) gives a tour of detention to law enforcement recruits as part of the class he instructs at the law enforcement academy.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Juvenile Division attorneys:

- Prepare pleadings associated with all cases and any appeal that may stem from the cases.
- Provide legal advice to Juvenile Division staff.
- Assist the Juvenile Division with any issues that may arise by having an attorney on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Offer information and resources to the community, to include: providing training in juvenile law to law enforcement academies, speaking to attorneys at seminars, and presenting to other professionals who are involved with juvenile law and juvenile justice issues.



Atty Brittany O'Brien offers an exhibit to the court.

VICTIM SERVICES

In 2011, over 400 victims and more than 750 witnesses were personally contacted by letter or phone for notice of court dates, detention stays or releases, case disposition, and to request restitution information. Over 40 victims were escorted to court to witness their case or to provide a victim impact statement. Victims received more than \$14,500 in restitution for crimes committed by juveniles last year.

VICTIM-OFFENDER MEDIATION (VOM) & VICTIM IMPACT PANELS (VIP)

The VOM program successfully mediated 46 agreements in 2011 which was almost double the amount mediated in 2010. These mediations gave the victim the ability to be involved in the justice process and help decide along with the juvenile in face to face meetings how the juvenile should be held accountable for their actions. There were 88 juveniles referred to the VIP Program which gave juveniles the opportunity to hear firsthand how their actions affect victims within our community. Two new Victim Impact Panels were added in 2011 for juveniles currently in detention.



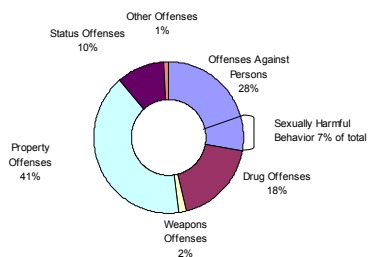
Front left: Morgan Galloway, Susan Cox, Sara Moore, Julie Hershberger, Back left: Mariah Reed, Michelle Horn, Cheryl Puzach, Damon Young, Zach Adams, Andy Silliman, Jamie Stage

Informal Probation

Informal probation is designed to provide resources and support to youth and families who have been referred to the Juvenile Division and are at lower risk for future referrals to our office. Informal probation serves as a conduit to resources in the community to provide families information, support and services to prevent youth from future referrals to the Juvenile Division.

The Greene County Juvenile Division employs two informal probation officers through Division of Youth Services, Juvenile Court Diversionary Funds. For additional

Offense breakdown for youth released from informal supervision, 2011



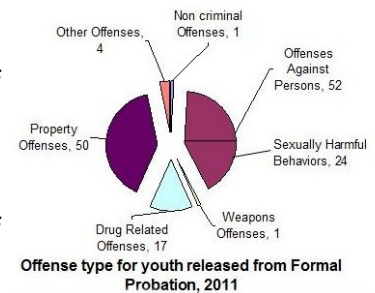
information on this grant and others that support the juvenile division, refer to page 29 and 30 of the annual report. In the past year, 195 youth who committed delinquent and status offenses were released from informal probation or adjustment. These youth are supervised through completion of many programs such as: Victim Offender Mediation, Victim Impact Panel, Burn Busters, substance abuse assessment, education, and treatment, counseling, etc. Of those youth released, only 33% of these youths' cases were closed unsuccessfully.

Formal Probation

Youth are placed on formal probation by the Greene County Juvenile Court Judge after they are found to be within the jurisdiction of the court for a law violation or status offense. In 2011, 119 youth were supervised by the formal probation officers. While 21 of these cases were not ultimately placed on formal probation due to the case being dismissed at the jurisdiction hearing or the youth being committed to the Division of Youth Services at the jurisdiction hearing, the remainder were formally adjudicated and placed on formal probation as their disposition to be supervised for an indeterminate period of time. Youth are placed on probation for a variety of offenses.

The average length of stay for youth released from probation in this year was just over 9 months: this

is compared to 10½ months in 2010. Length of stay on probation varies greatly depending on the risk and needs of the youth and families, and their



willingness to comply with the orders of the court. There are three officers who supervise formal cases one of which supervises a specialized case load of sexually harmful youth. Youth supervised for sexually harmful behavior make up about 25% of the formal probation cases. Of the 126 youth released from probation in 2011, 27 were placed with the Division of Youth Services due to violations of their formal probation.

Parent Exit Survey... "It brought my daughter and me closer together with the help of probation. She now knows goals and the determination she needs to succeed, Thank you so much." "I think you do good with helping troubled teens get back on track to do good." "Was great support to me as a parent."

Youth Exit Survey... "I wouldn't change anything (about probation) because they helped me as a person." "It was scary, I don't recommend it. Stay outta trouble."

Intentional Focus Areas for Formal and Informal Supervision:

Sexually Harmful Youth

Programming for Sexually Harmful Youth (SHY) (those who have admitted to or have been adjudicated of a sexual offense) inside the Greene County Juvenile Division and in the community has seen improvement in 2011. These youth and their families are given specialized services by the Juvenile Division due to the high risk the juveniles may pose to the community and the opportunity given to the Juvenile Division for early intervention to prevent possible future sexual harm.

An ongoing focus among the Juvenile Sexual Impact Program staff is to continue to improve upon our Informed Supervision process. This is a meeting of parents, care givers, and supports for youth who are on some level of supervision with the Juvenile Court for a sexual offense. It is an opportunity for the Juvenile Division staff and a community based treatment provider to speak with those who will be responsible for day to day supervision of juveniles who have a history of abusive behavior. Experience has taught us that one of the single most important factors in success of youth in treatment for sexually harmful behavior is support (familial and community).

Topics covered in informed supervision are expectations for those who supervise sexually harmful youth, Juvenile Sexual Impact Program Process, and the treatment components. In 2011, 103 community members attended this training to become informed supervisors. This is an illustration of the immense support the youth we serve are given outside of the Juvenile Division and allows for incredible hope that the cycles of abuse these children found themselves in can be recognized and stopped.

The Juvenile Division staff is honored to be a part of a group for sexually harmful youth that is currently facilitated by Stan Barnes, LPC. In the beginning of the year, this

group was identified as an area where improvements were necessary. This is an ongoing process due to the constant changes in the most current research on the best ways to treat sexually harmful youth. This year we have begun following *Pathways – A Guided Workbook for Youth Beginning Treatment* in order to put more structure in the group and better assist youth in finding strength and motivation to complete treatment and live with honor and integrity.

Lastly, we have tried to improve communication with youth and families this year. One of the ways we have attempted to improve in this area is to develop a probation classification matrix specifically for the Juvenile Sexual Impact Program. We recognize that when children and their families come to the Juvenile Court with a sexual offense, it is often one of the most traumatic events the family has ever encountered. There is a large wealth of information we hope for them to retain in the first few meetings with a deputy juvenile officer and/or probation officer, and for the most part, their number one question is, "When can things go back to normal?" They want their lives back. The youth, their parents, and even the victims want to know when they will be able to have their family back. This question can be answered with the classification matrix. It identifies several key steps and goals that must be attained in order to earn privileges back, complete probation, and return to a new sense of normal.

Informed supervision exit surveys:

"The information was helpful, I am glad there is a group concerned about our children"

"They made it easier to understand how to help the child through..."

Greene County Teen Court is an informal alternative sentencing program for juveniles. Once a week, at the Greene County Juvenile Justice Center, juveniles between ages 12 and 16 who have committed a misdemeanor offense are given the chance to go before a jury of their peers. The jury responds with a constructive and meaningful "sentence" for their behavior which includes volunteering in the Teen Court process and in the community. Defendants must accept responsibility for their actions to participate in Teen Court, since juries do not decide innocence or guilt. In 2011, 85 youth were served in this alternative sentencing program.

Everyone in Teen Court, jury, bailiff, court clerk and attorneys are juveniles. Five judges volunteer time to preside over Teen Court, including the Chief Judge of the Missouri Court of Appeals, Southern District; two Missouri Court of Appeals Judges from the Southern District; one Associate Circuit Court Judge from Greene County; and the Chief Municipal Court Judge for Springfield.

In 2011, 526 community service hours and 353 jury duties were assigned to youth participating in Teen Court. Additionally, 665 adult and youth volunteer hours were logged in the operations of Teen Court. This informal alternative has proven to be successful in providing families and youth resources to aid in their self improvement. Over a four year review of youth participating in Teen Court, only 9% were re-referred to the Juvenile Division for another offense.

In 2011, a partnership was developed with the Greene County prosecuting attorney's Office. Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys volunteer to observe court and give feedback to the youth attorneys. This is a great benefit to the youth volunteers, many of whom hope to become attorneys themselves in the future.



[Teen Court](#)

In July of this year, we held a contest for creating a logo for Teen Court. With much thanks and in cooperation with Patrick McWhirt, the design seen above became the emblem for this program.

One of the goals for the Teen Court in 2011 was to increase public awareness. This was accomplished in two ways. First in authoring and maintaining a Facebook page to foster better communication with youth served and volunteers that serve. Secondly, through a valuable partnership with Steve Wynn from Ozarks Public Television, a video was created. A mock trial, interviews from a judge and youth attorneys as well as the Teen Court coordinator explain the process and benefits of the Greene County Teen Court. The video was placed on YouTube for public viewing.

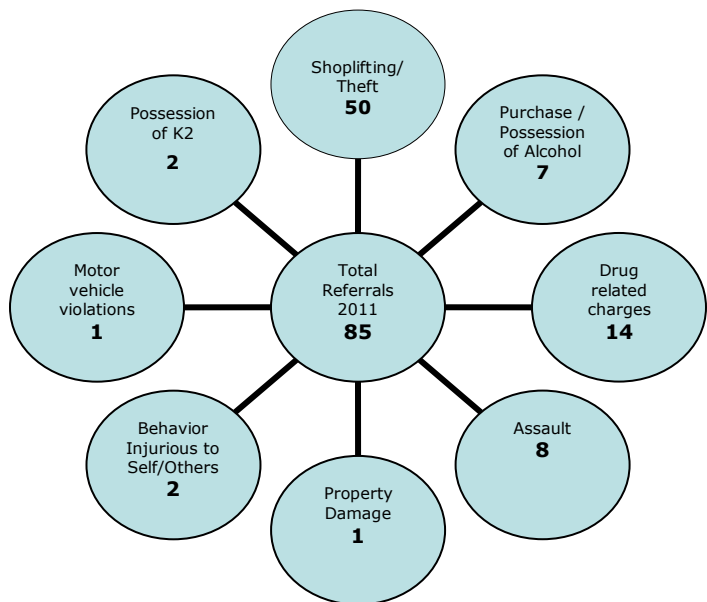


[Click here](#)



[Click here](#)

Teen Court is a wonderful experience and a great opportunity for volunteers to discover the judicial system. In May we had the honor of hosting our judicial, youth and adult volunteers and their families at an appreciation dinner.



Youth participant responses... "It was an overall good learning experience and very informational." "I was so nervous and scared of what they were going to make me do." "The Family Communication Workshop really helped me." **Parent exit responses...** "It gave my child her self-respect back, she rediscovered herself." "As a parent this was an experience for the books. I wish that kids that are at risk could experience this before they offend." "I know that isn't possible but is a great opportunity."

CHAPTER ONE - SUPPORT REPORT



Karen Woodward, Laura Burke, Lisa Loftis, Jill Randolph, Shirley Speer, Karen Pierce, Karen McIlravy, Nicole Price, Carrie Bottoms, Kim Williams, Susie Schenck

One of the Support Unit's 2011 Team goals was to reach out to the community to do service projects. Over the course of the year we participated by:

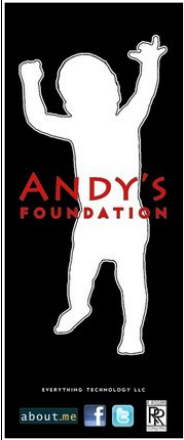


Serving lunch at The Kitchen (Missouri Hotel), sorting food items at Ozarks Food Harvest, sorting clothing at The Salvation Army Thrift Store to assist in the "back to school" season, wrapping Christmas presents for foster children at The Ambassador's for Children, and serving as personal shoppers for Christmas gifts at The Salvation Army during the Christmas Season.



Andy's Foundation

The juvenile division was approached by Drew Rogers of *Andy's Foundation* with an offer to put computers in the hands of youth served by the juvenile system.



Andy's Foundation: Computer Essentials is a six-part course designed to teach youth about computer maintenance and assembly by taking a hands-on learning approach. In this program, youth will work side-by-side with an instructor to disassemble a computer, learn about the various components of a computer system, the reassembly process, install software and programs, and create a resume that will aid in

finding a job. When the program is finished, youth will have the opportunity to keep the computer they have built, or donate their computer to a non-profit organization of their choice.

By participating, youth build valuable skills in computer repair, as well as confidence in themselves and their abilities. This program has already seen success with other youth-outreach programs in the area and we are pleased to make this resource available to our youth in 2012.

The Juvenile Division would like to thank Drew Rogers for his tireless efforts with Andy's Foundation and for bringing such a valuable new program to youth in Greene County.



Assembly of various components of the computer.

Community Awareness Fair

The Greene County Juvenile Division, in partnership with CASA of SW Missouri, held the 5th Annual Community Awareness Fair/Kids Fest on Saturday, June 11th at Jordan Valley Park. The event was a great success with several families from Springfield and surrounding communities enjoying free activities, prizes, live music, and BBQ. There were 1325 people that registered at the event, and many more that attended without registering. Through 79 community organizations providing information, individuals were connected with community resources such as after-school activities, youth mentoring, parental support, counseling services, and prevention programs. Thanks to the many Juvenile Division staff and Kids Fest volunteers that committed their time and support to the event as well as the invaluable youth volunteers. The Community Awareness Fair and Kids Fest would not have been such a success without those dedicated individuals.



Diversity Awareness Partnership - DAP

In 2011, the Greene County Family Court – Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions decided to take a look at what we were doing in regards to diversity. It all started with an intern, Samantha Lucas from MSU who is a member of the Ioway Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska. She was asked if she saw herself or her family's heritage in the building or on the walls of the Juvenile Division; unfortunately, she answered no. She was asked if she would be willing to change that. Soon after, the Juvenile Division was presented with a shadow box from Samantha and her family, which included pictures of her family at a pow-wow and some tribal earrings hand made and beaded by her uncle. The shadow box is proudly displayed on the walls of the Greene County Juvenile Division for all to see.

Samantha's gesture began our realization that we needed to create an environment where all cultures are embraced. Where could anyone see themselves on the walls of the Juvenile Division? We had posters informing people about the dangers of drugs, but nothing that welcomed individuals from all walks of life into the Juvenile Division. Out of these conversations, the Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP) was created. A group of individuals along with an employee from City Utilities began to take a look at diversity.

The Evening Reporting Center staff embraced the idea of creating an environment where culture and identity can be embraced. The youth being served by the Evening Reporting Center have done a marvelous job of creating artwork that reflects diversity from their eyes and minds. Multiple pieces of their artwork and essays are hanging up in the front lobby of the Juvenile Division. Next time you are visiting, please take a moment to appreciate their views of diversity.

Lunch Time Learning Series (LTLS)

In 2011, DAP took ownership of the Lunch Time Learning Series (LTLS). Each LTLS will have a presentation that touches on the topic of diversity. Speakers come from both the private and public sectors within the Springfield / Greene County community. LTLS is open to the public.

In May, Wes Pratt – Equal Opportunity Officer for Missouri State University, and Lyle Foster – Owner of Big Mama's Coffee and Espresso Bar as well as Q Enoteca were the presenters. The title of their presentation was, "**Diversity: Where We Are and Where We are Going!**" It was a great presentation on the historical perspective of diversity and highlighted the wonderful things the community is doing now, including initiatives such as the Strategic Plan and the Civility Project.



Samantha Lucas

The WALLS -

With Samantha's shadow box hanging on our walls, it made us realize how little we had that reflected the lives of the children and families that walked through our front door every day. Research suggests that pleasant and welcoming environments can reduce stress, which most people are feeling when they come to our office.





Left to right: Jill Randolph, Perry Epperly, Lela Panagides, Zach Adams

In October, Lela Panagides, CEO of LEAP into Leadership, an organization that focuses on guiding businesses and individuals to success, presented at the LTLS. The title of her presentation was, **“Don’t Manage Diversity – Leverage It!”**

In this presentation, she spoke about the importance of making strengths out of differences, both in the work place and in life. The Juvenile Division was fortunate to build a relationship with Lela Panagides. In our interactions with Lela, she shared with us the “Diversity Wheel.” This tool helps individuals look at what diversity is and how it is much more than skin deep. We have begun to use the Diversity Wheel in conversations with youth that are involved with the Juvenile Division. Members from DAP have begun “Diversity Discussions” where an open forum conversation is had with a group of youth about diversity. It is a great opportunity to hear firsthand how young people see and view diversity. During the Diversity Discussions, the Diversity Wheel is used to dig deep into what makes us all diverse and different.

The Future

We needed direction and motivation that could keep us on track. After much brainstorming, a mission statement was created. The mission of DAP is **“A Commitment to Embrace Our Unique Community!!!”** We wanted to acknowledge

that our community is unique and that there is a great deal of diversity right here where we live. There are many different religions, ethnicities, lifestyles, political beliefs and much more. The vision of DAP is **“To Celebrate and Embrace Diversity with the Next Generation!!!”** We owe it to the children we serve to have those courageous conversations about what makes us all unique.

To hear and see from the youth what diversity is gives us all a true perspective as to what the future holds. In our pursuit to recognize and embrace diversity, it is our intent to better serve the families and children we work with every day. Just like a fingerprint, no two families are alike. Therefore, it is our duty to identify and embrace the uniqueness of each person we work with in order to provide the best services possible for individuals and families. A 16-year-old young man wrote an essay simply titled, **“Diversity.”** In this essay, he said *“Diversity gives us life, individuality, self-expression and freedom, and that is what we all want.”* These are profound words from the future of our community. His essay is proudly displayed in the front lobby of the Juvenile Division.



Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

In 2011, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) developed a life of its own. Greene County, along with 11 other sites in the state of Missouri, with the support of the Missouri Supreme Court, have adopted these strategies of juvenile justice reform as a statewide initiative catapulting us beyond the Annie E. Casey initiative to a better way of doing business that is institutionalized in practice. In Greene County, we serve as a model for state replication sites and in November of 2011 hosted: 3 judicial circuits, the Office of State Courts Administrator, Missouri Juvenile Justice Association, Department of Public Safety and Juvenile Justice advisory group members for a replication site visit where 24 juvenile justice professionals came to understand the application of the eight core strategies in Greene County.



Greene County became a JDAI site in April 2006 and has since made improvements in the length of time youth are held in secure detention, our average daily population in secure detention, and expanse of the alternatives to secure detention that are provided to youth pending formal court action. Since JDAI is about system reform, take the opportunity to review sections on detention, probation, delinquency, ERC, and Diversity Awareness Partnership to see the full impact of JDAI in Greene County.



JDAI replication site visit

Springfield Skate Park Project

2011 saw the beginning of an exciting new partnership for the Greene County Juvenile Justice Center. With the popularity of skateboarding and BMX sports growing among youth, it is becoming increasingly important for children to have a safe place to practice their sport. This rise in popularity for alternative sports has led to greater pressure on public spaces, as skateboarding youth are competing with the public for access to recreational areas. This conflict has helped foster a negative view of these alternative sports in recent years, and over-use of public space decreases safety for all users. The staff at the Skate Park recognized these issues and worked with the probation unit to find ways to help kids give back to their community through volunteering and community service projects, as well as have greater access to the park. The goal of this partnership is to get youth off of the streets and more involved with the Skate Park, where they can be active and practice their sport with a greater level of safety and supervision than is available in other public spaces. As this partnership develops, we hope to find new ways for youth to get involved at the park, showcase their talents, stay active, and give back to their community by pro-social activities.



The Greene County Juvenile Division would like to thank the staff and Board of Directors at the Springfield Skate Park for making this partnership possible. Strong partnerships such as this are what make Greene County a wonderful community in which to live and work.



Services for Girls and Young Women

Services for young women grew exponentially in 2011. Where before there had only been a handful of services internally, in 2011 those services greatly expanded and extended beyond office walls into the community.

Our partnership with the Center for Dispute Resolution (CDR) through Missouri State University has continued from last year. Services they provide include *Girls' Circle* curriculum that focuses on topics that are important to girls. These concern areas such as body image, self-esteem, friendship and relationships, etc. In this group, girls are given a safe place where they can talk about these issues and others that they may wish to work on. CDR is also providing Family Group Conference (FGC). In these sessions the girl, their family, close friends, and others who are important in the girls' lives are invited to meet with trained mediators to discuss strengths and concerns for the girls and their families. A plan is then put in place to work on issues that need addressed. Of girls tracked after completing this program, 79% have not re-offended!

During 2011 the Greene County Juvenile Justice Center partnered with Carol Jones/Alternative Opportunities. There girls are given the opportunity to receive drug treatment within the community in a group called Life of Unlimited Visions (LUV). At LUV girls are not only able to address their drug usage, but also the driving forces behind their usage. This is done through drug assessments, to discover level of need, personal counseling, and help from an individual case manager.



[Carol Jones
Alternative Opportunities](#)



[Center for Dispute
Resolution](#)

Additionally, girls participate in groups based off of the Voices, Girls' Circle and Savvy Sister curriculums (all of which are specifically designed to address the needs of girls). Girls are also asked to develop relapse prevention plans, action plans, and continuing care plans.



[Girls Circle](#)

2011 also brought with it an exciting training opportunity in the form of the Savvy Sister Train the Trainer workshop. The training was conducted by Lawanda Ravoira and Bonnie Rose, two women at the forefront of addressing the needs of girls in the juvenile system. The Greene County Juvenile Justice Center was extended an invitation to visit the PACE Center (a model site for working with girls in the juvenile justice system) in 2012.

The staff at the Juvenile Division continues to look to the future in order to find new ways to better serve and protect girls who become involved with or are at risk of becoming involved in the juvenile system.



[Savvy Sister](#)



Restorative Justice Programs

Networks for Girls Program

[Network for Girls](#)

Webbers

A priority was made this year to update and improve the Greene County Juvenile Division website to maintain a current and innovative way to inform the community and aid in gaining access to resources and information in the Greene County area. As the technological era is rapidly expanding it is imperative that we move in a similar direction in order to provide the most up-to-date information to anyone interested. This process was on going throughout the entire year with updates being made monthly to ensure current information.

One of the things we focused on this year was to compile a list of resources in the area named the "Parent Toolbox." This gives the families access to resources prior to involvement at the Juvenile Division in hopes that problems could be resolved without court action. Outside of only updating information within each department's webpage, we also expanded by adding information on new initiatives within the Juvenile Division. We added information on the Diversity Awareness Partnership which works to increase awareness and embrace a diverse population within the community, and Gender Responsive Services which focus on female adolescents involved in the juvenile system.

In order to personalize the Juvenile Division's website, we added artwork throughout the site that was created by juveniles involved with this office. The juveniles on probation are assigned Life,

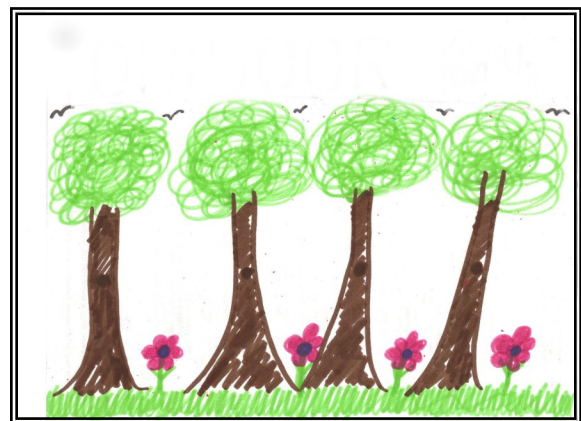
Experience, and Accountability Program (LEAP) points; one youth whose strength was photography took pictures around the Juvenile Division for the website to provide a modern and updated look to the website, and to earn his LEAP points.



Art
inspired



Artwork created by program youth.



CHAPTER THREE - BRINGING IT HOME

The Greene County Family Court's Juvenile and Domestic Relations Division continues its commitment to pursue available grant resources through local, state and federal agencies to develop or improve our practices and services delivered to those we serve. The employees play a vital role in the process of creating something new or improving an existing program to better serve our community. Their willingness to serve in the grant application and implementation process is critical to the success of each grant. The following grant report is an example of our commitment to bring available resources home to better serve youth and families in Greene County.

GRANT	TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT	2011 UTILIZED AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT	REF. PAGE
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education- Gettings Involved for Today's Students (GIFTS)	\$49,610.00	\$21,295.73	Probation	12, 30
Division of Youth Services (DYS) Juvenile Court Diversion Funds (JCD)	\$375,000.00	\$338,992.55	Evening Reporting Center, Probation, Youth Academy	13,14,19, 30
Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)	\$81,002.29	\$31,419.23	Law/Status	16
Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	Probation	8, 19
Office of States Courts Administrator (OSCA)	\$6,000.00	\$3,000.00	Abuse/Neglect	4
Office of States Courts Administrator (OSCA)	\$10,950.00	\$3,950.00	Domestic Relations	10, 30
Office of States Courts Administrator (OSCA)	\$1,998.00	\$1,998.00	Domestic Relations	10, 30
Office of States Courts Administrator (OSCA)	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	Domestic Relations	10, 30
Office of States Courts Administrator (OSCA)	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	Domestic Relations	10, 30
Office of States Courts Administrator (OSCA)	\$20,933.20	\$2,500.00	Residential Services	14, 30
Reclaiming Futures	\$1,300,000.00	\$395.891.00	Law/Status, Probation & Residential Services	8, 12, 14
Title II	\$81,107.00	\$40,705.00	Law/Status & Probation	12, 31
Total Grant Amounts	\$1,934,100.49	\$847,211.63		

OTHER REVENUE	2011 AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT	REF. PAGE
Department of Health and Senior Services	\$2,773.05	Evening Reporting Center	13, 30
Division of Youth Services (DYS)	\$17,628.00	Secure Detention	8, 30
Out of Circuit & Drug Court Reimbursement	\$17,025.00	Secure Detention	8
Per Diem State Reimbursement	\$48,902.00	Secure Detention	8
USDA Subsidy	\$16,982.59	Secure Detention & Youth Academy	8, 14
Total Revenue Amounts	\$103,310.64	\$103,310.64	

Total Grant & Revenue Amounts	\$2,037,411.13	\$950,522.27
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Note: Grant funding may cross multiple years. Additionally, utilizations are subject to unique restrictions and requirements that may or may not correlate with the calendar year

Detention Revenue Total = \$100,537.59

- The secure juvenile detention center collects \$14 per day, per juvenile from the state of Missouri to offset the cost of care. In 2011 the total amount collected was \$48,902.
- The Missouri Division of Youth Services (DYS) has a contract with the secure juvenile detention center that provides for monetary payment whenever a juvenile is held pursuant to a DYS warrant or commitment. The total amount collected in 2011 from DYS was \$17,628.
- When appropriate, the Greene County secure juvenile detention center holds juveniles for other Juvenile Court Circuits that do not have detention centers. In 2011 the total amount collected for this purpose was \$17,025.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) subsidizes the breakfasts and lunches served at the juvenile detention center because of the classroom that exists within the facility. In 2011, the detention center collected a total of \$16,982.59 from the USDA.

Domestic Relations Unit (DRU)

In April 2011, the DRU was approved for a Domestic Relations Resolution Funding (DRRF) Grant through the Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) for a Domestic Violence Resource Library. The DRU was awarded \$3,500 to increase the access of resource materials for Domestic Violence, Family Violence, and Child Abuse prevention and services. A wide variety of resources are now available in the Circuit Clerk's office, the entrance of the Judicial Courthouse, at both Common Ground locations, and at the Alternative Dispute Resolution Class.

In 2011, DRU received grant money from the Domestic Relations Resolution Fund (DRRF) through the Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) to provide in-service trainings for the monitors of the Common Ground Supervised Access Program. Domestic relations officers presented four in-service trainings in January, April, June,

and November 2011. Training topics included domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health, parental alienation, child development, confidentiality, cultural sensitivity, and mandated reporting. This grant facilitated the professional development of monitors and increased their knowledge of pertinent issues facing Common Ground families. Without this grant the DRU would not have been able to provide group training sessions to 12 monitors in 2011. These trainings allowed DRU to maintain best standards for the Common Ground program, and continue to serve families and children with extensively trained monitors.

Evening Report Center (ERC)

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services provide funding through the Child and Adult Care Food Program and Summer Food Service Program for the Evening Reporting Center supper meals. Additionally, this funding assists with purchasing food preparation materials and incentive items for the youth.

Getting Involved for Today's Students

(GIFTS) is a \$30,000 grant funded through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for after school programming. This grant promotes the mission of the Juvenile Justice Center by partnering with Springfield Public Schools to enhance academic programming at the Evening Reporting Center (ERC) and the Greene County Juvenile Youth Academy (GCYA). Further, the program supports homework assistance for youth on probation. GIFTS operates out of the Hogan Building, the same location as ERC and GCYA, and has been in existence for over 3 years. The program has demonstrated success in meeting educational needs. Upon entering the program youth are pre-tested over the use of fractions and literature vocabulary terms used on state testing. In post-testing, the same youth consistently increase or double their scores.

Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA)

Community Based Day Reporting. This \$20,933.20 grant is provided through the Office of State Courts Administrator. The grant is used to provide alternatives to detention for youth who violate probation by committing a non-criminal offense. The funding period is from December 1, 2011, through June 15, 2012, and supports a full-time GCYA teacher, counseling and education groups, staff training, and GPS monitors.

Juvenile Court Diversion Funds

Each year the Missouri Division of Youth Services (DYS) makes funds available to local jurisdictions in an effort to divert youth from commitment to the State's custody. Whenever possible, keeping youth in their community and in their families has proven to have much greater long-range positive impact on a youth. In 2011, DYS provided funding to Greene County in three major impact areas:

- **Early intervention** for youth and families just becoming involved with the Juvenile Division for delinquent or status offense behaviors. Through an informal process youth and families are provided services, resources and supervision to prevent youth from being formally adjudicated.
- **Alternative to detention** at the Evening Reporting Center. During this 20 day program youth are provided a structured program to support them in improving education, life skills, mental health and communication. Through this program youth are provided supervision that allows them to remain safely in the community while awaiting a court hearing. Success in this program positively impacts court outcomes for youth.
- **Community based day treatment programming** at the Greene County Youth Academy. This day treatment program provides an intensive level of community supervision for youth. Staff focus programming on developing and improving educational outcomes, family relations,

community involvement and life skills through treatment, civic engagement, service, and school.

July 1, 2011, marks the 15th year that we have had JCD funds. Total grant awarded 2011-2012 year was \$375,000.

Expended January 1, 2011 – June 30, 2011 – \$175,008.77

Expended July 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011 – \$163,983.78

Services, Accountability & More (SAM #4)

This project was funded following application to the Missouri Department of Public Safety with the project period beginning October 1, 2010, through September 30, 2011. This grant award helped provide funding for a full-time deputy juvenile officer (DJO) for the Greene County Juvenile Division. The deputy juvenile officer worked directly with youth referred to the juvenile division for their alleged involvement in committing an offense. The DJO conducted follow-up investigations, administered screenings, and completed risk/needs assessments on youth referred to the Greene County Juvenile Division. The DJO determined appropriate disposition plans and coordinated services and programs necessary to hold youth accountable for their actions and reduce recidivism. During the award period, the project served 150 youth. Twenty of these youth re-offended and received further juvenile court intervention with one of those youth being committed to the Division of Youth Services. Of the youth served, none were certified as adults.



Title II

In 2011, the Greene County Juvenile Division reapplied for funding for a Title II grant through the Missouri Department of Public Safety. These funds are designed to improve our ability to provide suitable alternatives to secure detention. Through funding in the Title II “Enhanced Alternatives to Detention” grant, the Greene County Juvenile Division was provided the opportunity to partner with the Great Circle and provide a shelter bed for youth that are at low risk for re-offense and do not meet the criteria for placement in secure detention, but for whatever reason are unable to return home. In 2011, 35 youth were placed in shelter care as an alternative to secure detention this is an increase from last year.

In addition, the Title II grant has provided the opportunity to enhance the services provided to youth at our Evening Reporting Center, another alternative to secure detention. Please refer to page 29 in this report for more information on Title II and other programming at the Evening Reporting Center. Grant Year: October 1 – September 30.

October 1, 2012, marks the beginning of our third grant year. We were awarded \$40,512.00 for October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012. Of which \$9,694.00 has been spent. Between January 1, 2011, and September 30, 2011, our second grant year in this reporting year, \$31,011.00 was expended.

Grant Resources



RECLAIMING FUTURES

Communities helping teens overcome drugs, alcohol and crime



Boys & Girls Town
of Missouri
a Great Circle® agency

Missouri Department of
Public Safety

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

It is with profound appreciation that the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Division, recognizes its community partners who have contributed time and services to various efforts that uphold our vision of "Safe Communities, Healthy Families." It is the mission of the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions to ...promote collaborative partnerships with private and public entities in an ongoing effort to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Greene County. In 2011 those community partner entities were:

Alternative Opportunities	Greene County Park Board
Ambassadors for Children	Greene County Prosecutor's Office
Andy's Foundation	Harmony House Family Violence Prevention Center
Area Law Enforcement	IMAX Theatres
Art Museum	Japanese Stroll Garden
Association of Women in Communication (AWC) - Springfield Chapter	Jordan Valley Park
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Lakeland Hospital
Boys and Girls Club	Legal Services of Southern Missouri
Boys and Girls Town	Missouri Department of Conservation
Boys Scouts	Missouri State University
Burrell Behavioral Health	NAACP
Care to Learn	Ozark Psychological Associates
Carol Jones	Palace Theater
Center for Dispute Resolution	Programs for Youth
Central Assembly of God	Shapes Mentoring
Child Advocacy Center	Silver Dollar City
City Utilities	Solution Based Choices, LLC
Community Foundation of the Ozarks	Sporting Chance
Community Partnership of the Ozarks	Springfield Bar Association
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	Springfield Fire Department
Cox Hospital	Springfield Nature Center
C-Star Adolescent substance abuse treatment	Springfield Parks and Recreation
Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education	Springfield Public Schools
Dickerson Park Zoo	Springfield Skate Park
Discovery Center	Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE)
Division of Youth Services	Swift Steps Counseling Services
Drury University	Teach to Inspire
Evangel University	Temple Israel
EXCEL school	The Victim Center
Forest Institute of Professional Psychology	Tynes and Associates
Friends Against Hunger	Vatterott College
Greene County Children's Division	Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- Abuse:** Any physical injury, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse inflicted on a child other than by accidental means by those responsible for the child's care, custody, and control, except that discipline including spanking, administered in a reasonable manner, shall not be construed as abuse.
- Alternative Care (AC):** When a child has been placed into protective custody.
- Action:** A proceeding taken in a court of law. Synonymous with case, suit, lawsuit.
- Affidavit:** A written statement of fact signed prepared by the deputy juvenile officer and Children's Division investigative worker and sworn to before a person having authority to administer an oath.
- Adjudication:** Decision by a juvenile court judge that the juvenile committed the delinquent act.
- Adjudication hearing:** A hearing to determine whether there is evidence beyond a reasonable doubt to support the allegations against the juvenile.
- Aftercare:** Supervision of a juvenile after release from an institution.
- Allegations:** The assertion, declaration, or statement of a party to an action made in a pleading, stating what he or she expects to prove.
- Answer:** A written statement of the respondent's case made in response to the plaintiff's complaint.
- Appeal:** The process by which a case is brought from one court to a higher court for review for a reversal or modification of the judgment of the lower court.
- Bailiff:** A court officer who opens and closes court and keeps peace in the courtroom.
- Calendar:** A list of cases arranged for trial in court; also referred to as a docket.
- Clerk of the Court:** An officer of the court whose principal duty is to maintain court records.
- Commitment:** Decision by a juvenile court judge to send the adjudicated juvenile to an institution.
- Contempt of Court:** An act that is meant to embarrass, hinder, or obstruct a court in the administration of justice. Direct contempt is committed in the presence of the court. Indirect contempt is when a lawful court order is not carried out or is refused by the party against whom the order was issued.
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA):** A volunteer that is a trained citizen who is appointed by a judge to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in court.
- Court Summary:** A document prepared by the Children's Division or deputy juvenile officer and offered to the court for review.
- Continuance:** A delay or postponement of a court hearing.
- Criminal Non-Support:** A person who commits the crime of non-support when he or she knowingly fails to provide, without good cause, adequate support for the spouse and/or minor children when legally obligated to do so. Criminal non-support is a Class A Misdemeanor in Missouri. If the violator leaves the state for the purpose of avoiding the obligation to support, then it is a Class D Felony.
- Default:** A judgment entered against a defendant who does not plead within the allowable time or does not appear at the trial.
- Delinquent Act:** A behavior committed by a juvenile that would have been a crime if committed by an adult.
- Deposition:** Testimony taken under oath outside the courtroom concerning the facts and circumstances surrounding an incident. It may be introduced as evidence in a court hearing at a later time.
- Detention:** Short-term secure confinement of a juvenile for the purpose of ensuring the juvenile will appear for court and/or for the protection of the community.
- Detention Center:** A facility designed for short-term secure confinement of a juvenile prior to court disposition or execution of a court order.
- Discovery:** A pre-trial procedure that allows each party to get written or oral information from the other party.
- Disposition:** The sanction imposed on a juvenile who has been adjudicated in juvenile court.
- Disposition hearing in delinquency cases:** A hearing held after a juvenile has been adjudicated to determine what sanction should be imposed on the juvenile.
- Dispositional hearing in abuse/neglect cases:** This is a hearing that occurs after the jurisdictional hearing. The court will review and discuss case progression and make any changes accordingly. Dispositional hearings are held every 90-120 days.
- DJO:** deputy juvenile officer.
- Docket:** The order in which cases will be heard or tried on a given day. The list often is posted outside the courtroom with cases listed by petitioner's name.
- Evidence:** Any form of proof legally presented at a trial through witnesses, records, documents or other material.
- Family Support Team (FST):** A team that ensures that the necessary services and support are provided to all parties of the case. The team would include the mother/father, deputy juvenile officer, Children's Division, Court Appointed Special Advocate, guardian ad litem, parent's attorney, and any other individuals working toward the goal of reunifying the child back into the parental home.
- Family Support Team Meetings (FSTM):** The initial meeting is scheduled 72 hours after the child is taken into alternative care, as well as 30 days, 60 days, 90 days, and 120 days later. Later meetings are scheduled at six months and every six months thereafter. Additional meetings can be scheduled as needed or at the request of the team. Many decisions and recommendations are made by this team.
- Finding:** The court's or jury's decision on issues of fact. In almost all court orders, the findings of facts precede the actual order of the court.
- Guardian ad Litem (GAL):** An attorney or special advocate appointed by the court to represent the interests of a child in a civil or criminal proceeding involving that child. A GAL must be appointed if there is an allegation that the child has been neglected or abused. The GAL is charged with promoting the best interests of the child in that proceeding.

Hearing: A legal proceeding wherein attorneys and interested parties in a case appear before a judge in a court of law.

Interlocutory: Provisional; temporary; not final. Refers to an order of the court.

Interrogatories: Written question developed by one party's attorney for the adversary in a case who must respond in writing and under oath.

Judgment: A determination by a court of the rights and claims of the parties in an action.

Judicial Notice: An act in which a judge conducting a trial or framing a decision recognizes the existence and truth of certain facts having a bearing on the controversy without the production of evidence. The awareness of certain facts that judges and jurors may properly act upon without proof or argument because they already know them.

Jurisdictional hearing: A court proceeding in which the court decides whether the statements or allegations the juvenile officer made in the petition are true and whether the child will remain under the supervision of the court.

Minor: Any person under the age of 18.

Mediation: A non-binding process involving a neutral mediator who acts as a facilitator to assist the parties to craft a mutually acceptable resolution.

Motion: An oral or written request for an action made by a party either before, during or after a trial, upon which a court issues a ruling or order.

Neglect: Failure to provide, by those responsible for the care, custody, and control of the child, the proper or necessary support, education as required by law, nutrition or medical, surgical, or any other care necessary for the child's well-being.

Notice: A written order to appear in court at a certain time and place.

Parties: The persons who take part in the performance of any act, or who are directly interested in any affair, or who are actively concerned in the prosecution and defense of any legal proceeding; commonly referred to as the plaintiff and defendant or respondent. The plaintiff is the person who brings an action; the party who complains or sues in a personal action. The respondent is the person defending or denying; the person against whom the relief or recovery is sought.

Permanency Hearing (PH): This hearing occurs within one year after the child came into care. The court is required by federal law to have a hearing to determine what the permanent plan is for the child(ren). Types of permanency: Reunification with a parent, guardianship with a third party, independent living, termination of parental rights-adoption, long-term foster care.

Permissive Placement: Judge will authorize that a child(ren) can be physically placed back into the parental home. This step routinely occurs after the parent(s) have made substantial progress on their treatment plan.

Petition: A legal document that states the allegations which are pled to the court.

Petitioner: A person who brings an action seeking legal relief, also referred to as the plaintiff.

Pleading: Formal written allegations by the parties in a lawsuit of their respective claims and defense presented for the judgment of the court.

Pro Bono: When an attorney agrees to represent the party for free.

Pro Se: A person who represents him or herself in court without the aid of an attorney.

Protective Custody (PC): A police officer, law enforcement official, or a physician, who has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering from illness or injury or is in danger of personal harm by reason of his surroundings and that a case of child abuse or neglect exists, may request that the juvenile officer take the child into protective custody.

Protective Custody Hearing (PCH): The primary purpose of this hearing is for the court to decide whether or not the child(ren) can safely be returned home. This hearing must be held within 3 business days of protective custody.

Record: A copy of the pleadings, exhibits, orders or decrees filed in a case in the trial court and a transcript of the testimony taken in the case.

Respondent: The person named or charged in a civil suit or in a domestic relations case.

Reunification: The court gives the child(ren) back to parents based on substantial compliance with the court ordered treatment plan. This can also be referred to as permissive placement.

Service: Notification of an action or of some proceeding given to the person affected in person, or by sending it to him or her in the mail, or by publication in the newspaper; the delivery or communication of a legal document in a suit to the opposite party.

Statute: State law as enacted by the Missouri General Assembly.

Subpoena: A written order issued by the court to require a witness to appear and give testimony or produce documentary evidence in a legal proceeding.

Taken into custody: The action on the part of a police officer to obtain custody of a juvenile accused of committing a delinquent act.

Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) Hearing: Sometimes referred to as TPR. The court may find that it is in the best interest of the child for parental rights to be terminated and for the child to be adopted by a third party. The third party may be the foster parents, another family or a relative.

Testimony: Any statement made by a witness under oath in a legal proceeding.

Treatment Plan: The plan is formally presented to the judge at the jurisdictional hearing for approval. It is a list of what is needed in order to reunify the child with the parents. It contains the responsibilities of both the parent and the Children's Division.

Witness: Any person called to testify under oath in a criminal or civil proceeding regarding what that person has seen, heard or otherwise observed. This might include the victim, the defendant, eyewitnesses, police officers, medical or other professionals, for example.

When I first started this program, I was angry at myself. But instead of taking the responsibility for my mistakes, I blamed everyone else. In all honesty, I didn't think I had a problem, let alone a problem with drugs and alcohol. I thought that if anyone had a problem, it was everyone else around me.

The painting that I have done represents a journey, my journey and possibly the journey of many others. The painting is supposed to resemble rays of sunshine. Rays of light, that brings hope to the darkness that I and so many others feel surrounded by at times.

The yellow bird in the top left corner represents me finally discovering my wings. My courage to soar beyond my limits of expectations, and it reminds me that a new day is approaching.

Clockwise from that is supposed to represent a weave. Could be the weaving of a basket, or of thread, but to me it resembles the good and bad things we may weave into our lives. For me, I had, and have, the choice of weaving my own destruction, or my success.

Self-preservation in the place of self-destruction is a big one for me. When your mind is clouded by a substance/drug, you tend to look at the outside before looking in. When my mind wasn't clouded anymore I was able to look inside, and then work my way out. I was able to look within, and see that I am worth preserving.

This next one took me a long time to figure out how to do, and I'm still working on it. Loving yourself and respecting yourself has everything to do with addiction, with drugs. Many people do drugs or drink for many different reasons. Mine was because I was trying to make something go away. I had all these built up feelings, I had a lot of guilt, a lot of pain, and I was too scared to really deal with it. But then I learned how to, I discovered how to love myself, and within love comes respect....

The waves represent the ups and

downs we have in life. Waves come up, and then settle to become level and calm. In addition is a lot like a wave. Substances try to take over your life, and sometimes do, but once you decide that they're not worth it, you come down off of them, you break free from them, and life begins to feel much more calm, more level. I chose to ride the wave, but instead of giving up, I stuck it out until my feet were firmly planted in the sand looking out on the other waves that may come and go.

Hope. This really speaks for itself to the naked eye, but the feeling behind it sometimes goes silent. For me, it keeps me going. When I was little, my grandma would sing the "High Hopes" song. Just what makes that little old ant, think he can climb that rubber tree plant? Cuz he's got high hopes, he got high hopes, he got, high in the sky, apple pie hopes. And I'd like to think, that we all are that little old ant, who can climb that rubber tree plant, because we've got hope to do so....

I put the word serenity in there for the prayer. The prayer alone keeps me motivated to keep going. And to remind me of the things I can change, and to look at myself. I am the only person I can change, and I have the wisdom to know that.

The Road Less Traveled, a poem by Robert Frost, had to be one of my all time favorites. When I was doing drugs and drinking, I thought I was being somehow uniquely different from everyone else. I was taking a road that many have traveled on. But now, I want to take the road less traveled by, and be able to look back on my life and say, "That made all the difference." I think I've taken a few steps on that road, I just haven't gotten to the end of it yet.

This painting in some ways, all meshes together. It suddenly came to me, that life does bloom within. Life is worth living to the fullest. And it's worth it to watch it grow, instead of trying to speed up time. Life is too much of a beautiful thing to miss out on. I realized, that it was time for me to wake up, and smell the roses. And for me, that has made all the difference, so far...

Former Juvenile Drug Court Participant



Artwork by Mariah, age 16



Leadership Team

Front row from left: Marie Swope, Sara Moore, Susan Cox, Dan Johnson, Jeremy Trapp, Jill Randolph, Perry Epperly
Back row from left: Dawn Imler, Will McCrimmons, Lisa Altis, Zach Adams, Kyle O'Dell, Brad Shelton, Bill Prince.

Our Mission

The purpose of the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions is to provide prevention, intervention and protection services to children, families and the community, while promoting collaborative partnerships with private and public entities in an ongoing effort to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Greene County.

Our Values

The Greene County Juvenile Court values safety, protection, compassion, and respect toward its employees, its partnering agencies, the community and the families and children it serves.

Our Vision

The Greene County Juvenile Court's vision is to help develop "Safe Communities, Healthy Families."

Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions
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