



# Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions 2010 Annual Report



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## INTRODUCTION



*Leadership Team*

On behalf of the Leadership Team and the dedicated staff at the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions, we are pleased to provide this First Annual Report to the Community about the important work occurring within the Greene County Family Court. We welcome the opportunity to provide this report and hope the information within will encourage you to learn more about our innovative programs, services, and the people who are making a difference in the lives of youth and families who have interacted with the Greene County Family Court. Please review our webpage at [www.greencountymo.org/juvenile](http://www.greencountymo.org/juvenile) for more detailed information.

In the administration of juvenile justice, we utilize the philosophy of "correction through a program of individualized treatment." This individualized treatment concept balances public safety, juvenile accountability and treatment. While youth need to be held accountable for their conduct, simply locking them up isn't always effective. We must provide high quality treatment resources for youth such as the Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Model used in our Secure Detention Program. Utilizing the National Reclaiming Futures Model Program, we actively seek to reclaim the lives of youth who have begun involvement with alcohol and other drugs. Together with our Greene County Youth Academy and Restorative Justice Programs such as Victim - Offender Mediation and Victim Impact Panels and other programs appropriate to each individual youth, we believe youth have the opportunity to develop into healthy productive adults.

For the past five years the Greene County Juvenile Office has been actively engaged in "system reform" utilizing the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiatives Model (JDAI). Through our nationally recognized Evening Reporting Center (ERC), Disproportionate Minority Contact Program, and implementation of the core strategies of JDAI, the Greene County Juvenile Office has become a model Missouri JDAI Site.

Significantly challenging are the issues presented with the referral of children based on the conduct of their parent, custodian, or guardian. The high number of children under the jurisdiction of the Greene County Juvenile Court based on a judicial finding of Child Abuse and Neglect creates daunting challenges. Yet, this community is blessed to have great resources to meet and resolve the challenges of Child Abuse and Neglect.

The Domestic Relations Division through a cadre of Domestic Relations Officers provides significant caseload management services. Our Alternative Dispute Resolutions Class, Common Ground Program, and Mediation Services are effective models in Domestic Relations.

Each day a group of dedicated Family Court Staff work together to add value and enrich the lives of people in this community through engaged work and a commitment to excellence. We seek to be "builders" and not just "maintainers" of programs and services. Our vision is more than just fixing yesterday's problems. Therefore, if we are to provide excellence in services and programs and meet the challenges presented to the Family Court in the future, the highest quality staff and resources must be made available to create, enhance, support, and build on these critically needed programs and services.

We would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Judges and Commissioners of the Greene County Circuit Court, the Greene County Commissioners, volunteers, and the multiple community organizations, agencies, and businesses in both the public and private sector who have partnered with us in our endeavors to be "Difference Makers" to the people we serve in this great community.



*Perry Epperly*

Perry Epperly  
Family Court Administrator/Chief Juvenile Officer

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*Special appreciation for the 2010 Annual Report is extended to Cheryl Capages-Peebles, Kaitlin Glover and Evangel University Criminal Justice Program for assistance in preparation and to Reclaiming Futures for funding the printing of this report.*

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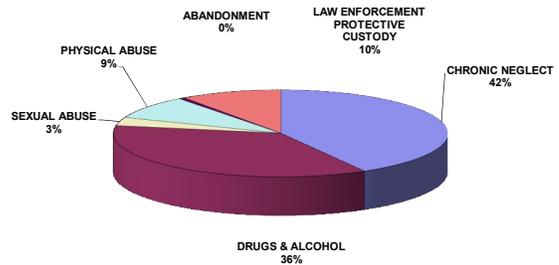
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## Child Abuse/Neglect Unit

In 2010, the Greene County abuse and neglect deputy juvenile officers investigated allegations of abuse and neglect to determine whether 615 children referred should be placed into protective custody. The deputy juvenile officers provided court case management which included frequent hearings and ongoing team meetings where parents work on goals so children can come home quickly.

During the year those deputy juvenile officers each carried an average of 65 families and 110 children on their caseloads. They also attended an average of 60 hours training on a variety of topics and issues to stay current about investigation and case management, as well as increase personal growth and hone their abilities. Throughout the year cases were closed for 376 children.



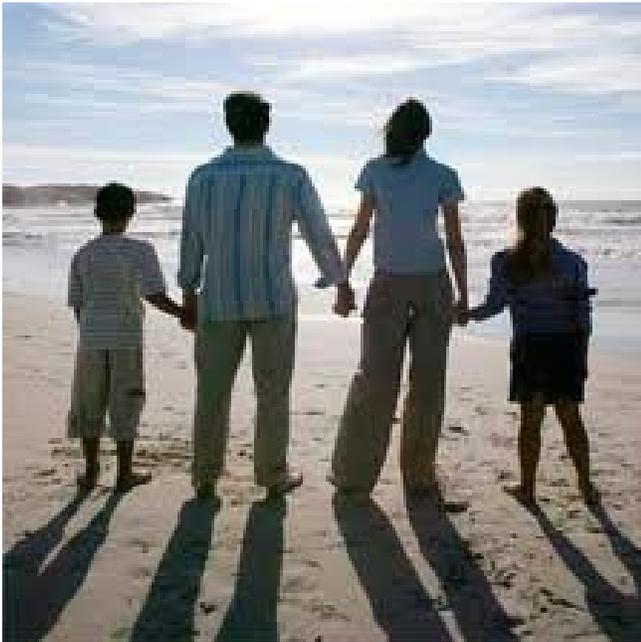
**Child Abuse & Neglect Referrals**

### Family Dependency Treatment Court

Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC) is a specialty court where the focus is to serve the best interest of the children by helping their parents be sober through intervention and treatment in a holistic, strength-based, community supported justice system.

The FDTC team consists of representatives from substance abuse treatment providers, children's division, the juvenile office and other public agencies and community based resources. The parents have regular and ongoing interaction with the court to ensure their compliance with the program.

In 2010, the FDTC program served 38 parents and 56 children. Ten parents graduated out of the eighteen-month program by years end. Graduation from the program results in reunification of the parent and child and the juvenile court case closing.



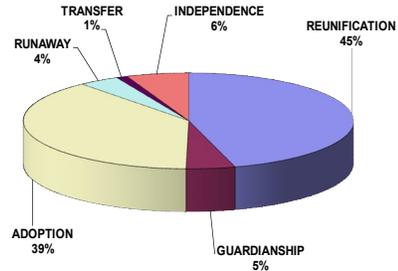
## CHAPTER ONE - UNIT REPORTS

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) promotes collaborative partnerships as well as accountability within the local child welfare system. It measures court and children's division performance and improves outcomes for children in foster care. Greene County has an active FCI group of juvenile officers, children's division and private contract agency workers, attorneys, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), court clerks and the judge.

In 2010 FCI accomplished goals that included a revamp of parent treatment plans, implementing a community review board to evaluate cases of children who remain in care more than 15 months with the goal of reunification, bringing in influential training regarding trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy, creating a visitation review committee and a visitation guide to encourage visitation progression on cases. These are just a few examples of the accomplishments of the FCI group that have helped improve outcomes for abused and neglected children.

### Case Closing Results



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

### 2010 Court Petition's filed in the Abuse/Neglect Unit

Abuse & Neglect	506 children
Termination of Parental Rights	191 children
Adoption (foster care, private, step-parent & adult)	186 children



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



[www.circleofhope-mo.org](http://www.circleofhope-mo.org)



**Road to Reunification**

Road to Reunification (R2R) was developed in 2007 by a collaboration of family support team representatives. R2R is court ordered and offered monthly to all parents with children placed in custody. The course teachers explain the court process, the team meeting process, the roles and responsibilities of team members, treatment plans and parent-child visitation and interactions.

This course is taught by abuse and neglect deputy juvenile officers. In 2010 an average of 8-10 parents attended each month. Attendees are given a copy of the information provided during the course to keep for their records and awarded a certificate of completion.

***-Parent responses to what they found helpful in Road to Reunification.....***

***"A better understanding of the Reunification process."***

***"That the Court does want to reunite my family!***

***I believe that now (I didn't before)."***

***"How there are so many people out there to help you."***



*Drawing by Youth*



*Drawing by Youth*

**Kids In Court**

Kids In Court (KIC) was developed by juvenile officers, case workers, attorneys and CASA. The goal is to increase the number of older youth (12 & older) who attend their abuse & neglect hearings and give them an active voice in the court process and the decisions made that impact them. In 2010, the Court saw 43% of older youth in attendance of their court hearing.

***-Older youth responses as why they need to be at court hearings.....***

***"So I can hear things for myself and not from others."***

***"I got to tell the Judge and others what I needed to say  
and voice the importance of my message."***

***"Because the decisions made in Court affect my life."***

**Path to Permanency**

Path to Permanency (P2P) was developed in 2010 to provide older youth (12 & older) with a working knowledge of the court process and the roles and responsibilities of each team member. An emphasis was made to inform the older youth that they have a voice in the court process. Also developed were emergency packets for older youth at the time of removal that includes information they can use to help them navigate the first few weeks of being in foster care.

**Adoptions**

Adoptions are an exciting event for the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions. In 2010, 183 adoption hearings were held which provided 221 children with a family. Adoptions are held for foster children, children being adopted by a step-parent, children from foreign countries, children referred by private agencies, children being adopted by a relative and for adults.

The age range was from newborns to 52 years. The largest sibling group adopted was five children. Adoptions are celebrations for families. Photos are taken to memorialize the joyous event. The office also performs parent

searches for adults who were adopted. When a biological parent is found and consents to personal information being disclosed the stories of reunification can be amazing.

In 2010 a father found his son on Facebook and connected the son with his mother; a nurse was reunified with her son after she submitted a detailed account of her life to be placed in the file just in case her son ever requested to find her; an adoptive father and biological father were able to spend time discussing their son and what an amazing person he became.

***In 2010 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Adoption event was held. The celebration had snacks, balloons, Louie from Springfield Cardinals and the Ted E. Bear factory who presented the adopted children with a commemorative adoption day stuffed animal.***

*Lens of Trauma Training was provided through collaboration of the 31<sup>st</sup> Circuit Fostering Court Improvement Project, the Child Advocacy Center, Inc. and Circle of Hope and funded by the Office of State Courts Administrator. The free training was available for all professionals of the child welfare community. It covered the issues of trauma and children in foster care. Children in foster care often experience trauma because of abuse and neglect, as well as the trauma of leaving parents and living in a new environment. The training goals included educating professionals in the child welfare arena about the impact and prevalence of trauma, instructions on how to appropriately respond to victims without re-traumatizing them, and connecting the victims to appropriate services. The training was facilitated by Dr. Jerry Dunn, executive director of the Children's Advocacy Center of St. Louis, a licensed psychologist, and associate clinical professor at University of Missouri- St. Louis. There were 104 attendees for the training. Course evaluations reflected that 98% thought the training was what they expected; 92% thought the helpful and 99% thought the time. Content and delivery scale of 1-10.*

***-Evaluation comments.....  
Much needed in our community.  
Would recommend to friends.  
Interesting and Educational***

*course materials were training was worth their averaged a score of 9 on a*

## Detention Unit

In 2010, the detention center provided for the physical, emotional, spiritual, educational, and social needs of 196 juveniles securely detained awaiting further disposition by the juvenile court. Of these, 22% were admitted more than once in 2010 resulting in 277 total admissions, 11% lower than last year's admissions of 310.

Lowered admissions are a trend that has continued over the last four years because of the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI), which started in April, 2006. The JDAI focus is to objectively determine which youth require secure detention and which can be safely released into community alternatives, thereby lowering the numbers securely held.

### **Juvenile Detention *Alternatives Initiative***

*Reducing the unnecessary confinement of youth in our country*

	Pre-JDAI	April '06- March '07	April '07- March '08	April '08 - March '09	April '09 - March 2010
Total Admissions	441	330	253	308	279
Average Daily Population	18	11	11	9	9
Average length of Stay in days	Not available	17	16	12	12

The Greene County Juvenile Detention Center was built in 1991 to house up to 24 juveniles. In 2010 the Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA), a residential program operated by the juvenile office, moved into the same space occupied by detention, which reduced detention to 16 juveniles. While this is not an ideal solution to meeting the location need for GCYA, it kept GCYA operational and was possible because detention admissions were down.

The average length of stay for detained youth in 2010 was 12 days. This length of stay has remained at this level for several years and represents an average of juveniles whose detention stays ranged from one day or less to 30 days or more.

The average daily population was eight, 6 boys and 2 girls. Further, on average the daily population is six Caucasians and two minorities, primarily African-American. Just as the total admissions have steadily declined since the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) was initiated, so has the average daily population.

Security is necessary for the safety of detention staff and youth. In 2010 the security system was significantly improved thanks to a federal grant from the Bureau of Justice which supported the Greene County Juvenile Office's Comprehensive Adolescent Treatment Services (CATS) program.

When the CATS funding period ended in August, 2010 the remaining monies were applied towards improved surveillance cameras, a video recording system, larger monitors, and an electronic "pipe" which records when room checks are done and by whom.

These improvements enhanced policies and procedures already in place, providing better safety for the high risk population. The risk is high because 52% of the 115 juveniles tested in 2010 were positive for an illegal substance upon admission. The risk is also high because of juveniles with mental health problems and untreated medical conditions.

## CHAPTER ONE - UNIT REPORTS

In Greene County, detention is a process linked to the juvenile justice system rather than merely a place to warehouse youth. Detention staff use cognitive behavior treatment to manage the youths behavior in detention.

The most significant juvenile detention program in 2010 continues to be academic education. Springfield Public School has a classroom in secure detention that enrolled 165 for the 2009-2010 school year. Of those enrolled, 140 were academically tested.

The results show that 81% performed

below grade level in reading and 93% performed below grade level in math. Students who remained in the program for 30 days were reassessed and 74% of these students showed improvement of at least one full grade level in reading and 64% showed improvement of at least one full grade level in math.



Detention Classroom

Other detention programs offered in 2010 included:

- Drug and alcohol treatment/education groups that met twice a week provided by the Reclaiming Futures grant
- Art counseling group once a week provided by the Reclaiming Futures grant
- Pet therapy
- Science enrichment
- Health class
- Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) presentations
- Crossroads – a voluntary Christian service

Detention programming and services for 2010 were provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by 19 professional staff. They conducted intakes and releases; supervised and transported youth; responded to medical, behavioral, and environmental emergencies; participated in 359 after-hours Orders of Protection for the Circuit Clerk; and conducted all Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions after-hours business.

The Greene County Juvenile Detention Center operation budget for 2010 was \$715,513.15 with one full time position unfunded and unfilled. Detention revenue for 2010, from services and subsidies, amounted to \$72,158.76. Though allowable by Missouri Statute, Greene County continued in 2010 to not charge families whose children were securely held.



Freedom: Something to Fight For  
...a poem by a detained youth

Not being a slave of someone,  
Not having soldiers come into your house without permission,  
That women can have jobs same as men,  
Blacks and whites can vote,  
Blacks and whites can go to the same school and not be separated,  
People can protect themselves from harm,  
That we the people should never ever give up  
because if we did there would be no Freedom.



Drawing by Youth

## Domestic Relations Unit

In 2010 the domestic relations unit continued to serve families with cases pending in family court, including dissolution of marriage, paternity actions, motions to modify previous dissolution or paternity cases, and family access motions. All five domestic relations officers (DROs) have master's degrees in a behavioral science, and four are licensed mental health professionals. DR Officers are located in the 31<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit Courthouse.

### **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Class**

Greene County Local Rule 2.3D mandates that all persons in contested family law disputes attend the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) class and participate in mediation. The ADR class provides detailed information regarding the family court system as well as information about litigation alternatives. The benefits of the mediation process are emphasized in the class, which is free. Two domestic relations officers teach and maintain the schedule and attendance records for the classes. *714 litigants attended the ADR Class (approximately 60 per month) in 2010.*

#### **Comments from the ADR class...**

*"The presentation helped to show how much simpler mediation can make the process, how much money can be saved, and how much mediation can help the family system."*

*"It was reassuring that the family court system appears to advocate for all people involved."*

*"The information was tremendously helpful"*

### **Caseflow Management**

Every petition filed in family court is assigned to one of four Family Court divisions and tracked by the domestic relations unit to ensure continuous movement in all cases. *In 2010, approximately 2456 petitions were filed in family court and each Officer tracked approximately 500 cases for each of the four family court commissioners.*

### **Case Management Hearings**

Every contested case involving children is scheduled for a case management hearing typically 2-4 months after the initial petition is filed. Domestic relations officers conduct conferences with attorneys and/or pro se parties immediately prior to the scheduled court hearings. *Domestic Relations Officers conducted 458 case management conferences in 2010.*



*Domestic Relations Officers,*

*Mary Helen Snider,  
Karen Lehmann,  
Becky Clifton*

### **Common Ground**

The Common Ground Supervised Access Program is a project of the Greene County Family Court. Families may be referred to Common Ground if they experience intense conflict as a result of allegations of child abuse, child neglect, domestic violence, drug use, or criminal activity. Common Ground visits can also provide an opportunity for a child to be introduced or re-introduced to their non-residential parent before moving to unsupervised contact. The program meets all of the national standards for a supervised access program provided by the Supervised Visitation Network. Two domestic relations officers coordinated Common Ground in 2010 offering contact for families in a safe environment which otherwise might not have occurred at all. *58 families and 89 children participated in 547 supervised visits at Common Ground in 2010.*



*DRO Michael Metz  
and Common Ground  
monitor Ginny Lowe*

*In February 2010 The Domestic Relations Unit applied for a Domestic Relations "Programs for Parents and Children" grant from the Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA) requesting funds for two programs: Educational and Security Enhancements to the Common Ground Supervised Access Visitation Program, and a Pro Se Litigant Awareness Class. Funds were awarded for both of these proposals totaling \$15,448.00.*

### **Mediation**

All domestic relations officers have taken the 40-hour Civil and Family Mediation Training necessary to mediate in family court cases. They meet all educational and experience requirements necessary to be on the court-approved mediator lists. DROs continue to mediate family court cases by court order when the parties have a combined income of less than \$40,000. *DR Officers mediated 46 Family Court cases in 2010.*

### **Investigations**

Domestic relations officers conduct investigations when ordered by the court in cases where there is a high-conflict custody dispute between the parties. Investigations may include interviews with both parties; home visits with each; background checks of both parties and other relevant individuals, (i.e. checks of court dockets, police and sheriff's department records, Missouri Children's Division, Greene County Juvenile Office). They also collect medical and mental health records,

probation and parole records, education and child support records are also compiled. Additionally, DROs provide record checks to the probate court when petitions for guardianship and/or conservatorship are filed. *In 2010, 90 investigations were conducted for Family Court and 54 record checks were completed for Probate Court.*

### **Therapeutic Intervention**

The DROs who are licensed mental health professionals can provide brief therapeutic interventions if ordered by the court. These interventions often take place with Common Ground, but can also take place at the courthouse. Common issues addressed in therapeutic interventions are introduction or reintroduction to a parent, assessment of parental alienation, co-parental counseling and parent-child counseling. *In 2010, DR Officers provided free therapeutic intervention for 14 families.*

*In August 2010, Chief Domestic Relations Officer Dawn Imler was a co-presenter at the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts Annual Conference in Denver, CO, along with Charlene Berquist, Ph.D, Isabelle Baumann, Ph.D, and James Meyer, Ph.D, of the Missouri State University Center for Dispute Resolution (CDR). They spoke on the collaboration between Common Ground and CDR which offered a co-parenting class for high-conflict families.*



*DRO, Mary Helen  
Snider and Chief  
Domestic Relations  
Officer, Dawn Imler*

*In 2010, the Domestic Relations Unit began a community collaborative with Greene County Children's Division, Harmony House and Legal Services of Southern Missouri called Safe Havens. Safe Havens supports survivors of family violence, including domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and child abuse, by providing supervised visitation and safe exchange of children.*

## Evening Reporting Center

The mission of the Greene County Juvenile Evening Reporting Center (ERC) is to provide intensive supervision for at-risk juveniles who would otherwise qualify for secure detention. In 2010, the total number of youth provided this opportunity was 67, several percent less than last year.

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 2010 was 15.7 days. 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 services provided by community volunteers, grant funding, and juvenile office staff in the

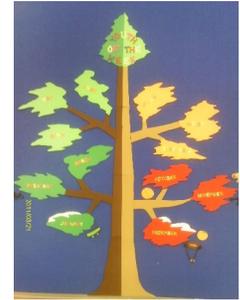
following areas: anger management, substance abuse education, coping skills, moral decision making, goal setting, Restorative Justice, yoga, academic enrichment, Gender Responsive Group, and expressive arts.

The program, designed to influence the youth in a positive way, provides them an opportunity to make changes in their behavior to prove to the court that they can be successful in the community and not commit a law violation. The success rate in 2010 was 70%. While 30% of the youth referred to the program did not complete program requirements and were unsuccessfully released, only one youth was terminated from the program for a new law violation.



Four square activity

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 between the ages of 12 and 16 and have a delinquency petition filed in their interest. In 2010, 75% of the youth were 15 or 16 years of age. In 2010, 85% of the youth were males compared to 77% in 2009.



Youth of the Week

In 2010, 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 GIFTS program provided students with pre-and post-tests to determine academic improvement.



Tom Gist, GIFTS

In 2010, GIFTS tests indicated students doubled their comprehension of literature terminology and tripled their comprehension of math concepts. Reclaiming Futures funded a substance abuse education group. The Division of Youth Services (DYS) provided two part-time and one full-time staff positions to oversee the daily programming and supervise youth through the DHS Juvenile Diversionary grant to prevent youth from being committed to the Division of Youth Services.

## Greene County Youth Academy

The Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA) is completely funded by the Missouri Division of Youth Services (DYS) juvenile court diversionary grant (JCD) and is designed to prevent youth from being committed to DYS custody. During the 2009-2010 grant period, the Greene County Youth Academy, a residential treatment program for moderate risk male offenders ordered by the juvenile court into the



*Greene County Youth Academy and Excel Staff*

program, diverted 71% of the boys served from DYS custody. In 2010, GCYA provided a minimum of 13 weeks of non-secure residential placement for 21 juveniles deemed by the court to be in need of out-of-home placement.

During this same period, 11 youth ineligible to attend public school were educated through day treatment at the academy. Licensed therapists were assigned to the youth to provide weekly individual and family therapy. In addition, transitional services were provided, which included: re-admission to public school, home and school visits by a program tracker and random drug analysis. Further, youth continued to participate in some program activities.

Until June 2010, GCYA was located at 924 North Main. Unable to meet the increase in rent there, the residential component of the program

moved to a dedicated area of the juvenile detention center. While not an ideal setting for a non-secure program, the two populations are strictly separated. GCYA continues off-site activities. A most



*Excel School Building*

appreciated offer by the Division of Youth Services, a valued partner, for use of a semi-vacant classroom at their Excel School allowed the quality of educational services for GCYA youth to continue. The day treatment boys catch the GCYA van at the juvenile office each morning and ride to school with the residential boys.

GCYA youth gave back to their community in a variety of ways in 2010. Community service activities included: picking up trash on the GCYA "Adopt A Street," "Adopt A Stream," and in the city parks; working with Habitat for Humanity; Kids Against Hunger; Council for the Blind and local thrift stores. Other pro-social community activities included; A Sporting Chance League, Boy Scouts, and Crossroads, a voluntary Christian service.



*Community Service*

GCYA uses a treatment team approach to facilitate the personal growth of each resident. Each treatment team, at minimum, is comprised of the youth, parent, therapist, Family Centered Services worker, probation officer, and key GCYA staff. Team meetings are held every 3 weeks with each resident. In 2010, the program held 69 treatment team meetings. GCYA uses a cognitive behavior treatment approach to behavior intervention along with a level system and program performance ratings that determine the length and type of services. Other programs offered in 2010 included; drug education, group therapy, leadership training, cultural awareness, conflict resolution and victim awareness.

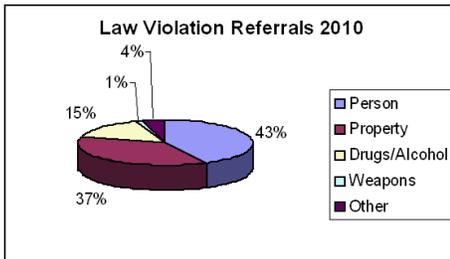
In April 2010, GCYA launched a FACEBOOK page and reached 107 subscribers by the end of the year. This informative social/community contact can be accessed at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Greene-County-Youth-Academy>

To subscribe, just click the "like" button at the top of the page.

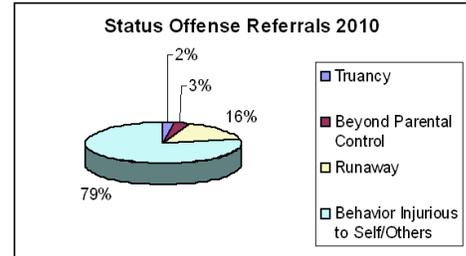


## Law/Status Violation Unit



The Law/Status Violation Unit received 2039 juvenile delinquency referrals and 574 non-criminal juvenile status offense referrals in 2010. The largest percentage of referrals came from city police departments in Springfield, Republic and Willard. Combined, they sent more than 800 delinquency and status offenses to the Greene County Juvenile Office. School police departments made up the

second largest number of referrals with 703 reports. The Greene County Sheriff's department sent 164 delinquency and/or status offense cases. The Greene County Children's Division referred 114 delinquency/status offenses. In 2010, at least 77 juvenile complaints came from parents seeking intervention for their children.



### Investigations

Deputy juvenile officers (DJOs) within the Law/Status Violation Unit responded to the above referrals by assisting law enforcement or independently conducting follow-up investigations 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, when a youth is reported as a sexual offense victim, that child is referred to the Child Advocacy Center for follow-up interview and services. During 2010, 132 such victims were referred to the Child Advocacy Center.

### Screening & Assessment

The Law/Status Violation Unit administered 450 mental health/substance abuse screenings for youth referred to the Greene County Juvenile Office during 2010. 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, DJO's used two validated objective screening tools in 2010, the Missouri Juvenile Offender Risk and Needs Assessment and the Missouri Juvenile Detention Assessment. These tools help determine proper levels of detention, detention alternatives and supervision/intervention plans for youth referred to the juvenile office.

### Case Disposition

Deputy juvenile officers prepared and disposed of more than 1100 cases through an informal adjustment process. Of those, 430 were referred for follow-up probation supervision including 115 that were referred to the Greene County Teen Court Program. During 2010, 64 youth were referred to the Victim Offender Mediation program and 53 youth to the Victim Impact Panel.

149 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.

## Legal Unit



Courtroom for Greene County Family Court: Juvenile Division

In 2010 the legal unit consisted of two staff attorneys and a victim/witness coordinator. The legal unit provided representation, both in and out of court, to the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions and each deputy juvenile officer in all of their hearings. As well, the unit kept the office informed of current and proposed legislation and new appellate court decisions to ensure that practices in place at the office were current, relevant and legally accurate.

### In the Courtroom

In 2010 there were 506 abuse and neglect petitions filed, 194 petitions for termination of parental rights, 149 delinquency petitions and 58 motions to modify filed in probation cases. Each case had multiple hearings.

Present at each abuse and neglect hearing in the courtroom were the juvenile office attorney, deputy juvenile officer, guardian ad litem, the parents or custodians, a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), and a children's division case worker. Each party represented a different interest and could speak to the judge during the hearing. The minor child may or may not have attended the hearing, but were represented by a guardian ad litem, a court appointed attorney who represented the child's best interests. The parents were represented. If they could not afford an attorney, the court appointed one for them at no cost to them. In 2010 there were more than 35 private attorneys in Greene County and four attorneys from the Legal Services of Southern Missouri, who worked at a reduced rate, and were available to be appointed as a parent's attorney or as a guardian ad litem.

Parties present in the courtroom in delinquency cases were the juvenile office attorney, the deputy juvenile officer, the probation officer, the parents or custodians, the juvenile and the juvenile's attorney. Juveniles had the right to be represented and to have their parents present. Juveniles unable to afford an attorney were appointed a public defender to represent them. The juvenile's parents were not provided attorneys, but could hire one.

In abuse and neglect cases as well as juvenile delinquency cases, the goal of the case differs from a civil trial or an adult criminal

proceeding. The purpose of the Juvenile Court is not to get a money judgment or to punish people for criminal acts, but rather to insure the safety of the community and provide prevention, intervention, and protective services to children and families.

### Outside the Courtroom

Juvenile staff attorneys were responsible for preparing all pleadings associated with the cases as well as all of the appeals that stemmed from those cases. There were 31 cases appealed from decisions in the Greene County Juvenile Court in 2010.

A final duty of the juvenile staff attorneys was to provide legal advice for the Juvenile Office Staff. Since the needs of the Juvenile Office do not end at 5 p.m., a staff attorney was on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Victim Services were also offered through the Legal Unit. In 2010 every case where a victim was identified, contact was made and a victim packet was sent by the victim/witness coordinator. All victims who returned paperwork or requested information were informed of detention stays/releases, court dates, and case disposition. All victims and witnesses who attended court hearings were escorted to court and referred to appropriate agencies for support services. Both the Victim-Offender Mediation program and the Victim Impact Panels were coordinated by the victim/witness coordinator. Additionally, restitution was tracked and disseminated. In 2010, more than \$16,000 was distributed to the victims of juvenile crime in Greene County paid by juveniles supervised by the probation and law/status violation units.

## Probation Unit

In 2010 the delinquency unit referred 225 youth for law violations or status offenses to the probation department for informal probation, for supervision and services without a court order. Informal probation is designed for youth and their families who are at a lower risk for future referrals and who have committed less serious offenses. Informal probation serves as a conduit to resources in the community to provide families with information, support and services to prevent youth from future referrals. The Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions employs two informal probation officers through Division of Youth Services Diversionary grant funding. The average length of stay for youth on informal probation in 2010 was 10 months. The informal probation officers closed 266 informal cases, 69% of which were closed successfully.

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 2010, 109 youth were formally adjudicated and placed on formal probation to be supervised for an indeterminate period. The length of stay on formal probation can vary greatly, however, the average length of stay for 2010 was just over 10 months. There are three formal probation officers, one of which supervises a specialized case load of sexually harmful youth. Each officer supervises an average of 35 youth on probation at any given time and make anywhere from 2-6 contacts each month depending on the risk and needs of the youth and families. 42 youth were released from formal probation services successfully in 2010.

Last year the probation unit adjusted the classification of youth referred for formal and informal probation to better determine supervision levels for youth being supervised. It also implemented a pre- and post-survey to administer to youth and families referred for supervision. Resources, referrals, and supervision are impacted by the information the families provide in the pre-survey. The post-survey allows the family to identify areas where they continue to need support so the probation officer can help them plan for their future after release from probation.

Youth are supervised through completion of many programs and services such as: Victim Offender Mediation, Victim Impact Panels, gender responsive services, substance abuse assessment and education, counseling, summer programming, specialized services for sexually harmful youth, evening reporting center, electronic monitoring, shelter care bed, and Teen Court.



### *-Probation exit survey comments.....*

*"I have learned the meaning of respect"*

*"...extremely positive influences/role models"*

*"If you have any doubt in your mind about getting in trouble for doing something stupid it's not worth it"*

*"it's not for bad people, just people who haven't had an easy path"*

*"I think his probation officer did a great job"*

**Informed Supervision**

Sexually harmful youth make up about 1/4 of the formal probation case load. In 2010 the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions developed programs to address specific supervision needs of these youth. Several staff from the juvenile office participated in a site visit to Colorado, known for its best practices in supervising sexually harmful youth.

From this visit the Greene County Juvenile Office developed the informed supervision program. This program is designed to improve the knowledge and skills of those adults who are required to provide close community supervision of this special population of youth.

Since May, 2010, 75 participants, including parents, guardians, staff and therapist were provided with information to increase their knowledge, awareness to better supervise youth and skills to increase community safety. In 2010, there were 38 youth referred, formally and informally, to the probation unit for sexually harmful behaviors.

**Summer Program**

The probation unit, in partnership with the detention, law/status violation and support units, hosted a summer program for youth who are under the supervision of the probation unit, either formally or informally. During this last summer there were 40 youth referred to the summer program.



Dickerson Park Zoo

Through community partnerships with the Dickerson Park Zoo, the Springfield Nature Center, Central Assembly of God Church, Springfield Public Schools and others, the Greene

County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions provided, with a modest budget, the opportunity for youth to engage in the community with strong adult influences that model pro-social behaviors.

For four afternoons a week, youth came to the Juvenile Office to spend time with probation officers and others performing community service and activities as a way to develop positive relationships within the community.

***Informed Supervision exit survey comments .....***

***"This class really made me understand the importance of the safety of children by allowing appropriate supervision..."***

***"It was great and I learned a lot. Thanks for the help!"***

***"The most helpful part of this class was the explanation of new terms and phrases of this journey to my child's recovery"***



**Greene County Teen Court**



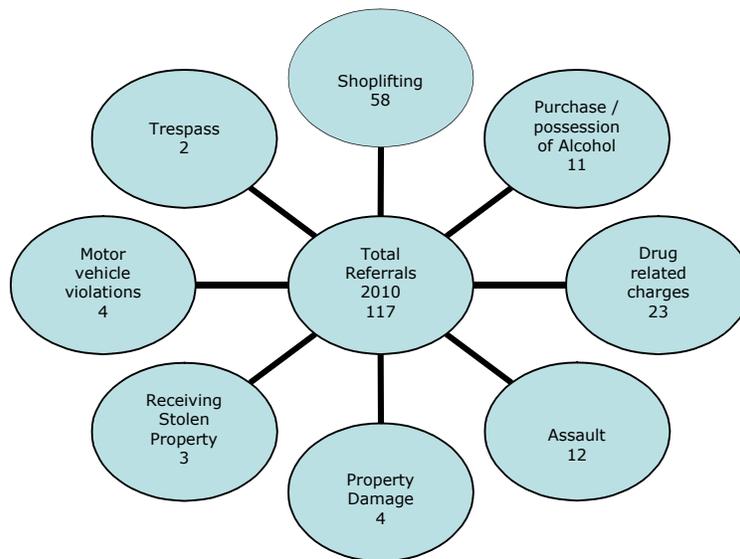
Greene County Teen Court is an informal alternative sentencing program for youth referred to the juvenile office. Once a week, Teen Court hearings are held at the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions.

In Teen Court, juveniles between 12 and 16 who have committed a misdemeanor offense are given the chance to go before a jury of their peers. Here, they accept a constructive and meaningful disposition

determined by that jury rather than have one determined by a Deputy Juvenile Officer or the Juvenile Court Judge.

Each defendant must accept responsibility for his/her actions to participate in Teen Court since juries do not decide innocence or guilt. The juries only job is to determine the appropriate sentence.

In Teen Court, the jury, bailiff, court clerk and attorneys are all juveniles. Greene County Appellate, Circuit and Municipal Court Judges volunteer time to preside over teen court.



Once sentenced these youth are expected to volunteer time both in the Teen Court process as jurors and in the community with service hours. During the year 258 community projects and 396 jury duties were assigned to youth participating in Teen Court.

Additionally, youth from Greene County high schools, adult volunteers and Greene County Judges volunteer in this process. Over 780 adult and youth volunteer hours were logged in the operation of Teen Court.

Seventy-five percent (75%) of teen court participants completed the program in 2010 providing those families and youth resources to aid in their self improvement.

Over a four year review of youth participating in Teen Court, only 9% of youth having participated were re-referred to the Juvenile Office for another offense.



**Community Awareness Fair**

On June 5, 2010 the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions hosted the Fourth Annual Community Awareness Fair (CAF) at Jordan Valley Park. The main purpose of the Community Awareness Fair is to inform the public of available community resources. Agencies from all around the community are invited to come and set up a booth at the event, which is funded by Reclaiming Futures. Free food and entertainment is provided. Local musicians, such as John Long and Queen City Hustle, provided entertainment for the event.

The Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions has partnered with as many as 40 agencies for the Community Awareness Fair. Vendors that have participated in the event include Big Brothers Big Sisters, Family Violence Center, Isabel’s House, and Rare Breed Youth Outreach. Volunteers for the CAF include employees from the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions and youth from the Greene County Youth Academy, Drug Court, Teen Court, and the Evening Reporting Center. About 400 people attended the event.



Community Awareness Fair



**Disproportionate Minority Contact Committee**

The Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Committee is an effort of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) to reduce racial disparities at the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions. The Greene County Juvenile Office DMC committee addresses treatment of minorities not only by race, but also gender and ethnicity.

In 2010, DMC’s main focus was to better collect and analyze data. Each month the DMC committee looked at quarterly statistics to determine if disparities existed, then analyzed detailed data to further identify possible causes and ways to improve.



In addition, the committee facilitated four Lunch Time Learning Series presentations on diversity topics. These presentations were open to Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions staff and community members. They addressed issues such as stereotyping, drug culture, racial privilege, and school culture. Members of the local community presented on each of the topics. The Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions provided a “Safe Zone” two to three days later; this is a safe environment for staff to process the topic discussed in the recent presentation.

The training series brought Juvenile Office staff and community members together on minority issues, as well as issues staff face professionally and personally. The participating community agencies included several universities, other child serving organizations, and several non-profit agencies. The presentations have been helpful in opening up communication on issues of diversity at Greene County, so the information was shared with other state juvenile offices at a JDAI model site visit in June 2010.

**Gender Responsive Services**

In 2010 Gender Responsive Services (GRS) gained new momentum. Why? Females are a constant presence in the juvenile system, but few programs are geared specifically to address their needs. Greene County has been changing for several years. In 2007, Inside Out, a girl's discussion group, was founded. This program allowed girls to gather under the guidance of a trained female officer to talk about issues such as body image, self-esteem and substance abuse. The program remained much the same, until in 2010 when new services and cooperation's were formed.

In 2010 Greene County was able to send juvenile staff to a Girl Matters training which focused on the specific needs of girls and how to address them. That conference also allowed for an ongoing relationship between Greene County and Dr. Lawanda Raviora, a national expert and leader on matters relating to girls in the justice system. Dr. Raviora guided Greene County by speaking with staff, reviewing statistics and trends, as well as revising policies and procedures. Additionally, Dr. Raviora worked with Greene County officers in order to make conditions of probation more gender responsive. With her help, Greene County was able to better serve the female population.

Additional partnerships for the Juvenile Office that began in 2010 were with the Center for Dispute Resolution (CDR) and

EPIC House. The collaboration with CDR allowed for the creation of a *Girl's Circle*, which is a research based program with national recognition, within the community as a referral



[www.girlscircle.com](http://www.girlscircle.com)

source. CDR also provides family therapy to all of the girls and their families in their program. The partnership with EPIC House provided a gender responsive substance abuse program. EPIC House utilizes *Voices*, a program designed to help girls find themselves.

In addition, Greene County was able to dedicate facilities toward the creation of a Girl's room. This room is used to house the Inside Out sessions in a girl-friendly environment. Additionally, this room doubles as the Girl's Library. Every book in the Girl's Library was purchased through Reclaiming Futures funds. The library consists of over 45 pieces specifically geared toward empowering girls. All of these books are readily available to any girl receiving services from the Juvenile Office.

2010 was a year of growth for the GRS initiative. That vision continues into the new year. As the number of girls entering the Juvenile System across the U.S. continues to grow, it is the hope of Greene County that each program and service provided can help change that trend.



Girl's Room



Girl's Room

**JDAI Model Site Visit**

In June, 2010, the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions hosted 18 juvenile justice professionals from across the state for a site visit to expand Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) in Missouri.



JDAI site visit presentation

JDAI is an initiative supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation that focuses on eight different strategies. They include: measuring the risk of a youth before deciding whether to place the youth in secure detention; ensuring that alternatives to secure detention are in place; collecting and reviewing data to enhance policies and decision making; expedite case processing; monitoring disproportionate minority contact; and monitoring the youth's confinement conditions.

Greene County became a JDAI site in April 2006 and has shortened the length of time youth are in secure detention, reduced the average daily population in secure detention and expanded alternatives to secure detention. Because of the successes of this initiative, Greene County has been chosen to provide training and consultation to replication sites across the state of Missouri.



Annie E. Casey Foundation  
www.aecf.org

JDAI Help Desk  
www.jdaihelpdesk.org

**Interns**

The Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions believes that interns are an essential part in the effective implementation of programs and services. Over the course of 2010, the Juvenile Office has hosted 15 interns who are students from surrounding colleges earning college credits for their work. The interns came from Missouri State University, Drury University, Evangel University, St. Johns' School of Nursing and Vatterott College. They attend orientations and receive consultation from staff. Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions encourages each intern to rotate to different units to experience what all staff within the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions do.

Each intern is assigned to a primary reporting unit where they will spend the most time, while rotating through the different units. The units that interns often work with include Child Abuse/Neglect, Probation, Evening Reporting Center, Detention, Law/Status Violation and Domestic Relations. Interns typically shadow staff and learn from hands-on experience. One intern said about the staff, "They have knowledge as well as work ethic and it challenges me to be more like one of them." Throughout their time here, interns will have the chance to work with a wide variety of families, children, and professionals which provides them many more opportunities to learn.



Intern examines presentation materials

**Title II**

In 2010, the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions received another Title II grant which was used to increase suitable alternatives to secure detention. The Enhanced Alternatives to Detention grant, allows the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions to partner with the Great Circle organization to provide a shelter bed at Boys and Girls Town of Missouri, for youth who are low risk to re-offend yet need non secure placement because they are unable to return home. In 2010, 24 youth were placed in the shelter bed, as an alternative to secure detention, for an average of just under four days.

Additionally, Title II funds provided youth at the Evening Reporting Center weekly groups in the areas of coping with addiction, moral decision making and balanced and restorative justice. Last year 100 group meetings were provided to 52 youth participating in the Evening Reporting Center.

## Reclaiming Futures



### RECLAIMING FUTURES

Communities helping teens  
overcome drugs, alcohol and crime

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

In 2010, the Reclaiming Futures initiative continued to receive grant funding from two federal agencies: the Bureau of Justice Assistance – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Reclaiming Futures used these funds to operate the Greene County Juvenile Drug Court (JDC); improve the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions alcohol and drug screening standards; provide drug testing for juveniles; expand the options for informal and formal probation treatment planning; provide counseling and substance abuse groups for youth in detention; expand the options for evidence based substance abuse treatment for all youth within the community; plan and implement substance abuse treatment services for girls; and develop resources and activities for youth to become involved in as an alternative to using drugs.

### During 2010, the following was accomplished:

1. Four independent contract providers from the local community were trained to administer the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN), a standardized clinical assessment for diagnosis, placement, and substance abuse treatment planning for youth. Prior to, there was only one agency qualified to do these assessments.
2. Twelve counselors from the local community attended training and continue to work toward certification in Motivational Enhancement Therapy - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy 5, a manualized brief adolescent substance abuse treatment program. It consists of two individual Motivational Enhancement sessions and three Cognitive Behavioral group therapy sessions. The two sessions focus on building rapport and developing the client's motivation to change. The three group sessions focus on developing skills for refusal and maintaining abstinence.
3. Nearly 200 professionals and community members attended a one day presentation on the effects of substance abuse or misuse on adolescent brain development.
4. Three counselors attended national training to become certified in the Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach (A-CRA) and Assertive Continuing Care (ACC), a substance abuse treatment modality for youth endorsed by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association (SAMHSA).
5. Community Partnership of the Ozarks and Reclaiming Futures collaborated to provide Guiding Good Choices, a parenting program proven to help prevent drug and alcohol abuse in families.
6. More than 500 adults and children attended a Community Awareness Fair that was held to promote substance abuse education, treatment and prevention options and increase the community's awareness of positive social activities available to juveniles and their families.
7. Funding was provided for substance abuse treatment, education and prevention groups at the Evening Reporting Center, the Greene County Youth Academy and the detention facility; curriculum materials were also funded.
8. Financial assistance was provided to more than 60 youth who were engaged in substance abuse treatment at the Burrell Center.
9. A substance abuse treatment program to provide services for girls with substance use or substance abuse histories was developed and implemented.
10. Boxing classes, guitar lessons, orthopedic basketball shoes, club memberships, tattoo removals, and clothing have been provided to more than 20 juveniles with substance abuse histories. These "pro-social" (attachment to community) activities are recommended and endorsed by federal partners as efforts to redirect youth into more positive endeavors.

**Victim-Offender Mediation**

Beginning in 2007 and continuing throughout 2010, the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions partnered with the Center for Dispute Resolution at Missouri State University to take a Restorative Justice approach to working with juveniles and victims within the community.



Kara Fryman, Heather Blades (CDR Associate Director), and Becca Pearson

One approach, Victim-Offender Mediation (VOM), allows juveniles to meet with their victims in the presence of a trained mediator to have the opportunity to talk to each another about what happened, the effects of the crime on their lives, and their feelings about it. If the offender and victim agree on a restitution plan (for example paying the victim back for damage done, community service, etc.), the mediator will write up that agreement, and both parties will sign it.

Since this program's inception there have been 87 successful mediations with 24 of those in 2010. One hundred percent of cases mediated reached agreements. Of those, 80 percent of the juveniles have successfully completed their agreements.

Through this process victims have the opportunity to get answers to their questions about the crime and the person who committed it. Offenders learn the impact of their actions on others and take an active role in making things right. Remarkable things happen during mediations. For example, a juvenile who owed a victim a large of amount of money for property damage agreed to do community service at a charity that was meaningful to the victim rather than pay the victim money. Great outcomes have occurred when juveniles come together after personal assaults. After one mediation the juveniles shook hands, apologized, and the issue was resolved.

**Victim Impact Panels**

Not all victims choose to participate in Victim-Offender Mediation and participation is not appropriate for all juveniles. In those cases the offenders still needed to understand the victim perspective for their actions. That's why the Juvenile Office in 2009 once again partnered with the Center for Dispute Resolution to create Victim Impact Panels (VIP).

The purpose of the Victim Impact Panel is to provide a safe, appropriate environment where people who have been impacted by crime and young people who have committed offenses can talk about the impact of the crime. The panels are a meaningful way for juvenile offenders to learn how their actions affect not only their victims, but their friends, family, and community. The offenders meet with surrogate victims of similar offenses to hear that person's story of how crime impacted their life. The juveniles engage in the panel,



Doug Davis, volunteer Victim-Presenter and Drew Rogers, VIP Program Facilitator

asking prepared questions and then write an essay on their experience. One juvenile wrote, "I found the Victim Impact Panel to be very helpful and eye-opening. I believe that I have seen the other side of crime and the awful affect it has on the victims. I believe now I am more aware of how my actions affect people." This program started in May, 2009 and since then 114 juveniles have been referred to participate in a total of nine different panels.

These two Restorative Justice Programs would not be possible without the partnership with the Center for Dispute Resolution, and an outstanding set of community volunteers who are recruited continuously. In 2010, 35 adult community members volunteered for VOM and 18 for VIP.



## CHAPTER THREE - COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The mission of the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions is to provide prevention, intervention, and protective 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.

In 2010 the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions was privileged to partner with individuals, who donate their time, as well as many different community organizations that contribute to the efforts of the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions. These organizations include:

Ambassadors for Children	Heartland Hospital
Association of Women in Communication (AWC) - Springfield Chapter	IMAX Theatres
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Jordan Valley Park
Boys and Girls Club	Juvenile Fire Setter Program
Boys and Girls Town	Lakeland Hospital
Boys Scouts	Leadership Ranch
Burrell Mental Health	Lighthouse Lanes
Center for Dispute Resolution	Missouri State University
Central Assembly of God	NAACP
Child Advocacy Center	Ozark Psychological Associates
Community Foundation of the Ozarks	Programs for Youth
Community Partnership of the Ozarks	Shapes Mentoring
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	Silver Dollar City
Cox Hospital	Sporting Chance
C-Star Adolescent substance abuse treatment	Springfield Bar Association.
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – SAC grant	Springfield Fire Department
Dickerson Park Zoo	Springfield Nature Center
Division of Youth Services	Springfield Parks and Recreation
Drury University	Springfield Police Department
Duncan Brown & Associates	Springfield Public Schools
Evangel University	Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE)
EXCEL school	Swift Steps counseling services
Forest Institute of Professional Psychology	Teach to Inspire
Greene County Children’s Division	The Victim’s Center
Greene County Park Board	Tynes and Associates
Grupo Latinoamericano	Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield

## Letters of Support

### Teach to Inspire Yoga Education Center

Our affiliation with ERC was the first of Teach to Inspire's outreach programs over 2 years ago. The program working with the young people at the facility has been a growing process for all of us. Teach to Inspire is a 501(c)3 non profit Yoga Education Center. As part of our teacher training program we offer services to under served areas of the community. Our yoga work at ERC offers help with stress management and anger control.

My favorite story of working with the kids was saying the word "namaste" at the end of class explaining that this word means "the light that shines in me salutes the light that shines in you." "What light?" said one boy. I said "the light that shines in everyone." He turned to every boy in the room and said "namaste, dude!" Each boy said it to every one in turn. A very nice moment. We are proud to be a part of the ERC team.

-Beth Spindler, Executive Director Teach to Inspire Yoga Education Center, Inc.



YOGA EDUCATION CENTER, INC.

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

### The Center for Dispute Resolution

"The Center for Dispute Resolution (CDR) at Missouri State University has found partnering with the Greene County Family Court to provide services for youth and families in our community to be a positive and rewarding experience. The openness of the Court to new programming over the past several years has allowed for a collaborative partnership with the CDR that has resulted in several innovative and high-impact community programs, including a Victim-Offender Mediation and a Victim-Impact Panel program for youth, the Common Ground Co-Parenting Conflict Resolution Resources Program for high-conflict divorcing and never-married parents and their children, and the development of the Networks for Girls program (a family group conferencing and Girls Circle program).

Each of these programs, provided by the CDR in collaboration with the Family Court, offer unique benefits to our community while encouraging a valuable exchange of expertise between the University and Court and providing important learning and research opportunities for students at Missouri State University. These programs, which exemplify the public affairs mission of Missouri State University, would not be possible without the support of the Greene County Family Court and community volunteers working through The Center for Dispute Resolution."

-Dr. Charlene Berquist, Director of the Center for Dispute Resolution  
Missouri State University



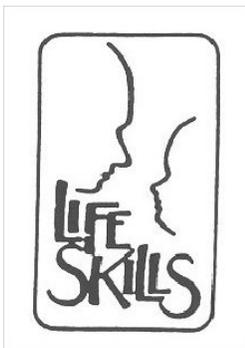
**Missouri State**

U N I V E R S I T Y

[www.missouristate.edu](http://www.missouristate.edu)

### Programs for Youth

"Founded in 2008 by a former Greene County Juvenile Probation Officer, Programs for Youth provides free services for teens in Southwest Missouri in an effort to decrease delinquency and truancy statistics. In 2010, Programs for Youth provided Life Skills Classes for 135 at-risk youth in our community. Life Skills Classes are designed to educate youth on the many topics relevant to adolescence in our society. Topics include conflict resolution, substance abuse, job readiness, internet safety and many more.



While Life Skills Classes are open to all youth in our area, the Juvenile Office is the primary referral source. Through a contract with the Probation Unit, the Juvenile Office referred 89% of the Life Skills participants last year. Programs for Youth relies on this support to maintain such programming for our local youth. In collaboration with Springfield Public Schools, the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions and other local agencies, classes will be provided throughout 2011.

Programs for Youth was also given the opportunity to work with youth participating in Teen Court. The Teen Court program provided us with youth volunteers for community service programs and fundraising throughout the year. This partnership has proven invaluable for our organization. We look forward to 2011 as we develop our new Girls Circle program in partnership with the Greene County Juvenile Office and the Center for Dispute Resolution."

-Suzanne Stracke, Executive Director  
Programs for Youth

**CONFLICT**  
Resolution



**SUBSTANCE**  
**ABUSE**



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



Future goals are consistent with the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions underlying values, beliefs, and philosophy. Because values, beliefs, and philosophy are not enough, the goals are tied to corresponding practices and policy action steps. The following is a presentation of the future, of what will happen at the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions in 2011.

### Goal One

Continue proven, effective programs and research additional best practices to meet identified needs.

- evaluate Juvenile Court Diversion funds utilization and modify funded programs as necessary to meet identified needs and increase community based services
- evaluate current case management practices for sexually harmful youth and research best practices for managing this population
- review client exit surveys for informed supervision, probation, alternative dispute resolution and common ground to improve program delivery
- refocus detention programming to improve resident understanding of the behavior management process and better prepare residents for re-entry
- update the policies and procedures for detention, the Greene County Youth Academy, and the Evening Reporting Center

### Goal Two

Identify and increase community resources

- develop a resource guide to assist juvenile staff with connecting families to services
- expand treatment providers for the juvenile sexual impact program and coordinate service delivery
- develop a community collaborative to address the need for more supervised visitation and exchange services for survivors of domestic violence
- increase gender responsive services to include a substance abuse treatment option at Epic House and Networks For Girls with the Missouri State Center for Dispute Resolution

### Goal Three

Reduce paper use

- eliminate unnecessary printing and print on the both sides of the paper
- increase utilization of the electronic data base verses paper files
- place codes on the printers to evaluate printer usage
- increase recycling efforts

## Goal Four

Continue the development and training of staff to ensure services and practices are highest quality and legally accurate

- continue to host intra-office and community centered training including; the disproportionate minority contact lunch time learning series, crossover training, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative intra-state site visit and fostering court improvement training to improve local collaboration related to the issue of child abuse and neglect
- participate in classroom training, on-line training and webinars offered by the Office of State Court Administrator, Reclaiming Futures, National Drug Endangered Children and the Missouri Division of Youth Services
- attend conferences and seminars offered by the Missouri Juvenile Justice Association, the Missouri Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, Children's Division and others
- train juvenile office staff as trainers for Crisis Prevention Intervention and first aid Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

## Goal Five

Increase public awareness

- host the Community Awareness Fair on June 11<sup>th</sup> showcasing local resources for youth and families
- provide informative presentations as requested in the community or at the juvenile justice center, be available as a resource for local media to answer questions and provide information
- present at the Springfield Police Department's academy for new officers
- enhance the level of information provided on the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions website, [www.greenecountymo.org/juvenile](http://www.greenecountymo.org/juvenile)
- participate in research by Missouri State University professors, and others who are seeking to measure program effectiveness and identify gaps/needs
- produce a 2011 annual report

Vision for 2011

### Appendix A:

A spreadsheet of grants awarded the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions, the dollar amounts of those grants and a brief description of how those grants were utilized with page numbers that reference where more information is available in the body of the annual report. The spreadsheet also includes other sources of revenue collected by the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions. The spreadsheet concludes with a total grant and revenue awarded amount of \$2,252,322.57 with the total utilized in 2010 being \$844,536.22.

GRANT	TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT	2010 UTILIZED AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT	GRANT AND REIMBURSEMENT UTILIZATION
Annie E. Casey Foundation	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	Probation	Supports Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI). Page 16 & 21
Comprehensive Adolescent Treatment Services (CATS)	\$249,999.00	\$20,668.47	Law/Status, Probation & Secure Detention	Supported nonviolent youth impacted by mental health and/or substance abuse issues through screening, collaboration and appropriate treatment and services. *multi-year grant*
Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management (CASOM)	\$49,979.00	\$6,684.07	Law/Status & Probation	Funded Probation Tracker position and supports Juvenile Sexual Impact Program (JSIP) and the Informed Supervision class. *multi-year grant*
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education - Getting Involved for Today's Students (GIFTS)	\$19,610.00	\$19,610.00	Probation	Supports educational programming for the Evening Reporting Center (ERC). Page 12
Division of Youth Services (DYS) Juvenile Court Diversion Funds (JCD)	\$379,367.37	\$379,367.37	Evening Reporting Center, Probation, Youth Academy	Supports the Greene County Youth Academy, Informal Probation Officers and Evening Reporting Center (ERC) Youth Specialists. Page 27
Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)	\$65,155.07	\$34,240.18	Law/Status	Funds a Law/Status position for first time offender referrals. *multi-year grant*
Office of States Courts Administrator (OSCA)	\$9,000.00	\$6,000.00	Abuse/Neglect	Provides support funding for Fostering Court Improvement (FCI). Page 11 *multi-year grant*
Office of States Courts Administrator (OSCA)	\$10,950.00	\$7,000.00	Domestic Relations	Provides contract services for Common Ground *multi-year grant* Page 11
Office of States Courts Administrator (OSCA)	\$1,998.00	\$0.00	Domestic Relations	Provides training for Common Ground Staff. *multi-year grant* Page 11
Office of States Courts Administrator (OSCA)	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	Domestic Relations	Provided for development and presentation of Pro Se Litigation Awareness class. *multi-year grant* Page 11
Reclaiming Futures	\$1,300,000.00	\$250,000.00	Law/Status, Probation & Residential Services	Supports services and treatment for youth involved with drugs and/or alcohol. *multi-year grant* Page 2, 3, 9, 19, 20, 22 and 28
Title II	\$80,270.00	\$37,472.00	Law/Status & Probation	Supports Evening Reporting Center (ERC) and the Shelter Care Bed with Great Circle. Page 12 and 21
<b>Total Grant Amounts</b>	<b>\$2,171,328.44</b>	<b>\$763,542.09</b>		

OTHER REVENUE	2010 AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT	UTILIZED FOR
Department of Health and Senior Services	\$1,177.79	Evening Reporting Center	An after school food subsidy program (reimbursing \$2.72 per meal) for the youth participating in the Evening Reporting Center.
Division of Youth Services (DYS)	\$11,076.00	Secure Detention	To securely hold youth in their custody, the Missouri Division of Youth Services pays \$52.00 per day as arranged by written contract.
Out of Circuit & Drug Court Reimbursement	\$3,150.00	Secure Detention	To securely hold youth needing detention Juvenile Courts in the State of Missouri that do not have their own detention centers reimburse the County \$75.00 per day as arranged by contract.
Per Diem State Reimbursement	\$44,240.00	Secure Detention	To defray costs of secure detention the State of Missouri reimburses the County \$14.00 per day per detained youth.
USDA Subsidy	\$21,350.34	Secure Detention & Youth Academy	A school subsidy (reimbursing \$5.240 per day for meals and snacks) for youth in residential programs.
<b>Total Revenue Amounts</b>	<b>\$80,994.13</b>		
<b>Total Grant &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,252,322.57</b>		
	<b>\$80,994.13</b>		
	<b>\$844,536.22</b>		

Appendix B:

A glossary of terms commonly used by the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile and Domestic Relations Divisions in the course of business.

## 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 who 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 plead 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 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.



Juvenile Center	
Home	
Abuse/Neglect	
Delinquency	
Detention	
Domestic Relations	
Employment	
Evening Reporting Center	
F.A.Q.	
Glossary	
Greene County Youth Academy	
Internship Opportunities	
Juvenile Detention	
Alternatives Initiative - JDAI	
Legal	
Probation	
Specialized Courts	
Staff	
Victim/Witness Services	

## Greene County Juvenile Office



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