

Greene County Family Court: Juvenile & Domestic Relations Division



2015 Annual Report to the Community

MISSION

The purpose of the Greene County Juvenile Court 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.



Leadership Team pictured from left to right: Cassandra Marsh, Kyle O'Dell, Brad Shelton, Andy Silliman, Lisa Altis, Tracie Nicholson, Susan Cox, Michael Schofield, Bill Prince, Jamie Raab, Stephanie Baasham Karen Lehmann, Jill Randolph. Not Pictured: Allen Criger

The leadership team of the Greene County Family Court: Juvenile & Domestic Relations Division thank you for your interest in learning more about all that we do for children, families and the community. Please contact us at 417-868-4008 if there are any questions we may answer.

Chapter 1– Child Welfare

Domestic Relations Unit

Child Abuse and Neglect Unit

Crossover, Assessment, Response, & Evaluation

Page 4-8

Pages 4-5

Pages 6-7

Page 8

Chapter 2—Juvenile Justice

Law Status/Violation Unit

Detention Center

Probation

Teen Court

Greene County Youth Academy

Evening Reporting Center

Getting Involved for Today's Students

Spartans

Girls Empowering Minds & Spirits (GEMS)

Responding Appropriately to Drug & Alcohol Referrals (RADAR)

Pages 10-26

Pages 10-11

Pages 12-13

Pages 14-15

Pages 16-17

Pages 18-19

Pages 20-22

Page 22

Page 23

Pages 24-25

Page 26

Chapter 3– Court and Support

Support

Legal Unit

Grants and Revenue

Pages 27-30

Page 27

Page 28-29

Page 30

Chapter 4—Community

Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP)

Internship Opportunities

GJCO Employee Demographics

Community Partners

Glossary

ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Pages 30-41

Page 31

Pages 32-33

Page 34-35

Pages 36

Pages 37-39

Page 40

Domestic Relations

The Domestic Relations Unit (DRU) provides services for families with cases pending in Family Court (Dissolutions of Marriage, Paternity actions, Motions to Modify, & Family Access Motions). Domestic Relations Officer's (DRO's) have a Master's Degree in Psychology or Counseling and three are Licensed Professional Counselors. The DRO's are located in the Judicial Courthouse.



From Left: Karen Lehmann, Karen Hester, Michael Metz, Becky Clifton Hopkins, Chelsey Ortiz, & Karen McIlravy

Alternative Dispute Resolution Class

The Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Family Courts (ADR) class provides litigants in contested cases with detailed information about the Family Court process, the effects of litigation on minor children, and discusses the benefits of mediation.

- 754 Litigants Attended in 2015
- Average: 63 Litigants per Month

ADR Participant Comments:

- "They both did an amazing job explaining everything."
- "The whole class was great and very helpful."
- "It made me re-think my decision."
- "It's helped me open my eyes to how important it is to communicate with the other party. Always put child first in every scenario."

Case Flow Management

All petitions filed in Family Court are tracked by DRO's to ensure continuous movement towards finalizing each case via settlement or trial completion.

- 2,568 Cases Filed in 2015
- Average: 642 Cases Per Courtroom

Case Management Hearings

The goal of Case Management Hearings (CMH) is to provide stability for the minor children. DRO's facilitate conferences to assist the court in addressing temporary contact schedules, child support orders, and mediation.

- 319 CMH's in 2015
- Average: 27 CMH's Per Month

Common Ground

Common Ground Supervised Access Program (CG) provides an opportunity for children to visit their non-residential parent in a safe, secure, and monitored environment. Licensed DRO's are able to provide therapeutic services to assist the families in transitioning into a comfortable visit or to address specific issues.

- 338 Common Ground Visits in 2015
- 131 CG Therapeutic Visits in 2015
- Average: 39 Visits per Month; Serving 14 Families and 21 Children

CG Participant Comments:

- "I enjoy the warm welcome we always receive."
- "Without Common Ground I wouldn't be able to continue my relationship with my children"

Investigations

Investigations are ordered in Family Court cases that involve high-conflict custody disputes between the parents. DRO's summarize background information and provide records as requested.

- 38 Investigations Ordered in 2015
- 105 Probate record checks ordered for Guardianship petitions in 2015
- 143 Families Served

Domestic Relations

Mediation

All DRO's are Court Approved Civil and Family Mediators. DRO's may be ordered to mediate cases when the parties have a combined annual income of less than \$40,000.

- 65 Cases Mediated in 2015
- 80% Agreement Rate

Life Beyond the Courthouse – 2015

- OSCA Grant – the DRU was awarded \$1,200 in OSCA grant monies to purchase Therapeutic Materials for Common Ground.



Therapeutic Items Purchased with OSCA Grant

- Parent Education – Family Court requires litigants to attend a Parent Education Course. The DRU audited all five Parent Education Classes and provided a training to update presenters.
- Family Law Committee – the DRU gave a presentation to the Family Law Committee about services.
- Quarterly Newsletters – the DRU produced quarterly newsletters to the attorney's and community.
- Training – DRO's attended: Mental Health First Aid, Trauma Informed Care Training, the Stop the Violence Conference, NAMI MO & Allied Providers Workshop, and Child/Family Dependency Mediation Training.



- AFCC – three DRO's attended the National Association for Family and Conciliation Courts Conference in New Orleans in May: "Children in the Court System: Different Doors, Different Responses, Different Outcomes"
- MSU's Center for Dispute Resolution – DRO's volunteered as mediation coaches and provided presentations to newly trained community mediators in March and October.
- Ambassador's for Children - the DRO's volunteered with Ambassadors for Children by gift wrapping Christmas presents for children in foster care.



Gift Wrapping: Karen Hester, Chelsey Ortiz, Michael Metz, Becky Clifton Hopkins, & Karen McIlravy

Thank you to the Center for Dispute Resolution and Central Assembly for allowing the DRU to use your space for Common Ground on Tuesday and Thursday evenings!

Thank you to Burrell Behavioral Health Center for allowing the DRU to use the Children's Theater to conduct the ADR class two to three Tuesdays per month!

Child Abuse & Neglect

In 2015, the Greene County Abuse and Neglect Deputy Juvenile Officers investigated allegations of abuse and neglect regarding 370 children to determine whether they should be placed into protective custody. The Deputy Juvenile Officers provide court case management to children in foster care which includes attending court hearings and participation in team meetings.



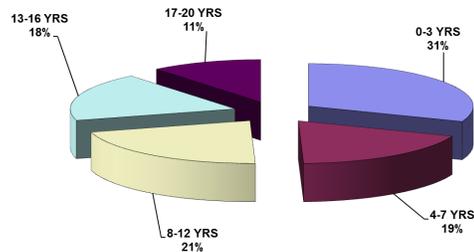
From Back Left to Right: Kevin Styles, Dawn Muir, Justin Lockhart, Chris Deck; David Dameron, Rachel Hogan, Brooke Risley, Cassandra Marsh, Kyle Collins; Lisa Altis, Shayla Lowe, Laina Webster

The Abuse/Neglect Unit investigated 192 families in 2015, and filed a petition to place children into protective custody on 166 of those families (or 85% of referrals received). Of the referrals received, 104 of which involved drugs and/or alcohol—38% of which reported polysubstance abuse. Petitions were filed on 89% of referrals involving drugs and/or alcohol. The most popular drug of choice in 2015 included methamphetamine (46%).

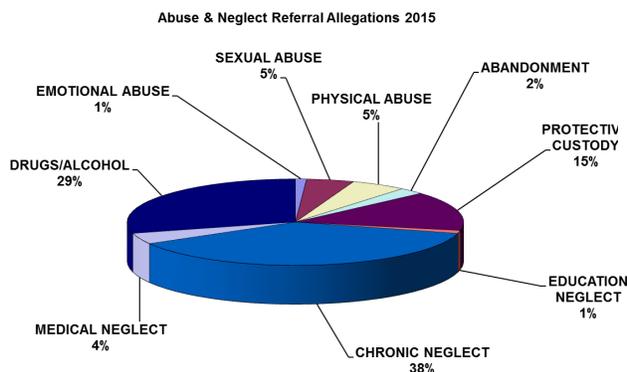
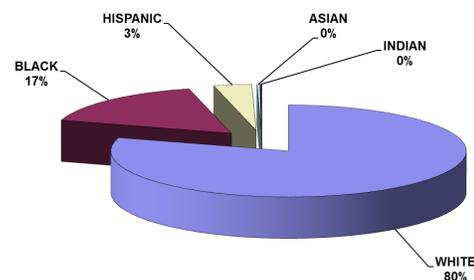
In 2015, there were 838 children on average in foster care in Greene County.

2015 Court Petition's filed in the Abuse/Neglect Unit	
Abuse & Neglect	314 children
Termination of Parental Rights	145 children
Adoption (foster care, private, step-parent, foreign & adult)	169 children

GREENE COUNTY CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE BY AGE GROUP AS OF JANUARY 1, 2016



ETHNICITY OF GREENE COUNTY FOSTER CHILDREN AS OF JANUARY 1, 2016

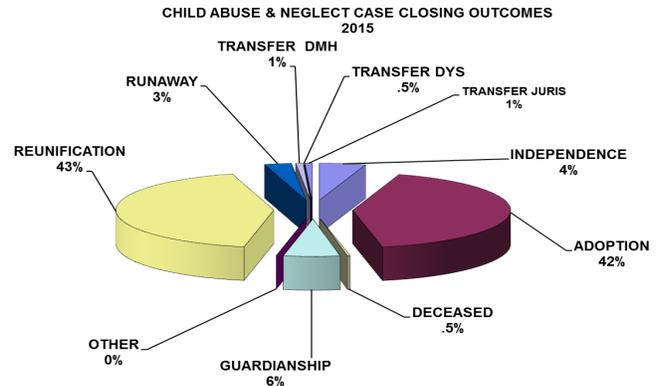


The optimal permanency goal is for reunification with a parent. However, when that cannot happen other permanency options are sought. Throughout 2015 cases were closed for 400 children.

Child Abuse & Neglect

In 2015: 171 children were reunified with their parents; 169 children were adopted; 19 achieved independence; and 23 children were placed under guardianship.

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



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 child welfare system tasked with identifying and working toward reducing barriers to achieving permanency for children in foster care. Greene County FCI is made up of Juvenile Officers, case management agencies, attorneys and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).

Road to Reunification (R2R) is a class which explains to parents with children who have been placed into foster care the court process, family support team roles, responsibilities & meeting process, and suggestions to improve parent-child visitation and interactions. The course is lead by the abuse and neglect deputy Juvenile Officers.

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

- ***“Letting me know that this is a very helpful things to make me a better parent for my child”***
- ***“What to do during visits and how to say goodbye”***
- ***“How to be more involved with the team and the case”***
- ***“Going more in depth in what is expected during the process of my case”***
- ***“Knowing the next steps”***
- ***“That the team wants parents to get their children back”***
- ***“Being able to ask questions”***

Teens in Transition (TNT) is an Older Youth Court focusing on improving the futures for older youth (age 16-20) in custody through an abuse/neglect case.

- ***An emphasis is places on providing awareness and direct access to community resources for older youth.***
- ***Staffing's are held bi-monthly. Attending are the Juvenile Judge, the youth, the Court team member's and community partners.***
- ***Currently 19 older youth are involved in TNT staffing's and activities.***

For more extensive data and information please view our 2014 Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics report on our website.

<http://www.greencountymo.org/juvenile/abuse/index.php>

CARE: Crossover, Assessment, Response, and Evaluation

The Greene County Crossover Youth Initiative, known as Crossover Assessment, Response, and Evaluation (CARE), has been live since the summer of 2014. CARE defines a Crossover Youth as a youth between the ages of 10 and 17 who is involved in the juvenile justice system pre- or post- adjudication and is at risk of maltreatment, who has an adjudicated abuse or neglect case and subsequently receives a juvenile justice referral, or who is placed in Children's Division Custody as a disposition after being adjudicated on a delinquency petition.

One of the main reasons for the development of CARE is to establish better communication practices between the various agencies who are involved with Crossover Youth. For example, CARE has created greater expectations for communication between the Juvenile Office, Children's Division, and contracted case workers. More effective communication makes it easier for officers to work together to do what is best for the youth and to help them be successful.

Additionally, CARE was developed to help provide community support for Crossover



Youth. There have been a multitude of community partners involved with CARE. These partners include Springfield Public Schools, CASA, The Victim Center, Burrell Behavioral Health, and local universities. One specific development of CARE is a partnership with these universities to help ease the transition for Crossover Youth who plan on attending college after high school. Also, CARE has developed a system of Parent Cafes, which work to provide support and guidance for parents in an effort to prevent youth from crossing over.

The Greene County Crossover Youth Initiative was modeled after the Crossover Youth Practice Model developed by the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) at Georgetown University. This practice Model is also supported by Casey Family Programs. You can learn more about this practice model at <http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/pm/practicemodel.html>





*Winning art work by a youth involved in the
Greene County Juvenile Office*

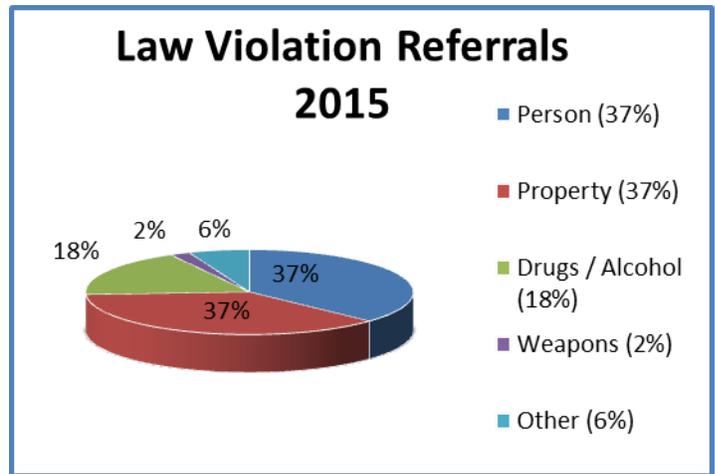
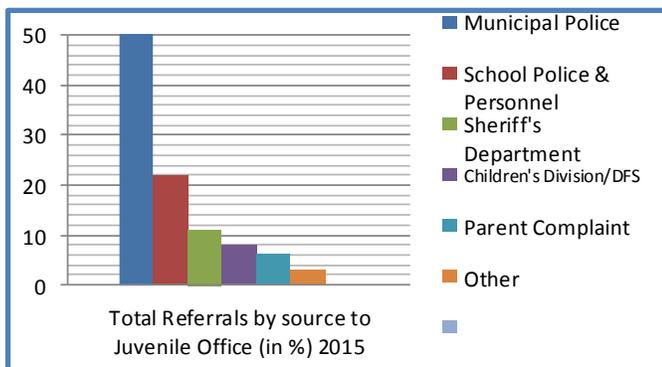
Law/Status Violations Unit



Pictured Above (from left): Kyle O'Dell, Eli Samek, Ryan Marquez, Justin Tidwell, Cheryl Puzach, Amanda Squires, Brad Shelton, Dustin Hathcock, and Larry Edgar

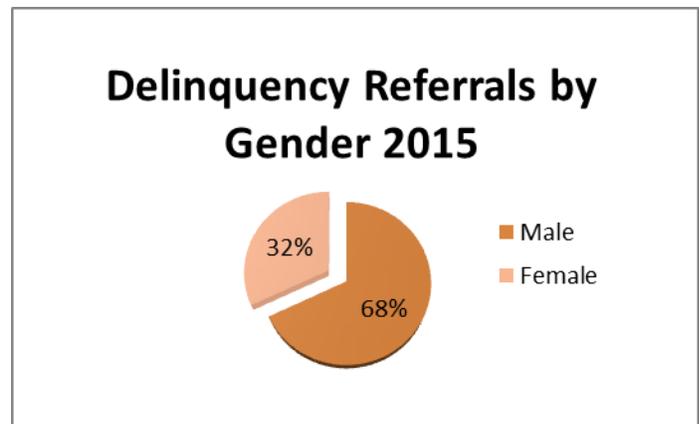
The Law/Status Violation Unit received a total of 1258 juvenile Delinquency referrals/charges and 440 non-criminal juvenile status offense referrals in 2015.

At fifty percent (50%), the majority of the total referrals/cases referred to the Law/Status Unit of the Greene County Juvenile Office were referred by municipal police departments. School police and school personnel made up the second largest source of referrals, sending twenty-two percent (22%). Eleven percent (11%) of referrals was referred by the Greene County Sheriff's Department and eight percent (8%) of referrals were sent by the Division of Family Services. In 2015, at least six percent (6%) of Parent Complaint Forms were received from parents seeking assistance from the Juvenile Office. The remainder of the referrals was received by other law enforcement and other juvenile courts.



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.



Screening & Assessment

In an effort to appropriately identify the risk level a youth poses to the community, Deputy Juvenile Officers utilized two validated objective screening tools in 2015, the Missouri Juvenile Offender Risk and Needs Assessment and the Missouri Juvenile Detention Assessment.

Law/Status Violations Unit

Both tools help determine the appropriateness of detention, alternatives to detention and supervision/intervention plans for youth referred to the Juvenile Office. The Law/Status Violation Unit also administered a mental health/substance abuse screening for youth referred to the Greene County Juvenile Division during 2015 that included the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument-Version 2 (MAYSI-2). This screening instrument is designed to help identify youth who may need further assessment and/or treatment for mental health and/or substance abuse.



Case Disposition

Deputy Juvenile Officers investigated and disposed of cases through the following options: informal adjustments, court action, transferring to other courts/agency, and also ultimately rejecting a referral due to a lack of legal sufficiency.

Of those cases handled informally, 307 were referred for follow-up probation supervision including 63 that were referred to the Greene County Teen Court Program. During 2015, 77 youth were referred to the Victim Offender Mediation program or Victim Impact Panel. Eighty-five (85) 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 youth. 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.

Community Collaborations

Deputy Juvenile Officers were involved in the community in several different taskforces and meetings. DJOs from the Juvenile Office were part of a Multi-Disciplinary Team that met once a month. DJO's from our unit also volunteered at the Ozarks Food Harvest (pictured left) where they sorted and unloaded food items that had been donated to help OFH "Transform Hunger into Hope".



Detention



Back row from left to right: Kelton Knipmeyer, Caitlin Shouse, David Kuykendall, Joseph BonDurant, Brandon Lechene, Justisn Baltzell; Front row from left to right: Sharon Felton, Amanda Newman, Lindsey Ransom, Michael Scofield, Connie Linneman, Cliff Warren ;*Not pictured: David House, Reggie Warren, Jarod Bankhead, Daniel Hopfinger

The purpose of the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center is to provide a safe and secure environment for youth who have committed a law violation that are deemed a threat to the community or themselves or have been ordered by the court for secure detention.

In the calendar year of 2015, the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center admitted a total of 235 juvenile offenders. This number includes youth held for other counties and the Division of Youth Services. Of the total admissions for 2015 approximately 91 were for other circuits and approximately 17 were for DYS warrants for a total of 108 non-31st Circuit admissions. This is a significant upward trend of out-of-circuit holds due to the closure of the 29th circuit detention facility in late 2014. However, the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center still applies the same standards for admission for those of local youths.

Before a youth is admitted into secure detention, an admission assessment called a JDTA form is completed. This procedure is in compliance with Missouri Court Operating Rule 28, and is part of the system reform efforts currently in place at the Juvenile Office. The Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI), an effort supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundations, is an initiative focused on finding alternatives to secure detention for those juvenile offenders that are not considered a threat to the community, themselves, or a flight risk. In the 10 years the Greene County Juvenile Office has participated in JDAI several alternatives to se-

cure detention have been created such as the Evening Reporting Center, GPS monitoring, a shelter bed and pre-adjudication supervision. Further, since the application of various detention alternatives the average length of time a youth spends in detention has been significantly reduced over the years. In 2015 the average detention population was 6 with an average length of stay of 9 days.

In 2015 the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center continued its participation in the Performance Based Standards (PbS) program that allows this facility to measure its performance in various criteria with other facilities across the nation. Measurements include items such as: how long the youth spend in their rooms on an average day, the number of incidents that occurred in a given time period, and the services that should be provided to youth in a secure facility. In 2015 the average time that a youth spend in their rooms during hours in which they should be awake was roughly between 1.5 to 3 hours. This is significant improvement from years past when the average could be as high as 5 to 6 hours. This has been achieved by the dedication of detention staff in creating various structured programs to fill in for times in which the youth would normally be idly in their rooms.



Detention

The detention unit has facilitated various groups and programs to promote healthy development for the youth currently housed. The most significant program that is provided is the academic program. Springfield Public Schools has a classroom in detention that is staffed by certified teachers and aids working for the school district. The teachers for the 2014-2015 school year were, Neil Adams and Barbie Mooneyham. Further, the teachers were assisted by Jerry White and Wanda White. Other programs are Freeway Ministries, art, recreational games, fitness instruction, and staff led special topic groups.

A number of Circuits throughout Southwest Missouri and the Division of Youth Services utilize the Greene County Juvenile Detention to hold their youths while awaiting court or placement. In such cases a small fee is assessed per day to house those youth from their respective jurisdictions. Further, Greene County receives daily state and federal reimbursements for all youth held in detention. The total reimbursement to the County's General Revenue Fund for youth held in detention in 2015 was \$98,189.52. The total operating budget for the detention center in 2015 was \$730,874. This amount includes healthcare needs of the youth, clothing, food, and the employment of 14 full-time and 5 part-time staff.

Also, the Greene County Juvenile Detention has gone beyond the scope of dealing with just juvenile offenders. All Deputy Juvenile Officers working in detention are also sworn deputy circuit clerks and process emergency orders of protections requested after business hours. In 2015, approximately 676 ex partes were filed after hours with the assistance of detention officers. This number is nearly 100 more than in 2014.

In 2015, long time Detention Superintendent Marie Swope announced her retirement. She took over the position of superintendent in 1998 coming from the Child Abuse and Neglect Unit. Marie oversaw the detention unit during its transition into a JDAI sight, initially one of three in the State of Missouri before being expanded state wide. Further, she supervised the movement of detention as PbS sight which is one of the few smaller detention facilities to participate in the program. Marie retires with a total of 37 years at the Greene County Juvenile Office.



Barbie Moonieham (top), **Wanda White** (bottom left), and **Neil Adams** (bottom right) provide educational services for the youths residing in detention.



Marie Swope (Center) at her retirement party with **David House** (left) and **Joseph BonDurant** (right).

Probation

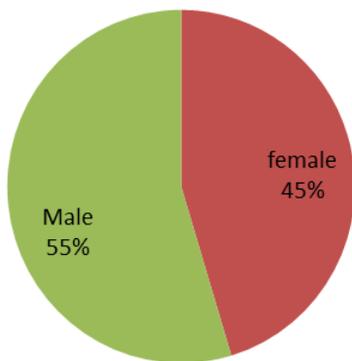


Pictured from Left: Zach Dudley, Damon Young, Susan Cox, Tracie Nicholson, Ashley Edwards, Jerod Beatty-"Pickles the dog", Stefanie Myers, Julie Hershberger, Andy Silliman

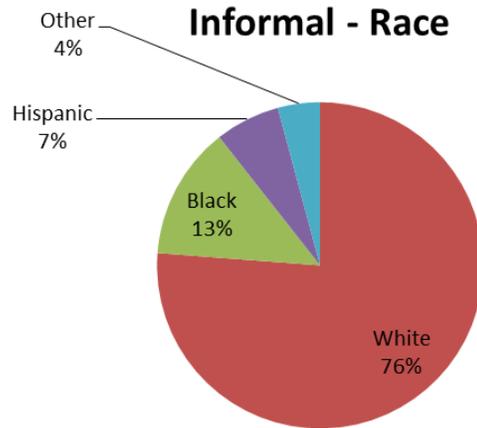
Informal Statistics

In 2015 there were 307 youth that were released from informal probation. Of these 307 youth 60.82% of them were successful. 55% of the cases were male, leaving females to make up the remaining 45%.

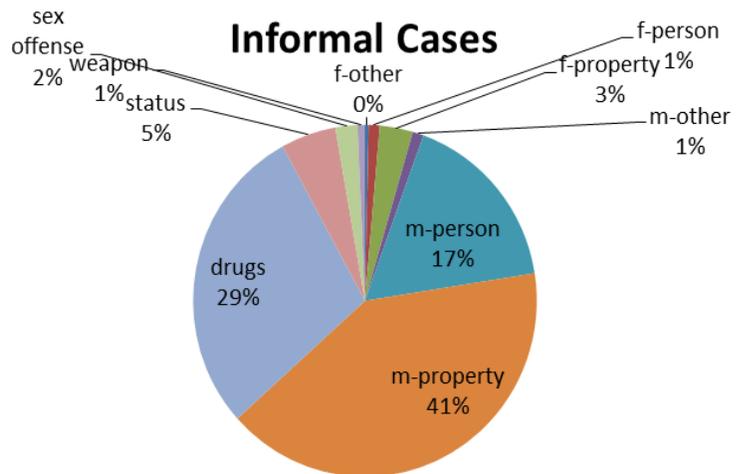
Informal - Gender



The racial makeup of the cases were as follows; Caucasian = 76%, African American = 13%, Hispanic = 7%, and other = 4%.



Youth can be referred to probation for both informal and formal services. Informal Probation is used in for lower risk youth in effort to divert them from going through the formal court process. This can be done by Teen Court, Informal Adjustment, or Informal Probation. Formal Probation is supervision that has been ordered by the judge after going through the court process.

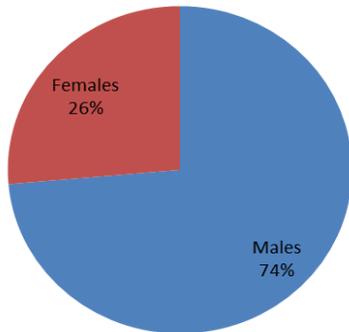


The offenses for informal cases were as follows: Misdemeanor Property = 41%, Drugs = 29%, Misdemeanor Person = 17%, Status Offenses = 5%, Felony Property = 3%, Sex Offense = 2%, Weapons = 1%, Felony Person = 1%, Misdemeanor other = 1%

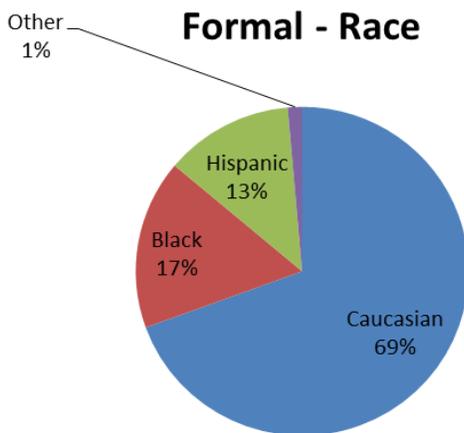
Formal Statistics

In 2015 72 youth were released from formal probation. Of these 72 youth, 69% of them were successful and diverted from a commitment to the Division of Youth Services. 74% of these youth were male, leaving females to make up the other 26%.

Formal - Gender



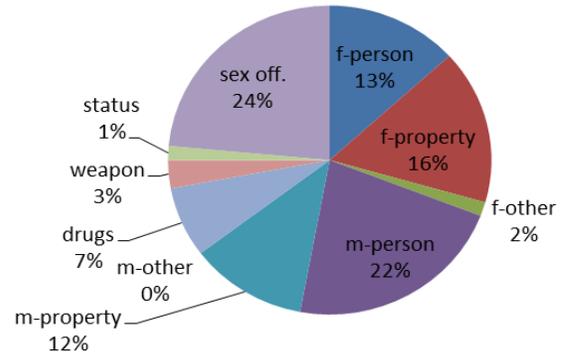
The racial make-up of the cases were as follows: Caucasian = 69%, African American = 17%, Hispanic = 13%, and Other = 1%.



The breakdown for offenses of Formal cases closed in 2015 were as follows, Sexual offense = 24%, Misdemeanor person = 22%, Felony property = 16%, Felony person = 13%, Misdemeanor property = 12%, Drugs = 7%, Weapon = 3%, Felony other = 2%, Status offense = 1%

Probation

Formal Offenses



Connecting to Parents and Guardians

The Probation Unit realizes that our most valuable resource for the youth that we serve is the connection between their parents/ guardians and the probation officer, which will ultimately determine the likelihood that a youth will succeed.

The Probation Unit has developed Guiding Probation Success (GPS) to help develop and utilize family strengths and their support systems, in order to understand what their role is, what the role of the probation officer is, as well as what we all can do together in order to help the youth be successful while on probation. This class is being held on the first Thursday of the month from 5:30-7:30PM at the Juvenile Office.

Informed Supervision is also offered to anyone who will be supervising a child that is involved with the Juvenile Office due to sexually harmful behaviors. The purpose of the class is to give supervisors a more detailed understanding of the cycles of abuse, the laws that govern the juvenile justice court system, and how to work with a Multi-Disciplinary Team to keep the community and child safe.. The class is presented by Deputy Juvenile Officer Dustin Hathcock , Deputy Juvenile Officer Brooke Risley, and Stan Barnes, MS, NCC. It's held at 1631 W Bennett, Springfield, MO, on the 2nd Wednesday each month, from 6-8 pm.

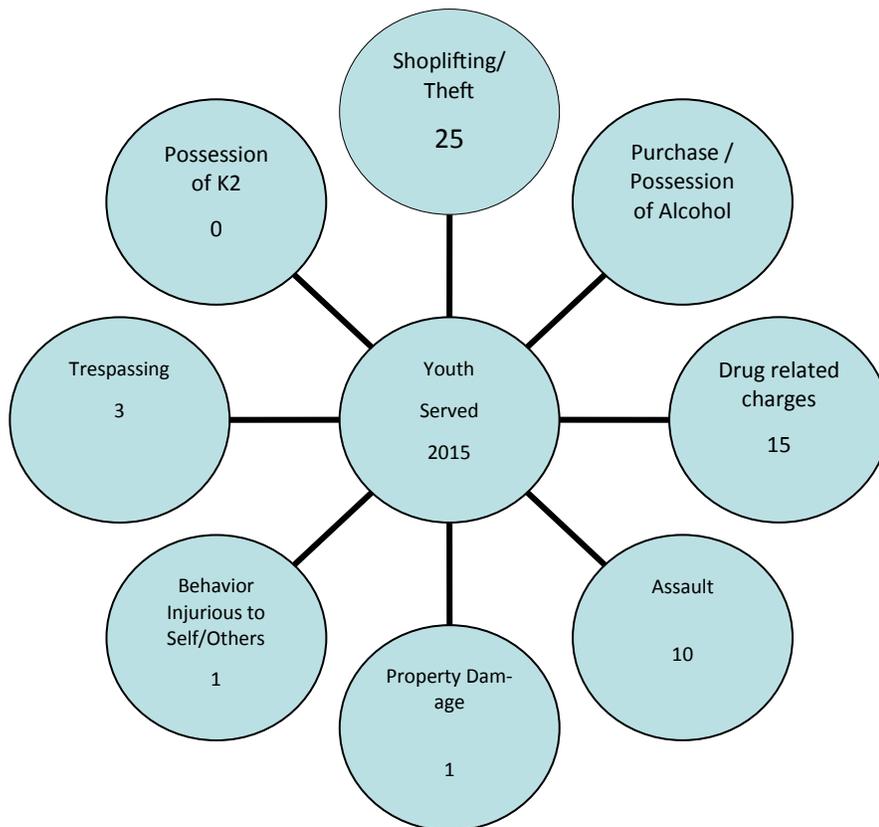
Teen Court

Greene County Teen Court is an informal alternative sentencing program for juveniles.

Once a week, Teen Court hearings are held at the Greene County Juvenile Justice Center. In Teen Court, juveniles between the ages of 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 response for their behavior determined by the jury rather than have it 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 jurors' only job is to determine the appropriate sentence.

Everyone in Teen Court, jury, bailiff, court clerk and attorneys are juveniles. Eight total Judges volunteer time to preside over Teen Court; four Missouri Court of Appeals Judges from the Southern District, two Associate Circuit Court Judges from Greene County, and two Municipal Court Judges from Springfield.

In 2015, 63 youth were served in this alternative sentencing programs.



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 474 community service hours and 143 jury duties were assigned to youth participating in Teen Court.

Additionally, youth from Greene County high schools, adult volunteers and Judges volunteer in this process. Over 380 adult and youth volunteer hours were logged in the operations of Teen Court. Teen Court has proven to be successful in providing families and youth resources to aid in their self-improvement 73% of the time in 2015. Over a four year review of youth participating in Teen Court, only 8% of youth having participated were re-referred to our office for another offense.

Teen Court

What was your overall experience in the courtroom during your trial?

"Very interesting, proud of others for treating me with respect."

"It was an eye opening experience."

"It was good and fair."

"I was treated fairly and received a reasonable sentence."

"It was a great experience that provided great opportunities."

Which part of your sentence did you feel you learned the most from?

"Family Communication Workshop with Austin."

"CAPS and VIP were very helpful for learning my lesson."

"I learned a lot of the court system during jury duty."

"My interview with a former drug addict."

"I learned a lot from my CAPS hours."

2015 Parent Exit Interviews

Comments/Suggestions:

"I believe it does help the kids and gives them a good learning experience."

"I believe it was a very positive impact for my daughter and redirecting her behavior."

"Teen Court was very helpful for my son and taught him to think about his actions."

"Thank you so much for the opportunity to participate in this program."

"Awesome program that teaches kids about consequences from actions."

Volunteering

Teen Court is a wonderful experience and a great opportunity to discover the judicial system.

It offers a unique and fun way to give back to the community through a truly rewarding program. Become a volunteer TODAY!!!

Greene County Youth Academy



From Left to Right: Jamie Raab, Dan Johnson, Matt Overcast, Kadi Severson, Brett Long, Melissa Whittaker, Joe Montanez, Maria Ampilova, Debbie Baltzell, Melissa Rice

By now, it is no surprise that studies show the direct correlation between education and crime. Research done by various educational institutions reveal that the less education a young person receives, the higher likelihood of increased rates of arrests and incarceration. This is further compounded by the fact that the majority of youth who come from disadvantaged backgrounds, on average, perform poorer academically than those who come from more advantaged backgrounds. Additionally, these results are not being discovered in older youth, but the lower cognitive ability of disadvantaged children is being revealed as early as kindergarten.

The goal of the Greene County Youth Academy is to serve youth going through the juvenile correctional system by providing not only educational resources, but by providing a holistic approach to rehabilitation that involves the youth, parents, public and private organizations, as well as the community.



Academics

The Greene County Youth Academy works directly with Springfield Public Schools (SPS) to provide academic opportunities for court-involved youth. Sunday Wildschuetz is GCYA's SPS teacher and teaches English, Reading and Math. Mrs. Wildschuetz notes that one of her favorite activities of the year was providing all of the Springfield Fire Stations with cookies as a sign of appreciation in recognition of 9/11. The youth

note that it was a great way to honor those who risked their lives during that tragedy. Joe Woodring is GCYA's contracted teacher whose position is funded by a grant from the Office of State Courts Administrator. Mr. Woodring, being new to GCYA in the last year, comes to the program with almost 30 years of experience as an educator. In his most recent academic role, Mr. Woodring spent 3 years as Principle of Walnut Grove High School. At GCYA he teaches Social Studies, Science, and Life Skills. One of the highlights of Mr. Woodring's year was the week he and his students spend studying the biology of fish. To end the week's lesson, he took the students to the Mountain Springs Trout Park in Highlandville, MO. Here the students spent the day learning and practicing the basics of fishing.



Mrs. Wildschuetz and Mr. Woodring

Highlights

Earlier in the year, we were able to take tours of colleges in the area to get youth acquainted with the possibility of higher education after high school. Some of the schools we visited were; Drury University, Cox College of Nursing, Ozarks Technical Community College, and Missouri State University. At each college we met with school representatives who walked our youth through the various academic programs and opportunities.



Youth admiring the Pop Art exhibit at the Springfield Art Museum

Greene County Youth Academy

One thing that we are very proud of in the last year is building partnerships with outside services to further provide opportunities for our youth. We have been working with the Missouri Mentoring Partnership through Missouri State University which prepares youth for personal success in employment, education, healthy life styles, and self-sufficiency through mentored support. Another organization with partner with is I Pour Life. When a youth is referred to I Pour Life, they are assigned a mentor who will act as that youth's life coach. The role of their mentor is to provide any and all assistance to help develop and execute a plan for future success. They take a holistic approach to wellbeing that ultimately supports growth not only in the youth, but in their families and communities as well.



Youth planting flowers in the Grant Beach Neighborhood's, Hovey House Community Center

Throughout 2015 we continued to utilize substance abuse programs at Burrell (CSTAR) and Alternative Opportunities (LUV). This involves staying in contact with their counselors for regular progress reports. Of course, all youth and their families are required to attend individual and family counseling.

Staff

2015 was a year of transition for GCYA and we welcomed 4 new staff members to the team in the process. Matt Overcast, a former Air Force Aviation Technician, was hired as a Family & Community Specialist. He assisted with the Spartans program by coaching both our Volleyball and Basketball teams along with seasoned Family & Community Specialist, Brett Long. Joe Montanez and Melissa Rice were both hired in the fall as Co-Lead Family & Community Specialists. Melissa works with youth as they are transitioning into the program by performing evaluations with both youth and their parents. She is one of the first people a new youth meets and is very active in the GEMS program as well. Joe primarily works with youth as they are transitioning out of the program, whether that is a successful return to public school or working with youth and parents as they

are released from GCYA and probation back into the community. Kadison Severson was also hired as a part time Youth Specialist, primarily working with youth in GCYA as well as being an active leader in GEMS. Maria Ampilova, a part time Youth Specialist, also works closely with the GEMS programs and continues to provide valuable leadership to our youth in GCYA. Melissa Whittaker, a Family & Community Specialist, worked on a special project over the last year, which allows GCYA to track the behaviors and interactions with the youth during the day. Through her work, we now have valuable metrics that can be referenced for a variety of reasons and needs for the duration of a youth's enrollment in our program.

Community Service

While in our program, youth have the opportunity to participate in service projects and activities that they normally would not be able to. We partner with a wide array of organizations throughout the community to better serve the place in which we live and it's a great way for our youth to give back to the community.

An organization we were honored to work with over the last year is the Ozark Food Harvest (OFH). In the fall we had the opportunity to volunteer by sorting and repacking dried food goods at the O'Reilly Center for Hunger Relief in Springfield. Through our volunteer hours, we were able to help provide over 300 meals to the children, families and senior citizens of our community.

Over the last year, we also had the privilege of working with The Hope Connection. During our time with The Hope Connection, we were able to work at providing the Ozark's homeless population with the vital access needed to essential basic services.



Evening Reporting Center



From left to right: Allen Criger, Kyla Garner, Kelsey Kincade, Alina Kobychno

The primary role of the Evening Reporting Center (ERC) is to provide intensive supervision for youth who are awaiting their court hearing. This "pending hearing" service allows youth to remain in their home as opposed to the possibility of awaiting their court date in secure detention. The ERC also serves as a sanction program for youth on formal and informal probation. Youth who are on probation, but struggling to comply with their probation rules, may be referred to the ERC so that we can provide them additional structure, supervision, and programming to help them successfully complete probation. The ERC program provides community service programming for youth referred to the program only for community service sanctions. This community service sanction serves to help those youth who have done well on probation, but have not been able to meet their service requirements. By referring these youth to the ERC, the ERC program structures an opportunity for those youth to engage in a service project and fulfill their community service requirement; increasing the likelihood of full compliance with probation rules.

Because of these ERC programming options, youth are able to obtain the skills and services they need while we make certain that community safety is insured. In 2015, 123 youth were admitted to the ERC program with an overall successful release rate of 67.48%. The ERC was 100% successful in preventing

new law violations while youth were enrolled in the ERC program during 2015. Additionally, Greene County Juvenile Office utilization of the ERC increased by 59.74% in 2015.

The ERC program is based on a 30 day revolving program cycle. This is an expansion of services and programming as the ERC was based on a 20 day revolving program cycle for the past six years. Pending hearing youth are admitted to the ERC immediately following their release from secure detention, and remain in the program until their court hearing. Youth are then released from the ERC at their court hearing or ordered to complete the time remaining so that the youth can complete the full 30 day program. Youth on a formal probation sanction complete 30 programming days, and informal sanctions are referred on a 5, 10 or 15 day basis. Community Service referrals are tailored to the needs of the youth.

Not only was the 30 day revolving program cycle a major update to our program structure in 2015, but the ERC Coordinator developed a policy review team that approved a complete rework of our program policy. The ERC developed and implemented its transportation policy that began in late 2013 so that our program can insure that all youth in need of ERC services have access to them. The program restructuring also allowed us to rework our Full Time Youth Specialist position into a Lead Youth Specialist position, which allows that position the ability to fully serve our youth.



ERC youth create "wounds" during our cosmetic makeup group. This group is designed to be a fun activity for our youth as they learn how movie makeup is applied. This group is facilitated by prior Greene County Juvenile Probation Officer Michelle Horn.

Evening Reporting Center

The ERC program offers a wide array of topics for our youth to include anger management, job skills training, sexual education, yoga, personal finance, healthy relationships, exercise boot camp, social media, and many others. Our youth also attend the Homework Assistance Program (HAP) for at least one hour Monday through Thursday. During HAP, each youth receives specialized assistance with their homework to ensure that they do not get behind at school and to help them increase their grades while in the ERC program. HAP staff work with the teachers and the schools directly to help youth catch up on missed assignments, prepare for tests, and increase their chance of success at school. Youth also participate in our Getting Involved for Today's Students programming (GIFTS). GIFTS maintains a strong focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM activities). The HAP and GIFTS programming is provided by a grant through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in partnership with the Springfield Public Schools.

ERC youth and staff recognize the importance of being a part of the community in which you live, and working to make that community a better place. ERC youth and staff participate in a programming component we refer to as "ERC Gives Back". During ERC Gives Back, youth and staff work with our community partners to complete projects to help that agency and our community. One of our main projects is completing newsletters for Arc of the Ozarks. During this assignment, our youth are able to assemble, staple, fold, stuff and seal as many as 800 newsletters for the Arc. This monthly project provides a great opportunity for our youth to have fun during a project, and help our community. We are very grateful for this partnership! Our youth also complete a street cleanup as part of the City of Springfield Adopt-A-Street program. The ERC has adopted Pythian Street between National Ave and Glenstone Ave. We clean this street at least three times a year, often more, so that we can contribute to a cleaner community for us all to live in and enjoy!

Collaboration with other initiatives and programs at

the Greene County Juvenile Office continues to be an area of focus for the ERC. Our goal is to provide a complete and well-rounded programming schedule for our youth. By collaborating with other programs and initiatives, we are able to allow our youth to benefit from some of the programming presented in other programs. ERC youth, who are requested by their Deputy Juvenile Officer or Probation Officer may participate in Spartans and GEMS while pending hearing. Further, all ERC youth, who attend ERC on a formal or informal sanction, attend Spartans and GEMS. Our youth are also able to attend RADAR (Responding Appropriately to Drug and Alcohol Referrals) presentations and activities. The ERC also shares some programming components with the Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA). ERC and GCYA have a strong partnership as we share the same facility and work with many of the same youth. This strong partnership allows our programs to work together to ensure the most successful path forward for our youth, and make sure that even though the youth may be in both programs simultaneously or in the future, that we are focused on the same path forward for the youth. We are very thankful for the partnership and support of the Greene County Youth Academy.



ERC youth prepare dinner during parent night in the summer of 2015. This was an opportunity for our youth to show appreciation of their parents and to enjoy a night of fun with their families.

The ERC hopes to share our successes and keep the community updated on our program. The ERC maintains a Facebook page which is located at <https://www.facebook.com/GreeneCountyERC>. For additional information about our program, you may view our video located at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNaDHvejiFk>.

Getting Involved For Today's Students



McKenzie Morrow, Gabrielle Wilson, Tom Gist

GIFTS is a grant funded afterschool program aimed at addressing the educational needs of youth under the supervision of the Greene County Juvenile Office. Currently, it is the only afterschool program in the state that partners with a juvenile office. Many of the youth encountered by the Juvenile Office are struggling with their school work and need homework help or supplemental material to better understand the subject matter. GIFTS provides the necessary tools for youth to be academically successful. The staff is able to gain access to the student's school account to obtain homework, grades, and school attendance for the individual student. GIFTS also provides help with ACT test prep and HiSET.

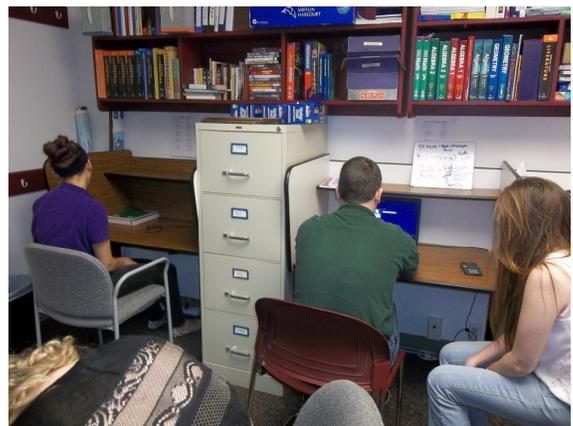
The GIFTS Program moved into a new space at 911 N. Boonville. The new space provides a safe and quiet place for youth to accomplish their academic goals. With this move and the beginning of a new grant cycle, GIFTS started the school year with bigger plans to connect with and engage youth through education. The Homework Assistance Program (HAP) is one of two ways the GIFTS Program works towards this goal.



HAP is available to youth Monday - Thursday from 2:30-6:00 PM. The goal of HAP is to meet the educational needs of each student. Youth may select for a variety of options from an "activity menu." Priority is given to homework completion and grade improvement. Students may also choose enrichment activities such as building catapults, creating zentangles, or developing computer skills. Students may also prepare for ACT and HiSET tests. A release form signed by the parents, allows GIFTS to track the youth's school attendance, grades, and homework. This information is then provided to the probation officer on a weekly basis.

The GIFTS Program also provides evening lessons for the youth of the ERC and GCYA. These lessons are all focused on hands on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities. Area high school teachers are recruited to teach these lessons. Youth have been able to examine sheep brains, extract their own DNA, and study aerodynamics.

GIFTS continues to grow and implements new ways to meet the educational needs of our youth.

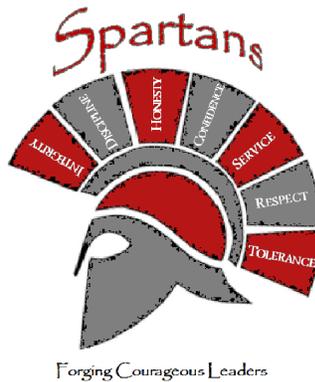


Spartans



From Left to Right: Ryan Marquez, Dustin Hathcock, Brett Long, Jerod Beatty, Joe Montanez, Dan Johnson. Not Pictured: Matt Overcast

Spartans is a male gender responsive program targeted at raising up young men who will be leaders in their communities. This is done by having conversation revolving around what it means to be a man. Understanding this concept is fundamental in achieving this goal. Now, when we talk about being a man, we are not talking about the negative stereotypes that are not only portrayed in the media, but are unfortunately lived out by a large percentage of men in our society. Our fight is against this destructive view of manhood often portrayed in society by dominance over empathy, physical strength over compassion, violence over kindness and sex over love.



Instead we work to promote the core values of what really makes a man; Integrity, Discipline, Honesty, Confidence, Service, Respect and Tolerance. By implementing these 7 characteristics into our lives, we know we can help raise up a generation of young men who will be leaders, not only in their own families, but leaders in the community. We work to promote gender respect, abolish stereotypes, express true feelings, adopt new or different ideas, and serve and love others. So, this is not just a lesson to be learned in one week, but a lesson to be learned throughout a lifetime. We are the Spartans and we are forging leaders.



Hiking at Busiek State Park, Drury University Men's Basketball Game, Stronger Men's Conference



Girls Empowering Minds & Spirits



From Left to Right: Cheryl Puzach, Julie Burr, Ashely Edwards, Amanda Squires, Melissa Rice, Melissa Whittaker, Kadison Severson, Jamie Raab

GEMS strives to impact the lives of all young women who are provided services through the Greene County Juvenile Office, by promoting healthy relationships, a focus on gratitude and positive community engagement. Through internal motivation and interactions designed to help these young women grow and realize their full potential, they develop an improved sense of self. With new self interest, these young women will be able to advocate for themselves and contribute to the community in a positive way now and in the future.



Girls Empowering Minds & Spirits



Weekly required group formed around the SAVVY Sister curriculum.

TOPICS:

Safety, Identity & Self Esteem, Communication, Relationship, Emotion, Brain, Body, Health, Power & Choice, Social Support, Budgeting, and Career & Vocation.



Bringing women from the community to inspire the GEM's.

Inspiring Women:

Shawna Mitchell, Anjanette LaBellarte, Karen Catt, Shannon Norma, Julie Austin, Dianna Devore,
Morgan Galloway



Recreation. Education. Creation.

Examples:

Cooking class, Yoga, Game night, Girls on Fire, Victims Memorial Garden, MSU Baseball Game, Springfield Cardinals Baseball Game, Craft night



Chances for the GEM's to engaged positively in the community.

Outings:

Victory Mission, Lady Bears Basketball Game, Drury Women's Conference, Girls on The Run 5K, Making Memories Carnival, Habitat For Humanity, Ozarks Food Harvest



In 2015 GEMS was awarded the USA Character Unites Award. This is a national award that recognizes public services programs that address social injustices and cultural divides in our society. GEMS was one of only ten programs nationwide that were selected for this award.

RADAR

Responding Appropriately to Drug and Alcohol Referrals

Events

RADAR Trivia Night benefiting Mothers Against Drunk Driving

TRIVIA NIGHT

Guest Speakers

- ◇ Kim Knox– Mothers Against Drunk Driving
- ◇ Austin P.—Personal Story
- ◇ Mackenzie Lee– Safe and Sober
- ◇ Erica Manahan– Community Partnership of the Ozarks
- ◇ Risky Behaviors Workshop—Cox Health
- ◇ Young People of AA



Lunch Time Learning Series

- ◆ QPR Suicide Prevention
- ◆ HBO Addiction Series



Scan the QR code to "Like" our Facebook Page!

Responding Appropriately to Drug and Alcohol Referrals (RADAR) is a program designed to meet the needs of youth with substance abuse issues. RADAR uses speakers from the community and community engagement to encourage these youth to stay away from negative influences and maintain sobriety. RADAR works with partners in the community like CSTAR and LUV to provide treatment to these youth and establish plans to continue a sober lifestyle beyond their stay with the Juvenile Office. We continuously strive to bring new partners to reach the youth involved in this program in different and innovative ways.

Support Staff



Back Row (L to R)- Tanya McClure, Julie Burr, Cheryl Blakemore, Shirley Speer, Danielle Walker, Cindy Myers, Karen McClravy, Megan Applegate, and Debbie Baltzell.

Front Row (L to R)- Twyla Allen, Jill Randolph, and Angela Waller

A Year in Review

In the calendar year 2015, the support unit consisted of an twelve member team that aided in all areas of the Juvenile Office. The team is committed and dedicated to be a positive impact within the community. Greene County has partnered with Weaver Elementary School to help benefit the community and students. The support unit volunteers each month to work on a craft project for students who had perfect attendance the previous month. They also donate their time by serving as Christmas shoppers at the Salvation Army for families seeking assistance.



Staff Volunteer at the Salvation Army Toy Shop during the Holiday season assisting families as they select gifts for youth in the community.



Support staff team members help with volunteer time at Weaver Elementary School.



Legal Unit



In 2015, the legal unit of the Greene County Juvenile Division consisted of three attorneys and a Victim Witness Coordinator. The legal unit said goodbye to attorney Brittany O'Brien who returned to private practice and welcomed attorney Brooke Downing who came to us from the Family Court in Boone County Missouri. The attorneys in the legal unit provide representation, both in and out of court, to each of the other units of the Greene County Juvenile Office. Additionally, the legal unit keeps the office informed of current and proposed legislation as well as new appellate court decisions to ensure that the practices in place at the office are current, relevant and legally accurate. The Victim Witness Coordinator ensures that victims of juvenile crime are contacted and then helps guide them through the juvenile court system.

UNIT HEARING STATISTICS

In 2015, the legal unit attorneys appeared before the court in over 3980 hearings. Those hearings included abuse and neglect adjudications, delinquency cases, status hearings, probation violations, orders of protection involving juveniles and terminations of parental rights. The legal unit was also involved in approximately 20 appeals before the Southern District of the Missouri Court of Appeals, several of which involved oral argument.



Opinions from the Southern District Court of Appeals in 2015, which were tried, briefed and argued by staff attorneys and generated formal opinions included:

In Re M.B.N., No. SD33397 (Mo. App. 2015)

In Re M.T.E.H., No. SD 33637 (Mo. App. 2015)



Victim Services



Victims of crime may often experience fear, uncertainty, frustration, and even anger as a result of an offense. Our Victim Witness Coordinator, Jennifer Leek, was available to aid victims in addressing the many feelings and emotions that may occur. The Victim Witness Coordinator is available to answer any questions or concerns victims or their families have regarding a juvenile delinquency matter. The Victim Witness Coordinator can provide basic information regarding the status of a case, assist victims with completion of a Victim Impact Statement and restitution forms, make referrals to community services, work with the staff attorneys to prepare victims for any hearings or depositions that they need to participate in, and accompany victims to any court proceedings.

In 2015, over 225 victims were contacted by our office and given the opportunity to have their voices heard.

Restitution was also collected with over \$6900 distributed to the victims of juvenile crimes in Greene County.

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAMS

The Greene County Juvenile Office is lucky to partner with Center for Dispute Resolution through Missouri State University to provide two important programs. In 2015, 12 juveniles were referred to the Victim-Offender Mediation program (VOM) and 65 referrals were made to six Victim Impact Panels (VIP). Both of which are programs that allow for accountability from the juvenile coupled with a service provided to a victim without formal court action being taken, in an effort to prevent future crime.

The legal unit has also participated in the design and implementation of the juvenile dependency mediation program which is designed to expedite permanency for children who are in foster care.



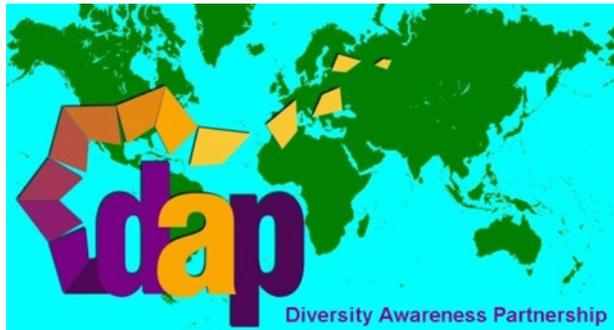
Grants & Revenue

2015 Grants

<u>Grant Name:</u>	<u>Funding Source:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Juvenile Court Diversionary Funds	Division of Youth Services	\$330,000
Getting Involved for Today's Students	Department of Elementary And Secondary Education	\$30,000
Department of Health and Senior Services State of Missouri		\$7,000
NBC Universal Award	USA Unites	\$5,000
JJPA Grant	Office of State Courts Administrator	\$45,000
	TOTAL	\$417,000



Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP)



The Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP) is committed to celebrating and embracing diversity with the next Generation! It is our mission to provide the tools and opportunities for people to grow their understanding of the value of our differences and to gain strength from our unique perspectives. We hope that, in this endeavor, we can foster an appreciation of diversity and create an inclusive environment for the residents of Greene County.

2015 was once again a busy year for the DAP team. We continued to strive for personal and professional development with Juvenile Office employees and new, inclusive experiences for the youth that we serve. As with previous years, DAP provided several Lunch Time Learning Series presentations throughout 2015.

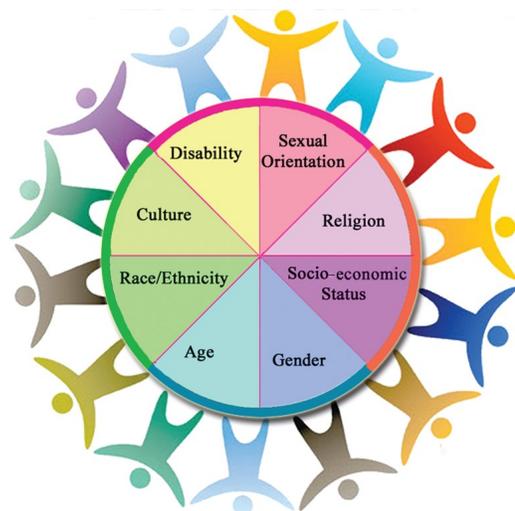
In January, we welcomed guest speaker Amber Attaway to our Lunch Time Learning Series. Amber spoke about her experiences as a blind person living in our community, and the various issues facing the blind community in the Ozarks. Probably the youngest speaker featured in our series, Amber is a dynamic young woman who is very passionate about advocating for those with blindness and bringing awareness to the community.

In April, we hosted a staff-led training entitled "Leveraging Diversity in the Workplace." This

training covered the importance of diversity in the workplace and included fun activities to help participants discover the diverse talents of their coworkers. Several team building activities challenged participants to share things about themselves in an effort to better understand their coworkers. Damon Young and Mercedez Nielsen hosted this event.

In October, DAP welcomed several representatives from area veteran's groups. Jay D'Andrea (American Legion Post 639), James Criagmyle (Ozarks Wounded Warrior Project), and Robert Freeman (the Vet Center) spoke about their respective organizations and the services that they provide for area veterans, as well as issues faced by the military veteran community. DAP was pleased to have such informative speakers to shed light on a very unique segment of our community.

The Diversity Awareness Partnership would like to thank all of our guest speakers for taking their time to bring attention to the diverse population of Greene County and offering their advice on how to better serve the unique groups that make up our community.



Internship Opportunities



NiJay Gaines is a senior at Missouri State University. Her major is Criminology with an emphasis in Child and Family Development. NiJay plays Division 1 basketball for the MSU Lady Bears and is currently the team captain. NiJay reports her strengths to be that she is a great communicator, hard worker, fast learner, and team leader. While she is still unsure of what she would like to do for a career, she knows she wants to work with juveniles in some capacity. NiJay is an active member of Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU), Fellowship of Student Athletes (FCA) and Student Athletes of Color Combining Opportunities to Reach Excellence (SCORE). NiJay will be completing her internship with the Delinquency Unit.

Emily Hammock is a senior at Drury University. Her major is Psychology. Emily currently works part-time as an Administrative Clerk for the Greene County Human Resources Department. Being self-motivated, committed to helping others, punctual, a hard worker, and having high ethical standards are Emily's strengths. In the past, Emily volunteered at the Brentwood Library to assist with their Summer Reading Program for youth. Emily hopes to pursue a career in counseling for adolescents in the future. Emily will be completing her internship in the Child Abuse and Neglect Unit.

Emily Norton is a senior at Missouri State University. Her major is Criminology with a minor in Biochemistry. She is currently a recreational leader at the Mediacom Ice Park. Emily reports her strengths are that she is organized, punctual, an effective researcher, and she asks for help when it is needed. Emily had an opportunity to volunteer at the Humane Society in the past where she helped socialize dogs. She also serves on the Executive Board for Maroon Madness, which is a spirit organization at MSU to help enhance student participation at athletic events. Emily hopes to pursue a career in forensics of some kind, as she reports she has grown to have a passion for forensics. Emily will be completing her internship in Detention.



Casey Remspecher is a senior at Missouri State University. While her major was originally nursing, and then changed to teaching, her current major is now Child and Family Development with an emphasis in Family Studies. She is also currently in the Accelerated Master's Program. Casey has worked in several different roles through Residence Life Services, including working as an RA (Residence Assistant) in Freddy Hall, Night Host in Blair Shannon, and Conference Assistant for several different residence halls. Previously, Casey worked with the Center for Dispute Resolution (CDR) by helping with Family Group Conferences and Girls' Circle, which sparked her interest to work with youth even more. Casey reports her strengths to be that she is passionate, motivated, personable, organized, and a hard worker. Casey will be completing her internship in the Probation Unit, with a specific focus on GEMs programming.

Katie Hudspeth is a junior at Missouri State University. Her major is Criminology. In the summers, Katie works as a preschool teacher's aide. She also worked as a Residence Assistant (RA) in the past. Katie stated that she would love to be able to make an impact on the lives of children, which she hopes she will be able to accomplish through this internship. Katie reports her strengths to be keeping her composure in serious situations and being a good writer. Katie is unsure of what career she would like to pursue after graduation, but she hopes that this internship will help her to pinpoint her passion. Katie will be completing her internship at the Evening Reporting Center.

In recent years, interns have also went on to accept positions in the community including private investigation, Missouri Children's Division, Missouri State University, City of Springfield, The Kitchen Inc, and many others.

For additional information regarding our internship program or to apply to be an intern, please visit our website at <https://www.greencountymo.org/juvenile/intern/index.php>

Internship Opportunities

Alina Kobychno will be a senior in the Fall at Missouri State University. Her major is Criminal Justice with a minor in Art. Alina came to the United States from Ukraine when she was in high school not knowing any English. However, she was able to adapt and learn quickly, all the while maintaining good grades in school. She is fluent in English, Russian, and Ukrainian. Alina has volunteered in the past at Ozark Food Harvest and the Human Society of Southwest Missouri. Alina reports her strengths to be that she is very organized, a good communicator, and is willing to ask for help when she needs assistance. While she is still unsure of exactly what she would like to do for a career, she is interested in probation, corrections, and law enforcement. Alina is an active member of Recruiting Emerging Alumni Leaders (R.E.A.L.) Bears, the Criminal Justice Society, and the National Criminal Justice Honor Society (Alpha Phi Sigma). Alina will be completing her internship with at the Evening Reporting Center.



Connie Linneman is a senior at Missouri State University. Her major is Criminal Justice, and her minor is Psychology. Connie was a nurse for over 20 years, and when the Doctor she worked for retired, she decided to go back to school to pursue a Criminal Justice career. Connie reported that she wants to make a difference and believes that difference starts with youth. Connie has been married for 28 years and has 3 children, 13 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. Connie volunteered at Harmony House from February through May of 2015. Being very patient, understanding, motivated, a hard worker, and having the ability to teach others are Connie's strengths. Connie hopes to pursue a career in juvenile justice upon graduation and believes that this internship will give her the knowledge she needs to pursue such a career. Connie will be completing her internship in the Delinquency Unit. After her internship ended, she accepted a position as a Youth Leader in the Detention Unit at the Greene County Juvenile Office.

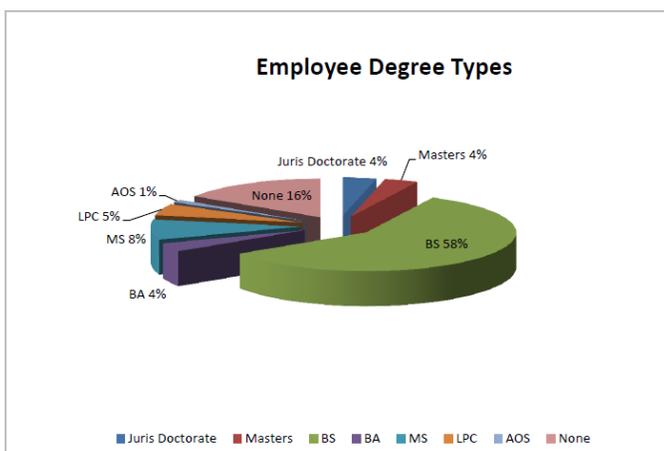
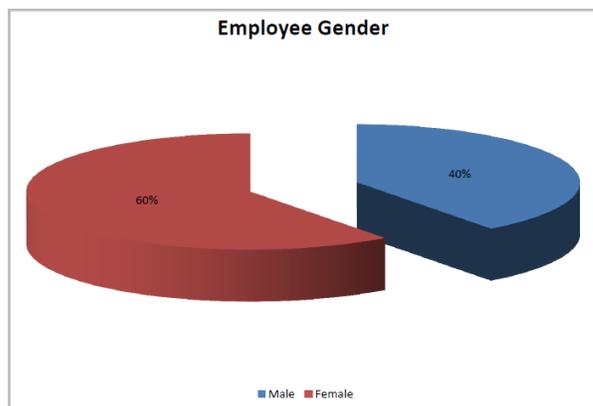
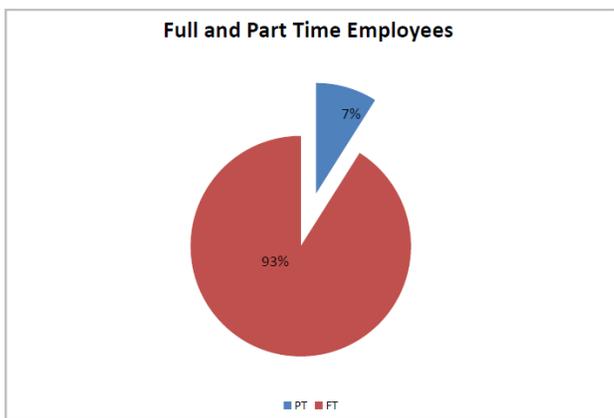
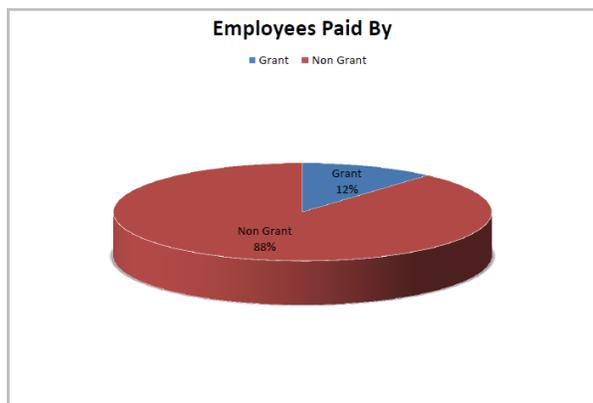
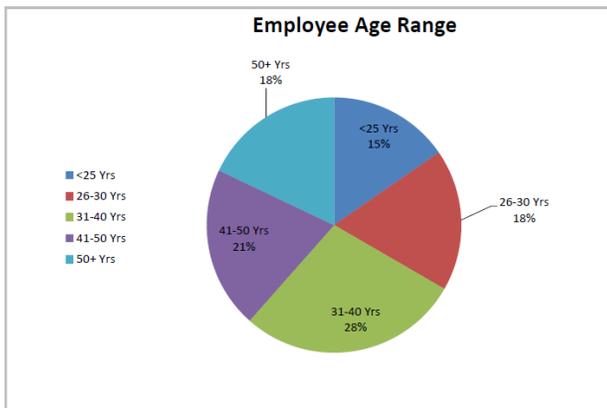
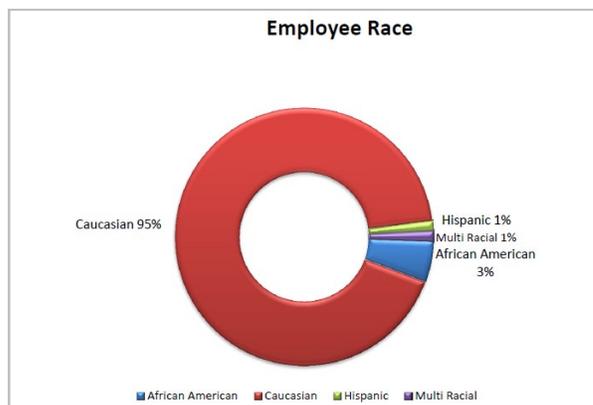
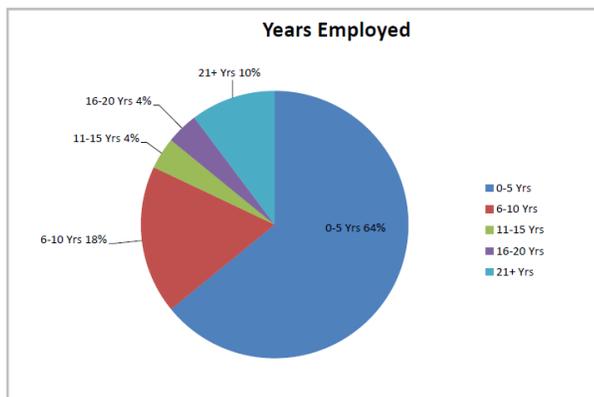


McKenna Adams is a senior at Wayne State College in Nebraska. Her major is Human Services Counseling and she also played soccer at Wayne State. During the summers of 2011 and 2012, McKenna worked as a camp counselor at SPARC Summer Day Camp in Springfield, MO. In the past, McKenna volunteered at Rare Breed and mentored girls during soccer clinics. Additionally, McKenna has traveled to the Dominican Republic on a mission's trip, where she worked with youth in a local orphanage. McKenna reports having a passion to work in social work and believes that this internship will help her to gain more knowledge of the juvenile system and help her to narrow down exactly what field she wants to work in. McKenna reports her strengths include that she has a big heart, puts her all into any project she is assigned to, and has a sports background, which could be relatable to the youth. McKenna will be completing her internship in Probation Unit, with a specific focus on the summer program.

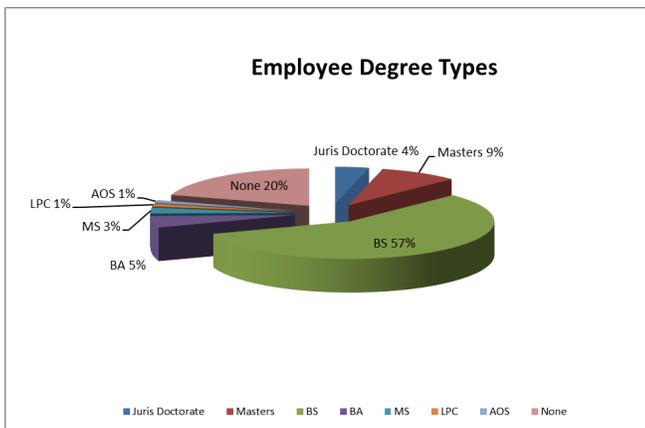
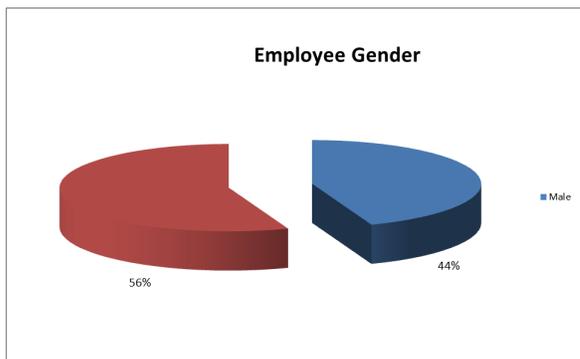
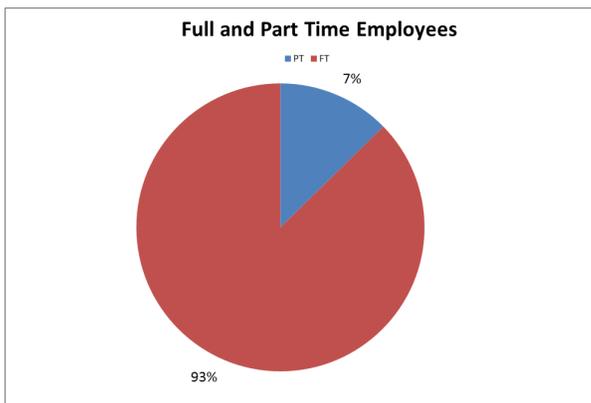
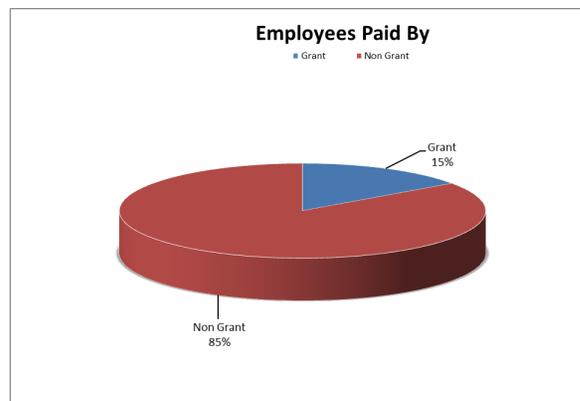
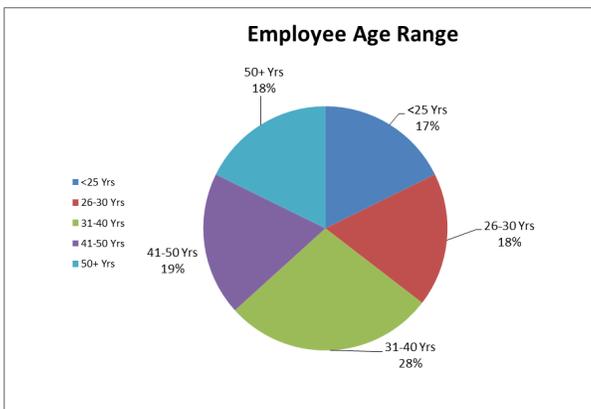
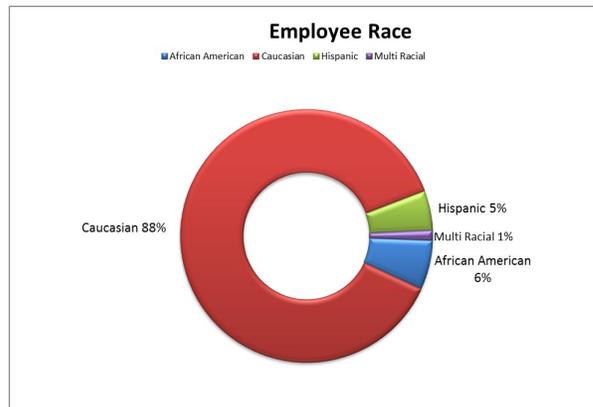
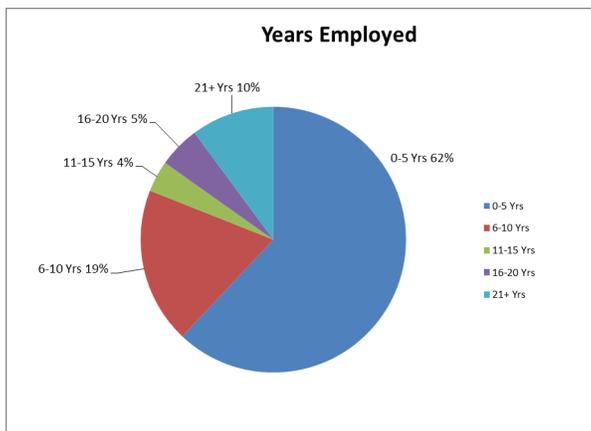
Reginald Talley is currently a Graduate Student in the Sociology and Criminal Justice Program at Drury University. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a Concentration in Law and Domestic Policy from Drury in 2012, with a minor in Global Studies and Entrepreneurship. Reginald reports his strengths to be that he has good communication and listening skills, is experienced with youth, can maintain respect without escalation, is driven, has diversity training, and is diligent. He has volunteered at the Boys and Girls Club and Freedom Incorporated in the past, where he completed various tasks for upcoming elections. Reginald hopes to attend law school in the future, as he is interested in family law and possibly working as a defense attorney for youth. Reginald will be completing his internship in the Domestic Relations Unit.



2015 Employee Demographics



2015 Employee Demographics



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 Division 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 2015, those community partners were:

A Sporting Chance
 Ambassadors for Children
 Asbury UMC
 Better Life in Recovery
 Boys and Girls Club
 Burrell Behavioral Health
 Center for Dispute Resolution
 Central Assembly of God Church
 Chaffee

 Child Advocacy Center
 Children's Division
 Community Partnership of the Ozarks
 Cox Health
 Crossfit-Nixa
 Division of Youth Services-Datema House

 Freeway Ministries
 GIFTS/HAP
 Great Circle
 Greene County Commissioners
 Greene County-Environmental Planner

 Greene County Sheriff
 Horses of Hope
 Hy-Vee
 Legal Services of Southwest Missouri
 Mercy Corporate Health
 Missouri Alliance

Missouri Career Center
 Missouri Mentoring Partnership
 Missouri State University Dietetics
 Missouri State University Nursing School

 On Angel's Wings
 Ozarks Technical Community College
 The Potter's House
 PSHP String Quintet
 Safe and Sober
 SALSP
 School Police Services
 Solutions Based Counseling

 Springfield Fire Department
 Springfield Parks Department
 Springfield Police Department
 Springfield Public Schools
 The Victim Center
 Willard Police Department-PALS



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. Term is synonymous with a case, suit, and lawsuit.

Affidavit: A written statement of fact prepared and signed by the DJO and Children's Division investigative worker and sworn before a person having authority to administer and 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/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 the court and keeps peace in the courtroom.

Clerk of the Court: An officer of the court whose 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 DJO 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/she knowingly fails to provide, without good cause, adequate support for the parent 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 purposes of avoiding 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 Hearing in Delinquency Cases: A hearing held after a juvenile has been adjudicated to determine what sanction should be imposed on the juvenile.

Glossary of Terms

Disposition hearing in Abuse/Neglect Cases: This is a hearing that occurs after the jurisdictional hearing. The court will review and discuss progression and make any changes accordingly. Dispositional hearings are held every 90 to 120 days.

DJO: Deputy Juvenile Officer

Docket: The order in which cases will be heard or tried on a given day. The list is often posted outside the courtroom with cases listed by the 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, DJO, Children's Division, CASA, 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 abuse. 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 questions 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. Taking judicial notice is the awareness of certain facts that judges may act upon without proof or argument, because they already know them to be true.

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 in crafting a mutually acceptable resolution.

Motion: An oral or written request for an action made by a party 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, 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.

Glossary of Terms

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 petitioner and respondent.

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. Types of permanency include: reunification with the parent, guardianship with a third party, independent living, termination of parental rights – adoption, and long-term foster care.

Permissive Placement: Judge with authorize that a child can be placed back into the parental home. This step routinely occurs after the parents 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 relief; the party who complains or sues in a personal action; also referred to as the plaintiff.

Pleading: The 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 himself 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 Office 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 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 defending or denying an action; the person against whom the relief or recovery is sought.

Reunification: The court gives the child back to the 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 given testimony or produce documentary evidence in a legal proceeding.

Taken into custody: The act on the part of a police officer or Juvenile Officer to obtain custody of a juvenile who is 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 member, 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 parents and 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, and police officers, medical or other professionals.



Perry Epperly



William "Bill" Prince

In September 2015, long time Chief Juvenile Officer Perry Epperly retired. Perry had been with the Juvenile Office for nearly 40 years except for a brief hiatus between 1995 and 2005 in which he worked in private sector Human Resources. Since returning in 2005 Perry worked as the Chief Juvenile Officer and oversaw the expansion of the Juvenile Office under the Law Enforcement Sales Tax II that added several new positions. As well as, the expansion of several new programs and initiatives within the office. Shortly after his retirement Bill Prince was named Acting Chief Juvenile Officer. Bill has been with the Juvenile Office for nearly 18 years, serving as Chief Legal Counsel. He represented the office in all matters, including abuse and neglect cases, delinquency cases, termination of parental rights cases, and appeals. Bill has been an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Missouri since 1983. In April of 2016 it was announced that he would be permanently taking over the role of Chief Juvenile Officer.

