

# Greene County Family Court: Juvenile & Domestic Relations Division



2017 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: Back Row:** Karen Lehmann, Jill Randolph, Cassandra Marsh, Susan Cox, Andy Silliman, Brad Shelton, Kyle O'Dell.

**Front Row:** Tracie Nicholson, Bill Prince, Ashley Montgomery, Jamie Raab, Lisa Altis.

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.

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## Letter from the Chief

At the Greene County Juvenile Office we believe in the power of people!

The mission of the Greene County Juvenile Office 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.

Every day I have the opportunity to see that mission statement put into practice through the power of our staff, the power of the families and youth we work with, and the power of the vibrant collaborations we have with individuals and organizations in Greene County.



In 2017 it was no different but we did see some big changes both statewide and locally that have positively impacted how we serve the youth, the families and the citizens of Greene County.

2017 saw the adoption and approval by the Missouri Supreme Court of the Missouri Juvenile Justice Performance Standards. The Missouri Juvenile Office Performance Standards standardize the practice of juvenile justice across the State of Missouri and we at the juvenile office have been adapting our policies and procedure to ensure compliance with those standards.

2017 also saw the Greene County Juvenile Office utilizing new space at 933 N. Robberson. This was the building that formerly housed the Greene County Commission and other county offices. This new space has allowed us to move our Greene County Youth Academy to much more functional space and has also allowed us to create a new Diversion Unit at the Greene County Juvenile Office. The Diversion Unit will provide services to youth and families with an eye to keeping youth out of the juvenile justice system. Diversion officers will work with families to identify issues with their youth and then link them with services designed to empower both the youth and the family.

It was an eventful 2017 and we look forward to continue serving the community in 2018!

- Bill Prince

## **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:** Brad Palmore, Michael Metz, Karen Lehmann (front), Karen McClravy, Karen Hester, Chelsey Ortiz

### **2017 Highlight of Services Provided:**

#### **Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Family Courts (ADR) Class:**

740 litigants attended ADR (Average: 62 litigants per month)

#### **Case Management Hearings (CMH):**

350 CMH's Completed (Average: 29 per month)

#### **Common Ground (CG):**

613 Visits Completed (Average: 51 visits per month; 207 families and 290 children served)

#### **Investigations:**

51 Investigations Ordered

90 Probate Investigations Ordered for Guardianship Petitions

#### **Mediation:**

96 Mediations Completed; 57% Agreement Rate

### **2017 Family Court Snapshot:**

**Welcome:** The DRU welcomed DRO Brad Palmore. Brad's degree is in Conflict Resolution and Mediation.

### **ADR Participant Comments:**

- "The most helpful part of the class was the compassion for the children and putting them first!"
- "I appreciate the concern of the speaker regarding our stress level during this process. Nice speakers. Very appreciated."
- "I was most surprised by the 8 best interests of the children."

### **CG Participant Comments:**

- "They have been very kind & understanding"
- "Common Ground staff were extremely friendly. My child felt safe, secure, and comfortable. You've made a difference!"
- "They are very welcoming and friendly to the children and parents, making a diffi-

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

## **Domestic Relations**

### **DRU Programs Defined:**

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

### **DRU 2017 Community Contributions:**

**Shared Spaces** – In 2017 funding awarded through a Domestic Relations Resolution Fund (OSCA) grant allowed the Domestic Relations Unit to coordinate with Center for Dispute Resolution at Missouri State University to provide a co-parenting without conflict class. CDR facilitated the program and provided follow up coaching appointments for parent participants. Monies awarded were for training presenters and coaches of the program and for covering expenses of the presenters and various supplies on the course dates.

**Quarterly Newsletters** – the DRU produced quarterly newsletters to the attorney's and community.

**MSU's Center for Dispute Resolution** – DRO's served as mediation coaches and provided presentations to newly trained community mediators in March and October.

**Ozarks Food Harvest** - DRO's volunteered with Ozarks Food Harvest by sorting and preparing food for distribution.

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

## Child Abuse & Neglect

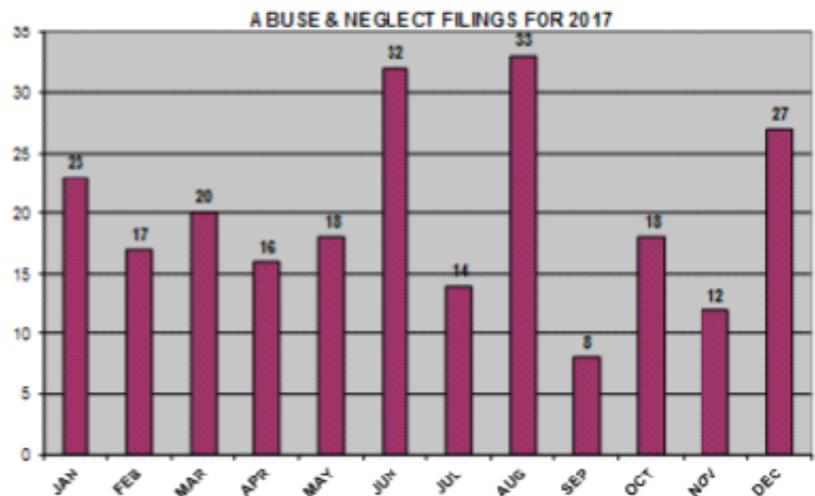
In 2017, the Greene County Juvenile Office received referrals regarding 238 children to determine whether they should be placed into protective custody. The Deputy Juvenile Officers provide court case management to children in foster care which includes attending court hearings and participation in team meetings.



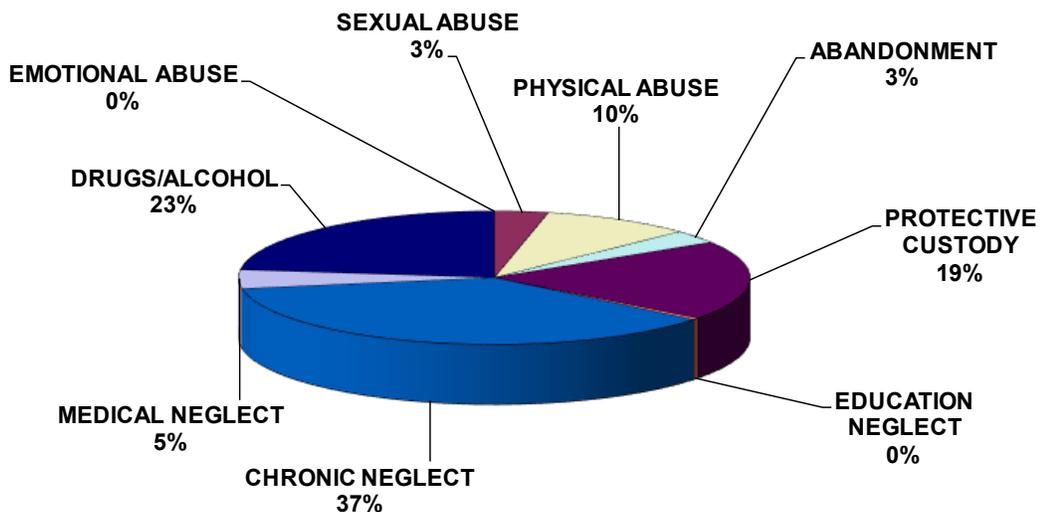
**Back:** Lisa Altis, Cassandra marsh, Chris Deck, Justin Lockhart, Brooke Risley, David Dameron, Jeneé Peryer, Donna Jirik, Cynthia Myers, Kyle Collins

**Front:** Shayla Lowe, Ashley Armstrong, Laina Webster, Twyla Allen, Karen Smith

The Abuse/Neglect Unit received referrals for 150 families in 2017. Of the referrals received, 67 involved drugs and/or alcohol. The most popular drug of choice in 2016 was methamphetamine (47%).

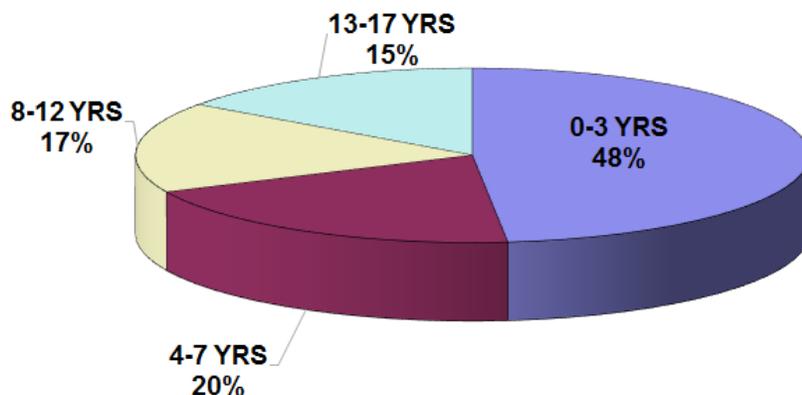


Abuse & Neglect Referral Allegations 2017

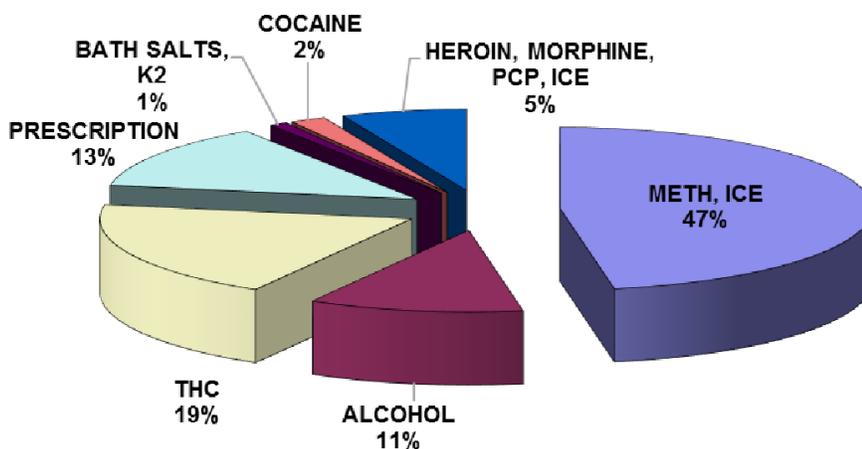


## Child Abuse & Neglect

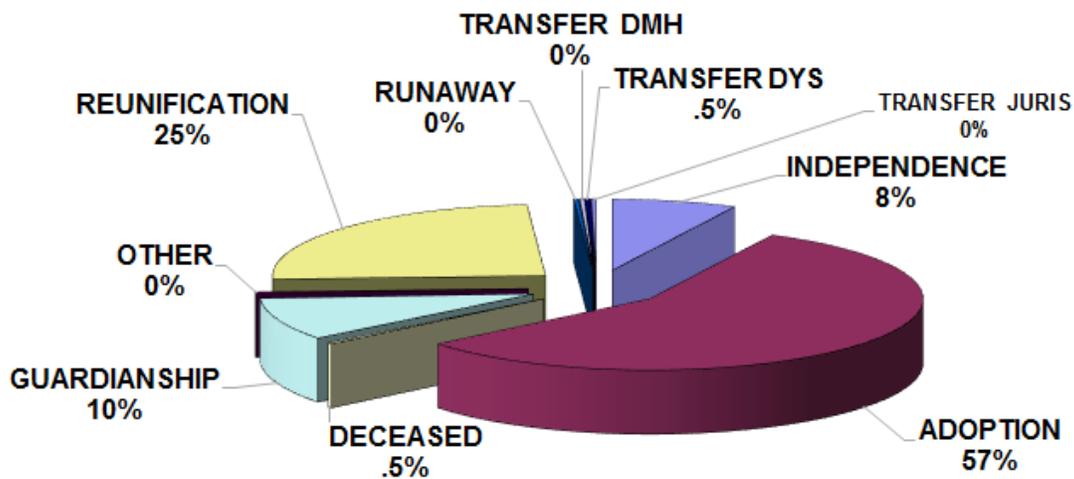
Almost half of children brought into protective custody in 2017 were 3 years old or younger.



42% of the families reported polysubstance abuse.



There were 365 children's cases closed in 2017.



## **Child Abuse & Neglect**

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

### **Fostering Court Improvement (FCI)**

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 Advocates (CASA).

### **Road to Reunification (R2F)**

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/Neglect Deputy Juvenile Officers.

2017 also saw the an overhaul of **Differentiated Case Management** (DCM). DCM is a technique courts can use to tailor the case management process, and the allocation of judicial system resources to the needs of individual cases. Judge Andy Hosmer was awarded the 2018 Casey Excellence for Children Leadership Award for his work in 2017 implementing and changing DCM.

### **Residential Placement Review Hearings**

Review the residential status of a juvenile in care to ensure all necessary efforts are being made to meet the needs of the juvenile, to ensure that residential placement is appropriate and that plans are in place to move the juvenile to a less restrictive setting as soon as appropriate.

### **Teens in Transition (TNT)**

Older Youth Court focusing on improving the futures for older youth (age 16-20) in custody. An emphasis is placed on providing awareness and direct access to community resources for older youth. At the end of 2017, 19 youth were involved with TNT court.

### **Red to Green Hearings (R2G)**

When a case has stalled or hit a roadblock, these hearings are held to review identified barriers to permanency to ensure that plans are in place to move the case forward to permanency in a timely manner.

### **Family Treatment Court (FTC)**

An intensive and specialized judicial program that serves families with children in protective custody due to parental substance abuse. Near the end of 2017, 45 families were involved with FTC.

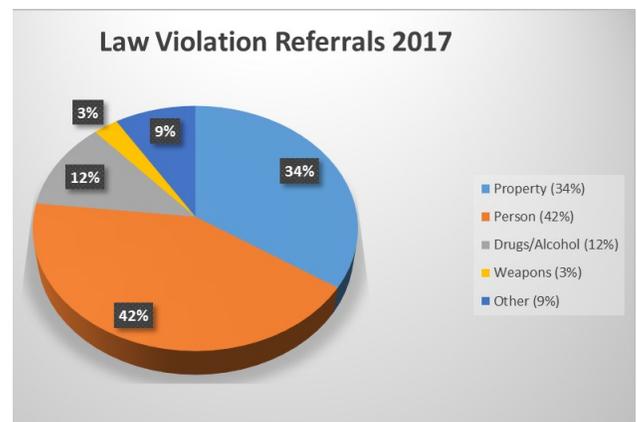
**Gratitude extended to CASA, Family Members, Foster Parents, Guardian ad Litems, Parent Attorneys, Social Workers, Teachers, Therapists, Treatment Providers and the many Community Partners who provide much needed support to the system.**

## Law/Status Violations Unit

The Revised Missouri Juvenile Officer Performance standards became effective in 2017. Practices and policies have been reviewed and adjusted locally to meet the expectations of the revised standards. The role of the Juvenile Officer became more clearly defined with focus given to ensuring due process for youth throughout the investigative process, screening and assessment, social investigation, as well as disposition and overall case planning and management. Changes in receiving, processing and disposing of cases were also necessary to adhere to the newly adopted standards. Deputy Juvenile Officers, legal staff and support services responded to the call for the enhanced performance standards and remain committed to ensuring compliance in Greene County. Throughout 2017 a total of 1621 delinquency and status offense referrals were received at the Greene County Juvenile Office. 568 of those referrals were eligible for juvenile office diversion. 667 delinquency offenses and 102 non-criminal status offenses were assigned to a Deputy Juvenile Officer for follow up case planning and disposition. 284 referrals were reviewed and rejected for the following: the youth's age, missing case information and/or a lack of legal sufficiency. The chart below is a breakdown of the offenses referred and assigned to a DJO.

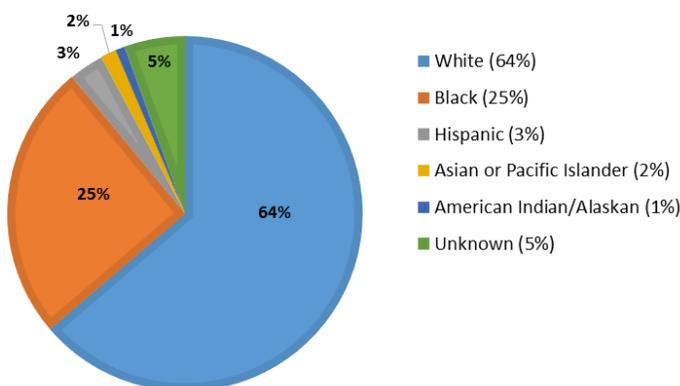


**Pictured Above (Back from left):** Kyle O'Dell, Ryan Marquez, Dustin Hathcock, Justin Tidwell, Eli Samek, Brad Shelton, and Larry Edgar. **(Front from left):** Tanya McClure, Cheryl Blake-more, and Cheryl Puzach



The majority of the total delinquency and status offense cases (61%) were referred by municipal police departments. School police/personnel made up the second largest source of referrals, sending 19% of the total. About 14% of the referrals came from the Greene County Sheriff's Department and 1% of referrals were sent by Children's Division. Lastly, 2% of referrals were from Parental Complaint Forms received from parents seeking assistance from the juvenile office. The remainder of the referrals (4%) were received by other law enforcement and other juvenile courts.

**2017 REFERRALS BY RACE**



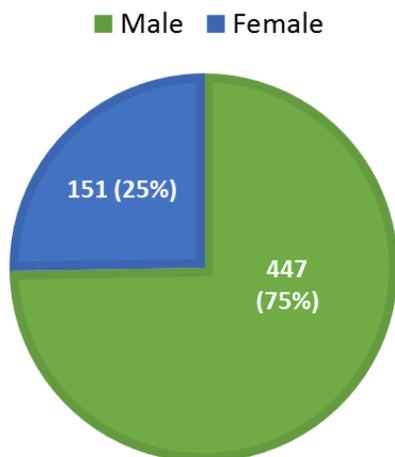
## Law/Status Violations Unit

### **Investigations and Case Plans**

Deputy Juvenile Officers within the Law/Status Violation Unit work cooperatively with law enforcement agencies during the investigation by responding as needed to administer the Juvenile's Miranda rights and ensure those rights are protected throughout the interview process. DJO's consistently develop individualized case plans for youth by gathering prior history, social, psychological and educational information regarding the youth. DJO's also prepare Court summaries containing recommendations to assist the Court in the dispositional phase of the

### **Screening & Assessment**

#### **DELINQUENCY REFERRALS BY GENDER**



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 2017: the Missouri Juvenile Offender Risk and Needs Assessment and the Missouri Juvenile Detention Assessment.

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 2017 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. The Clinical Services Coordinator was also available to help connect families with needed services throughout the year.



**Pictured Left:** Andy Sweatt from the Probation Unit won the title of 2017 Chili Cook-off Champion, winning for the second year in a row!



## Law/Status Violations Unit

### **Case Disposition**

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

Of those cases handled informally, 153 were referred for follow-up supervision through an informal adjustment, including 43 that were referred to the Greene County Teen Court/Teen Mediation Program. During 2017, 20 youth were referred to the Victim Offender Mediation program or Victim Impact Panel. 112 petitions were filed to handle cases through a formal court proceeding heard by the judge. Deputy juvenile officers shared and discussed appropriate treatment recommendations in preparation for the court hearing with Probation Officers, the attorney, and the Clinical Services Coordinator.

### **Community Collaborations**

Deputy juvenile officers were involved in the community in several different taskforces and initiatives. They also help support office programming that assist youth such as our GEMS and Spartans groups. In October 2017, the Law/Status Violation Unit organized its annual office-wide chili cook-off to bring the various units together for some friendly competition and great food. Much appreciation to our team of Judges (pictured below) who helped decide the winner for this year's event. The winner each year claims top honors and gets to proudly display the coveted traveling chili cook-off trophy.



**Pictured Above:** Chili cook-off judges Jennifer Wilmot, Judge Becky Borthwick, Commissioner Bob Cirtin, and Judge Margaret Palmietto

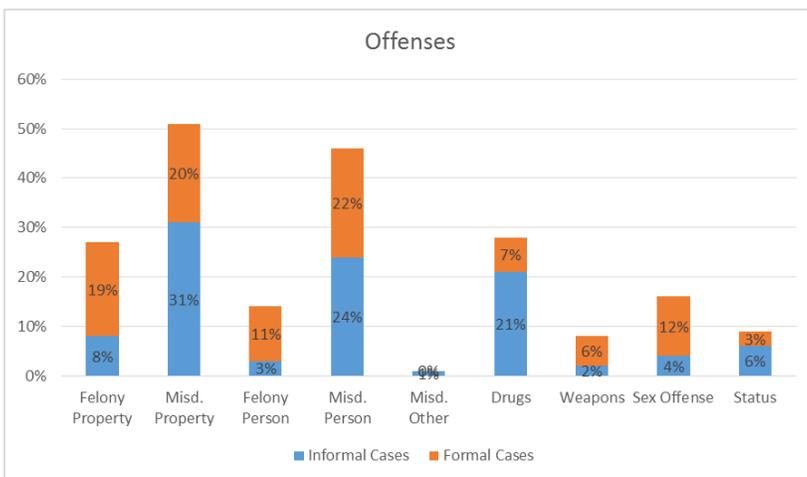
## Probation



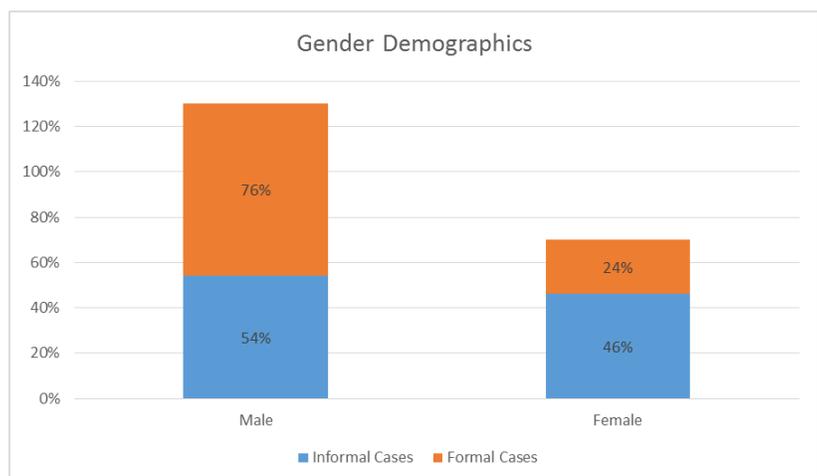
**Left to Right:** Katie Miller, Tracie Nicholson, Stefanie Myers, Debbie Baltzell, Hannah Porter, Joe Montanez Damon Young, Julie Hershberger, David Kuykendall, Nick Heisler, Andy Silliman, Andy Sweatt

Youth can be referred to the Probation Unit for both informal and formal services. In July 2017, the new Missouri Juvenile Officer Performance Standards were implemented within the Greene County Juvenile Office. These standards changed the informal process within the Probation Unit. Instead of Informal Probation where youth were placed on probation rules/conditions, we now utilize Informal Adjustment as an opportunity for the youth and family to engage with appropriate services and treatment without going through the court process. The goal is to assist the family through a treatment plan with the hopes of avoiding further referrals to the juvenile office. Probation is supervision that has been ordered by the judge after going through the court process.

In 2017, there were 251 Informal Probation/Adjustment Cases, with 54% of youth being Male and 46% being Female. Of those 251 cases, 121, or 49% completed their requirements, with 75, or 31% of youth being terminated from the Informal option.



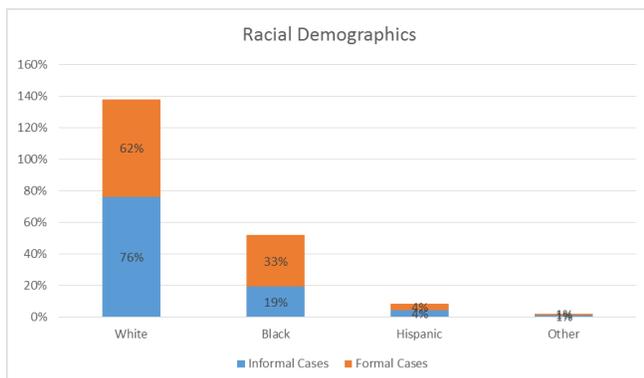
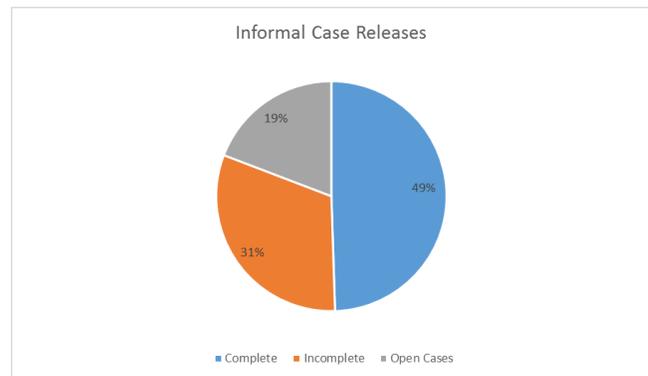
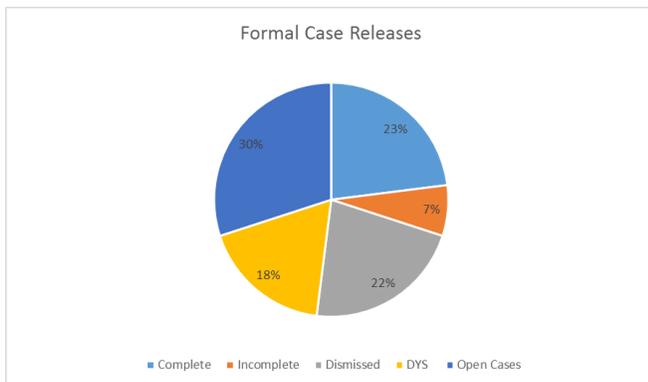
In 2017, there were 159 Formal Probation Cases, with 76% of youth being Male and 24% being Female. Of those 159 cases, 35, or 23% completed their requirements and were released from Formal Probation successfully with 13 youth, or 7%, being released unsuccessfully.



## Probation

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. With the new Missouri Juvenile Officer Performance Standards also came routine treatment plan and supervision reassessments. Every 90 days, the Probation Officer sits down with the youth and family to determine the progress being made on both Probation cases and Informal Adjustment cases. Changes are made as a collaborated effort to the treatment plan to help each youth be successful on a more individual biases. The supervision reassessments helps Probation Officers determine how often they should be meeting with each youth.

Informed Supervision is also offered to anyone who will be supervising a child that is involved with the Juvenile Office, while the class is primarily designed for those supervising children that have sexually harmful behaviors, anyone is welcome to attend. The purpose of the class is to give supervisors (parents/guardians) 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, as well as treatment options. The class is presented by Deputy Juvenile Officer Dustin Hathcock, and Stan Barnes, MS, NCC. It's held at 1631 W Bennett, Springfield, MO, on the 2nd Wednesday each month, from 6-8:30 pm.



## Detention



**Front row:** Andi Wyatt, Mike Scofield, Ryan Saxton, Susan Cox, Victoria Upton

**Back row:** Shane Wolff, David House, Brian Mourton, Caitlin Shouse, Reggie Warren, Jarod Bankhead, Justin Baltzell, Sharon Felton, Sydney Young, Becky Anderson, Merissa Fisk, Brandon Lechene

**Not pictured:** Jalen Baker, Madison Waggoner

**Former 2017 Staff Not Pictured:** Brad Tavener, Amanda Newman, Kenny Clayton, Ricky Bastien, Rebekah Houseknecht, Chris Cassity

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 2017, the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center had a reduction in youth admitted to secure detention, dropping 22% from the previous year's admissions of 222. Of the 174 juvenile offenders placed in secure detention, 59 youth or 34% were held for other counties and the Division of Youth Services. While this number is slightly down from 2016, it remains a significant portion of our population due to the closure of the 29th circuit detention facility in late 2014.

For the circuits throughout Southwest Missouri and the Division of Youth Services that utilize the Greene County Juvenile Detention to hold their youths while awaiting court or placement, a daily fee is assessed to 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 2017 was \$71,809.20. The total operating budget for the detention center in 2017 was \$813,312.46. This amount meets clothing, food, and healthcare needs of the youth; and the employment of 15 full-time and 4 part-time staff.

Due to the statewide standards for juvenile detention centers, the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center applies the same standards for all youth admitted to secure detention. 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 Foundation, 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 12 years the Greene County Juvenile Office has participated in JDAI several alternatives to secure detention have been created such as the 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 this period of time, admissions have fallen 60% without increased risk to public safety. Additionally, through efforts to process cases more efficiently through court, the average length of stay has been reduced by 37% allowing for youth to receive treatment services more expeditiously.

## Detention

In 2017 the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center was able to participate 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.

Along with participation in PbS, the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center worked diligently with the Division of Youth Services Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) compliance manager and federal auditors to become a PREA compliant facility. This did not greatly change practice, however, ensures that each facility staff and youth are educated about their right to be free from sexual harassment and sexual assault and increases the likelihood that the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center is a safe place.

Programming in the Greene County Detention Center promotes healthy engagement, socialization, and development for the youth placed in secure detention. The most significant program is the academic program provided by Springfield Public Schools. There is 5 hours of education programming each weekday and Springfield Public School provides one full time teacher, and two part time paraprofessionals during the regular school year, and one full time teacher and one full time paraprofessional during summer school. The teachers for the 2016-2017 school year were, Neil Adams and Glenn Dawson. The teachers were assisted by Wanda White. Kevin Zimmerman also provides art class each week.

The Greene County Juvenile Detention Center also enjoys many other community partnerships that provide services to the youth. Freeway Ministries provides a faith based program for youth that want to attend. Drury University provides music therapy to help the youth learn to express themselves through the avenue of music; and Burrell Behavioral Health provides trauma services and PREA education. Other partners provide assistance through goods. We have had many donations of books and treats throughout the year. Mercy Corporate Health provides for the medical services needed in detention.

Much focus in 2017 has been placed on training and re-training staff to not only meet standards, but rise above. Staff have been trained in Fundamental skills for detention workers, medication dispensing, suicide prevention, CPR and first aid, Safe Crisis Management, PREA Education, Trauma informed care, etc. To be able to provide the best service to the youth held in detention, adequate training is critical. This remains an on-going goal.

Finally, 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 2017, 1,004 Ex-Partes were filed after hours with the assistance of detention officers. This number is 45 more than in 2016.





## Support Staff



**Back Row L to R: Debbie Baltzell, Tanya McClure, Twyla Allen, Cynthia Myers, Donna Jirik**

**Front Row L to R: Jill Randolph , Shirley Speer, Barbi Speight, Danielle Walker**

**Not Pictured: Cheryl Blakemore**



Roles and Responsibilities of each position supports all of the various units within the office:

Secretary

Receptionist

File Clerk

We celebrated a 20 year milestone this year with Shirley Speer, part time file clerk, pictured to the left.

## **Community Based Services @ 933**

### **Thank You, Greene County**



933 N Robberson Facility

In late 2017, the Greene County Commission moved from 933 N Robberson to the Cox Medical Tower at 1443 N Robberson. The Greene County Commission provided their previous space to the Greene County Juvenile Office for use by the Community Based Services Section. Community Based Services for the Greene County Juvenile Office were previously located at 921 and 911 N Boonville. With our new location, we have been able to place all of the Community Based Services in the same building. This has provided a safer and more inviting environment for the youth we serve and has provided us the ability to deliver quality programming in a more efficient manner. We are very grateful!

### **Greene County Youth Academy**



**Back Row:** Allen Criger, Stephanie Schaffer, Nick Wilson, Jennifer Miller, Kiara Carrier, Stevin Cisneros

**Middle Row:** Jamie Raab, Ashley Keesling, Sharonda Pankey, Shalee Higgs, Stephanie Basham, Samantha Whitten

**Front Row:** Ja'Kel Ringo, Scottie Chavez

The Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA) serves as a Missouri Division of Youth Services diversionary program for youth in the court system in need of therapeutic services beyond what can be provided through enrollment in regular classes. Research has shown that a solid education is key to helping youth avoid further involvement in the criminal justice system.

### **ACADEMICS**

The GCYA program provides educational opportunities in partnership with the Springfield Public Schools (SPS). Mrs. Sunday Wildschuetz is our SPS teacher and she provides education focusing on Math, English and Reading. GCYA is also fortunate to have one grant funded teacher, Mrs. Angelin Adams. Mrs. Adams focuses on science, social studies and life skills. The grant funded teacher is provided by a grant from the Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA). Because of the strong partnership between SPS, OSCA and GCYA our youth are provided a tremendous educational opportunity that helps them avoid falling behind in school while going through the court process.



**GCYA Teachers: Mrs. Angelin Adams (left) and Mrs. Sunday Wildschuetz (right)**

## Community Based Services @ 933

### CIRCLE OF COURAGE MODEL

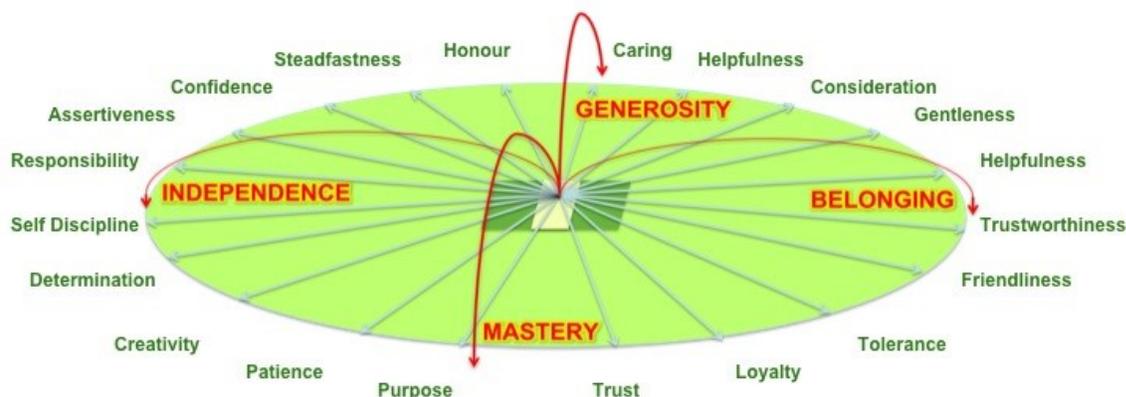
Youth in the GCYA program experience much smaller classroom size than in traditional school which provides a great opportunity for more one-on-one instruction and an individualized approach to each youth's educational needs. As youth complete the GCYA program, they are better able to transition back to the public school setting and have a higher chance of continued success after leaving the program.

#### 2017 HIGHLIGHTS

2017 was a big year for GCYA. One of our main project was the continued implementation and adaptation of the Circle of Courage curriculum to meet our local program needs. As the Circle of Courage was put into place, we found that many of our practices needed to be changed to fully support the curriculum and to help the youth get the most out of it. During 2017, we worked the majority of these issues out and are now working to update our policies and procedures to make our changes more permanent. We also had many of our staff move on to new positions as they graduated from college and found opportunities for promotions. As a result, we have hired many new staff who have been working hard to learn all about our program and developing their youth treatment skills. We are excited to watch this staff grow in the coming year. We were also very busy preparing for the move to our new facility. We had to pack and physically move our operation and make the transition to the new facility seamless for our youth. This was a massive project and a huge step forward for GCYA and we are glad to report that it was a tremendous success. We are forever grateful for the hard work of our youth and staff during this transition period.

The Circle of Courage model is based on the belief that to be emotionally healthy, youth need a sense of belonging, mastery, independence and generosity. These concepts provide a strong foundation for psychological resilience and positive youth change and development.

While in GCYA, youth complete an orientation process that is focused on building empathy. When that orientation process is successfully completed, youth are ready to enter the Circle of Courage. Youth usually begin in Belonging, which is designed to help youth forge strong, positive bonds based on respect and open-mindedness. Once this is established, youth have the emotional awareness that empowers them to focus on developing an internal motivation to be cordial and patient. As youth progress from mastery, they progress into independence which is designed to help youth learn to be a great problem solver. Youth in independence learn to develop a sense of accountability and responsibility. As youth demonstrate a high level of adherence to these character traits, they progress into generosity where they will focus on being unselfish and respecting others boundaries and needs. While the youth work this curriculum and are assigned to specific quadrants during their treatment, the reasoning for the assigned quadrant is to focus the youth on the skills most needed for development. While in the assigned quadrant, youth still must demonstrate the character traits learned in the previous quadrants. When youth have a rough time and are struggling, staff are able to provide assignments and coaching from previous levels to reinforce the character traits build in previous quadrants so that youth are able to get back on track with their current quadrant and continue progressing. This provides a consistent treatment approach that is responsive to youth needs and builds on youth success.



## Community Based Services @ 933

Youth who are in need of gender responsible programming are able to obtain this treatment through the Community Based Programming @ 933 facility. Gender responsive services are available for youth on probation through the Juvenile Office as well as for GCYA youth as needed. Gender responsive programming is very important for youth as boys and girls simply have different needs. For example, boys and girls present very differently with mental illness. Further, many girls tend to be more focused on relationships with other people whereas many boys are more focused on rules. By recognizing the different needs of boys and girls, we are able to provide strong individualized treatment that is responsive to the needs of each youth. The Juvenile Office gender responsive programming for girls is known as GEMS (Girls Empowering Minds and Spirits) and programming for boys is known as Spartans.



### **GEMS (Girls Empowering Minds and Spirits)**

The GEMS program works to promote healthy relationships and provide a focus on gratitude and positive community engagement. Through this approach, girls are able to develop an improved sense of self and learn to advocate for their needs and contribute to the community in a positive manner. This process helps our girls reach their fullest potential. GEMS presents specialized treatment based on the SAVVY Sister curriculum and provides multiple opportunities girls to volunteer in the community. The GEMS girls also have the opportunity to attend community events and learn about different community resources that can help them succeed. For example, this year, GEMS girls volunteered with Convoy of Hope. The GEMS girls were also able to attend the Designed for Life Woman's Conference at James River Church. Some of the groups covered in GEMS include: "Who Am I?", Girl Power, Support, Communication, Family, Friends, Healthy Living, Emotions, Spirituality, and "The Journey Ahead".

**RIGHT: GEMS Staff Attend DFL Conference in 2017. Pictured (left to right): Jamie Raab, Stephanie Schaffer, Cheryl Puzach, and Hannah Porter**



### **Spartans**

Spartans is the Juvenile Office's gender responsive programming designed to help young men become leaders in their community. This is done by facilitating programming that help boys learn to value themselves without feeling the pressure to achieve negative stereotypes that are portrayed in many ways in our culture. For example, Spartans works to help boys recognize the importance of empathy over dominance, compassion over physical strength, kindness over violence, and love over sex. Spartans works to teach young men the values of integrity, discipline, honesty, confidence, service, respect and tolerance. Spartans youth engage the community through various community service project thought out this community.



## Getting Involved For Today's Students (GIFTS)



**GIFTS Staff. Top Row (left to right): Thomas Gist, Kaylee Hood. Bottom Row (left to right): Jacqueline Scrivner, Gabrielle Wilson**

GIFTS is a grant funded afterschool program aimed at addressing the educational needs of youth under the supervision of the Greene County Juvenile Office. Youth who attend GIFTS programming are provided with supplemental educational material designed to enhance and develop their understanding of subject matter. GIFTS staff is able to obtain access to students school accounts to locate homework that needs to be completed, verify grades to identify areas of concern, and verify school attendance. GIFTS is also able to provide HiSet and ACT test preparation.



**GIFTS Programming. Youth were assigned to create plant and animal cells using different pieces of candy to represent cellular components. Once completed, the got to enjoy eating their creation!**

## Community Based Services @ 933

### **Homework Assistance Program (HAP)**

The HAP program is operated as a satellite program to the GIFTS program. HAP is available for youth after normal school hours (currently Wednesday and Thursday of each week between 2:30-7:00 PM). The HAP program is open to youth not only from the Juvenile Office, but from the community as a whole. Youth who attend HAP are able to get one-on-one assistance with their homework. Youth may also participate in enrichment activities such as building simple machines, wind and water energy, and Microsoft Office literacy. HAP also works to provide STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) based activities to the GCYA program. One of the GCYA youth's favorite lessons, is when a local high school teacher comes to GCYA through HAP funding, and does a series on DNA, forensics, anatomy, and temperature change. During this group, youth are able to extract their own DNA through saliva. The goal of this STEM based enrichment programming is to help provide at-risk youth with something that they may become interested in learning about and become self-motivated to continue exploring. Youth are able to learn that they are able to do what is considered more advanced activities, and do so successfully, helping build youth self-esteem. For example, one of the enrichment activities youth are able to participate in during HAP includes learning Chess. Chess is a game of strategy and requires youth to focus on a goal and implement a plan or strategy to succeed in the game. Youth must also be able to adapt their strategy as their opponent changes their strategy in the game.



**HAP Programming. GCYA youth participate in Chess group as they learn to play the game and enhance their skills.**

## **Community Based Services @ 933**

### **Diversion**



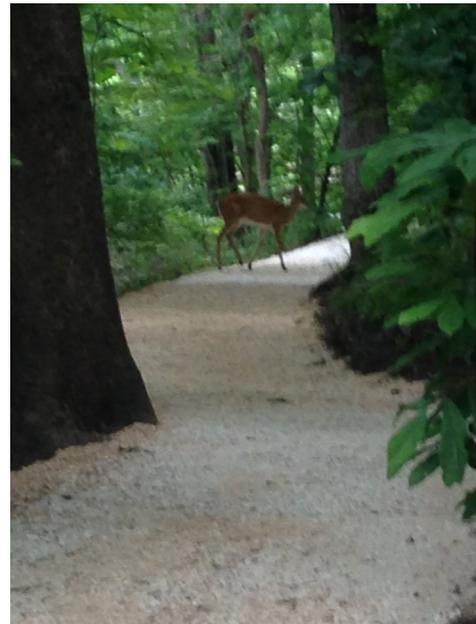
**Greene County Diversion Staff. Deputy Juvenile Officer Staci Denney (left) and Deputy Juvenile Officer Julie Hershberger (right).**

Diversionary services became of focus of the Greene County Juvenile Office in the summer of 2017. This department was developed as a part of our office wide implementation of the Juvenile Officer Performance Standards. The diversion unit works with first and second time referrals with lower level law violations and status offenses. For example, offenses that may be handled through the diversion unit include running away, truancy, misdemeanor drug possession, minor assaults, and out of control home behavior. The diversionary services concept is designed to provide information and resources to families to help them become stronger and supported as they help raise their youth. These services are provided through partnerships with community partners and on site at Diversion @ 933. This is very important as the point of diversion is to limit minor offenders from entering the system, so having an offsite location to meet with families furthers that goal.

Youth handled through the diversion unit should not have to step foot in the main Juvenile Office and will avoid being entered into our statewide tracking system. Diversion services are essential if we are going to succeed in reaching our families and providing them assistance on the front end of their involvement with our office. This front end service is designed to prevent further involvement with the Juvenile Court. On average, the diversion unit is working with approximately fifty families per month. In November of 2017, the Juvenile Office officially made two Deputy Juvenile Officers (DJO) positions into DJO-Diversion Unit officers to specify their area of focus. The Greene County Juvenile Office is excited to develop this new department and help it become extremely successful in our pursuit of diverting youth from deep end system involvement.

### **Meeting/Conference Space @ 933**

One of the wonderful opportunities the move into the Community Based Services @ 933 building is our opportunity to facilitate meetings and conferences on site. For example, the Greene County Juvenile Office will be hosting "lunch time learning" opportunities for staff as a part of ongoing in-service training. Our new facility also provides us a way to host probation officer meetings with youth and their families as needed without our youth even having to leave the building. This greatly enhances the safety and efficiency of treatment for youth. The Community Based Services @ 933 building has been outfitted with a quality security camera system to ensure the safety of youth and staff in the facility. We are in the process of installing a metal detector system which will enable those youth entering the building to complete a search process without having to endure a "pat-down" search. This is an important step for the Greene County Juvenile Office as we are committed to trauma informed services. The ability to avoid "pat-down" searches is a major step toward this goal.



**This picture was taken at the Springfield Nature Center by GCYA youth during the summer of 2017.**

**Therapeutic Programs @ 933****MORAL RECONATION THERAPY (MRT)**

MRT is a program designed to assist youth who are juvenile offenders and/or struggle with substance abuse. The MRT program is a 16 step program where the first 12 steps are usually completed over a 30 session period. Youth are provided homework and assignments that require them to complete the step and then have that work approved by the facilitator. MRT is conducted on an open-ended process, so new clients are able to join the group at anytime. MRT is open to all Juvenile Office involved youth referred to the program.

**MUSIC THERAPY**

GCYA has a partnership with Drury University to provide music therapy services to GCYA youth. Music therapy is an excellent, evidence based concept to help youth achieve their goals through a strong partnership with the facilitator as they use the power of music to deal with stress and increase the caliber of their quality of life.

**ANGER MANAGEMENT**

Anger management classes are designed to help youth identify the reasons for their anger, understand the things that trigger their anger, and develop a plan to work through that anger in a positive and effective manner. Anger management classes are provided to all GCYA youth and are open to all youth involved with the Juvenile Office.

**EQUINE-ASSISTED THERAPY**

Equine-Assisted Therapy uses the human-horse relationship to provide best-practice mental health treatment. This model provides essential life skills and includes mindfulness, trust, communication, self-control, and confidence. The concept is to capture the spirit and discipline of the horse, and help the youth obtain the same level of spirit and discipline. This is a way to successfully provide treatment in a fun and enjoyable manner. Equine-Assisted Therapy is open to all GCYA youth.

**Community Based Services @ 933****Individual and Family Counseling**

Youth involved with the GCYA program are required to participate in individual and family counseling. GCYA staff work to locate appropriate counselors and assist families in getting the counseling setup. GCYA staff are able to help youth obtain this service, regardless of a family's ability to pay for service. Individual and family counseling can be completed on site, which provides a quick and efficient delivery of services to our families. This service also assists families as the families we serve are not required to provide transportation to these service providers.

**In-Patient/Out-Patient Substance Abuse Counseling**

Youth who are in need of in-patient or out-patient substance abuse counseling are able to obtain this service through referrals made by Juvenile Office staff. Juvenile Office staff are able to help families identify service providers and help families find ways to pay for the service. In some instances, the Juvenile Office is able to help with transportation to providers as well. This service is available to all youth involved with the Juvenile Office.

**Community Service and Engagement Opportunities**

Youth involved with the GCYA program as well as other youth obtaining services at the Juvenile Office are able to participate in community service and community engagement activities. These events are held during normal program hours, or on the weekends. These events are possible due to the strong relationship the Juvenile Office has with our community partners. Some activities that we routinely partner with include Ozarks Food Harvest, Convoy of Hope, Missouri State University, Dogwood Ranch, Drury University, City of Springfield Missouri, Evangel University, Camp Character (Willard Police), Missouri Department of Conservation, and many others.

**MEAL SERVICES AT GCYA**

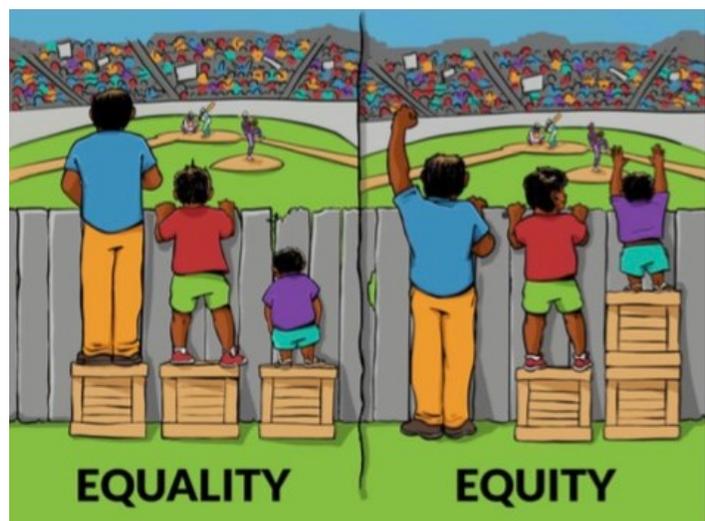
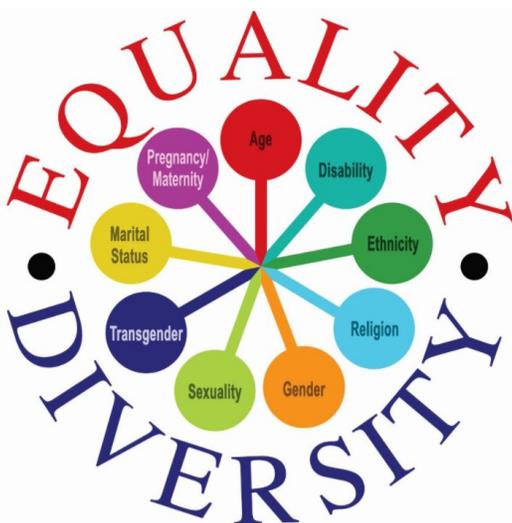
Youth who participate in programming at GCYA are provided daily breakfast and lunch through a grant provided by DESE. Youth are provided a nutritious snack at 3PM and are offered dinner each night through a grant provided by Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (CACFP/SFSP).

## **Social Equity Team (SET)**

Beginning in mid-2017, The Social Equity Team was established at the Greene County Juvenile Office by combining the efforts of the LGBTQ Task Force and the Diversity Awareness Partnership. SET was created to encompass all levels of social justice concerns. The goal of SET is to continue to provide an office-wide focus on diversity, inclusion, and social justice for everyone, regardless of our differences. SET is committed to continuing training and education opportunities for Juvenile Office staff, as well as data collection, program implementation, and community partnerships to address the needs of LGBTQ and minority youth within the juvenile justice system. SET will continue to monitor and address issues of disproportionate minority contact (DMC) within the juvenile justice system at all levels and is committed to reducing DMC in our community. As with the LGBTQ Task Force before it, SET remains committed to providing a safe and healthy space for LGBTQ youth and families through the Juvenile Office and community partnerships. Every youth, regardless of difference, is entitled to and deserves fair and equitable treatment through the Juvenile Office, and the Social Equity Team will continue to serve that mission.

The first order of business for the SET team in 2017 was to review the Juvenile Office's policies and create a new anti-harassment and non-discrimination policy that ensures that all employees, youth, and families will be treated with dignity and respect, and that we will strive to identify services and resources for minority and LGBTQ youth that will aid in challenges that are unique to their experiences.

We are excited to introduce this new initiative the public and will continue to work for equity for everyone in our wonderful community!



## Internship Opportunities

### **Gaining Experience & Earning Credit**

The Greene County Juvenile Office offers internships to undergraduate and graduate students who are seeking an excellent learning experience in a human services field, such as Psychology, Social Work, Sociology, Criminal Justice, and more. We believe interns play an essential role at the Juvenile Office, and interns have the opportunity to intern in several different units, including Probation, Detention, Delinquency, Community-Based Services, the Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA), Child Abuse and Neglect, Legal Unit, and Domestic Relations.

2017 Interns participated in a variety of different activities, including attending GEMs and Spartans programming, sitting in on investigative interviews, home visits, probation check-ins, and school visits, assisting with Common Ground, providing supervision to GCYA youth, playing softball with youth, and attending and assisting in preparing for court hearings.

*"I really liked being able to watch court, and Drug Court was my favorite. The internship opportunity did help me reinforce the field I want to go into..."*  
-Summer 2017 Intern

*"I had a wonderful experience here with the Greene County Juvenile and Family Courts. Working with the Domestic Relations Unit, I have gained a new perspective of families and different types of court cases."*  
-Spring 2017 Intern



**Ryan Saxton (middle) interned with the Child Abuse & Neglect Unit in Summer 2017 and is now a Youth Leader in Detention. She is pictured here with JoAnna SanPaolo and Chris Deck at Drug Court.**

*"Being on the softball team was probably one of my favorite things because you get to see the kids in a more relaxed setting."*  
-Summer 2017 Intern



**(Above) Shalee Higgs interned with the Probation Unit in Summer 2017 and is now a Youth Specialist at the Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA).**

## **Internship Opportunities**

*"I loved how open the Juvenile Justice Center was to allowing me to be a part of everything. There was always something going on, so it made it hard to choose what to do. I also liked that not everyday I was doing or seeing the same thing."* -Summer 2017 Intern

*"One thing I really enjoyed during my internship was the time spent working with the kids, particularly in GEMs and Spartans."* -Fall 2017 Intern

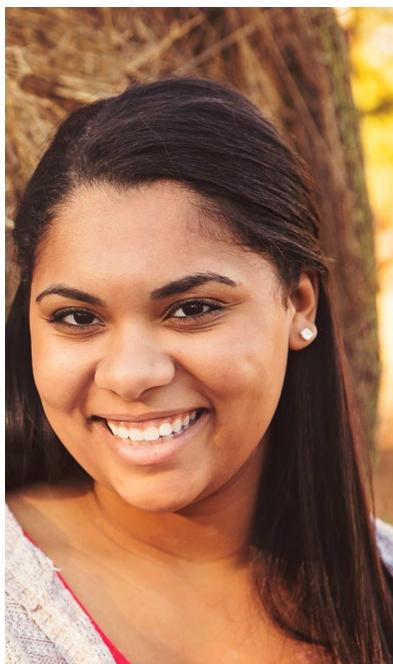


**(Above) Kiara Carrier interned with the Delinquency Unit in Summer 2017 and is now a Youth Specialist at the Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA).**

### **By the Numbers**

In 2017, the Juvenile Office had a total of 14 interns during the Spring (7), Summer (4), and Fall (3) semesters. The number of hours required by their universities ranged from 125 hours to 300 hours. 10 students were from Missouri State University and 4 were from Evangel University. Student majors included Criminology/Criminal Justice (6), Child and Family Development (2), Sociology (1), Psychology (3), and 2 double majors of Criminal Justice AND Psychology.

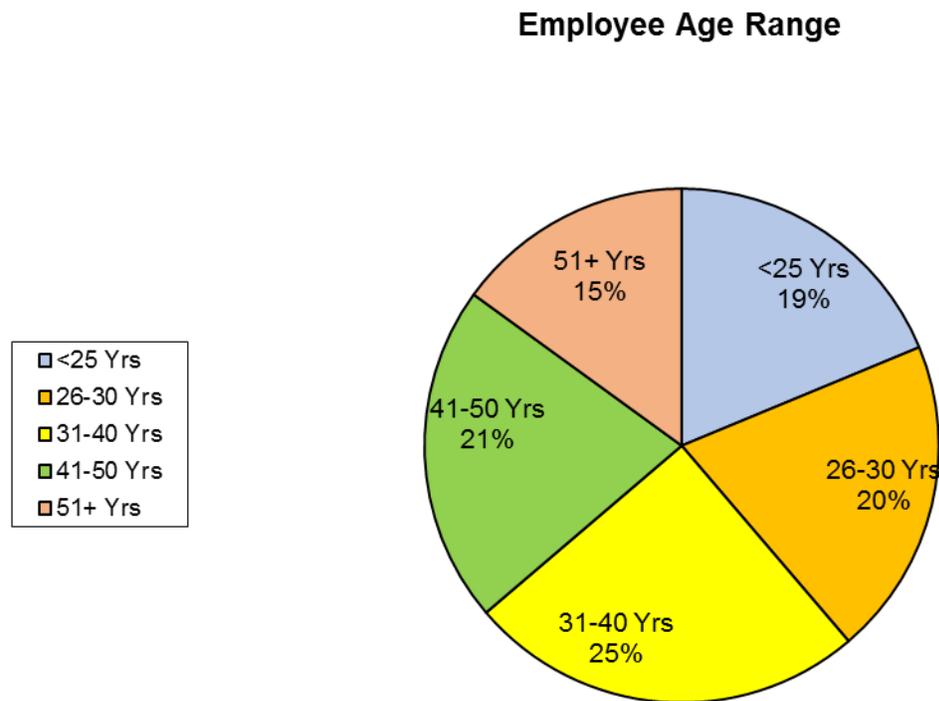
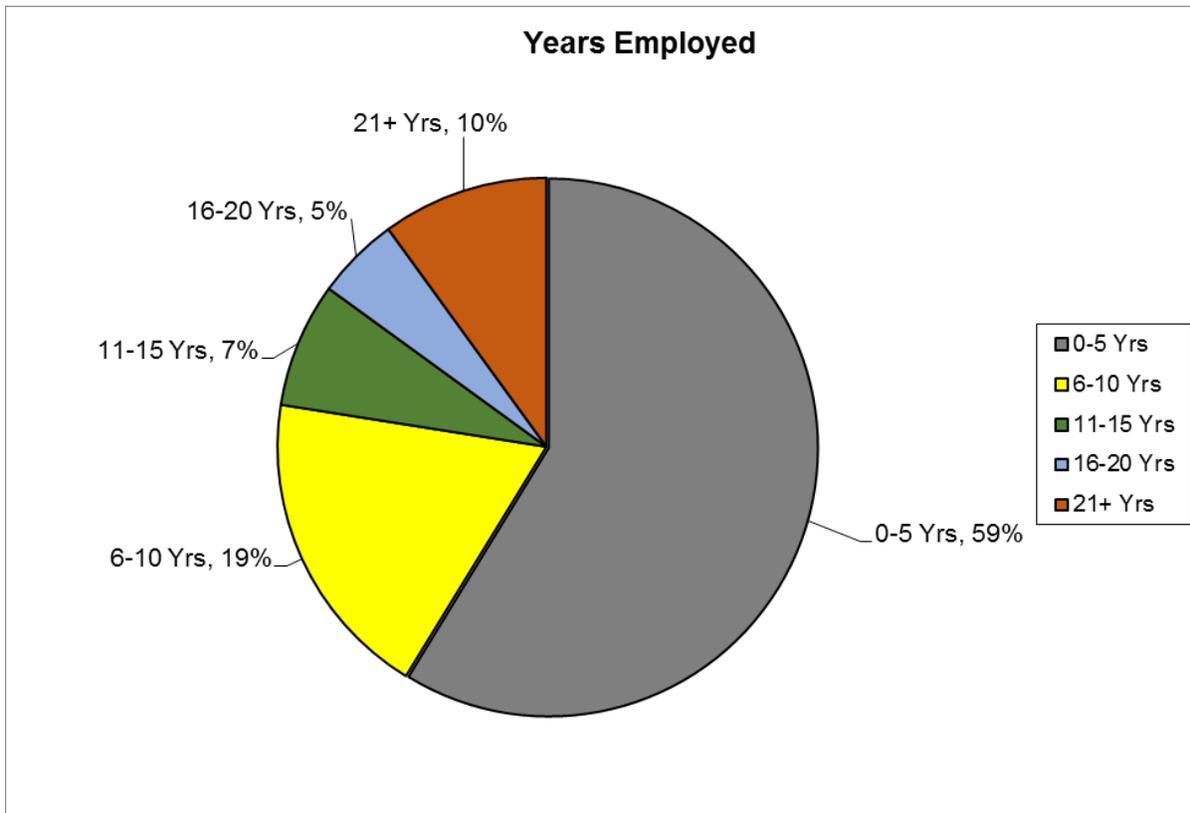
*"One strength of my internship was the atmosphere of the office and how it seemed everyone was willing to help the interns."* - Spring 2017 Intern



**(Left) Stephanie Schaffer interned with the Domestic Relations Unit in Spring 2017 and is now a lead Family and Community Specialist at the Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA).**

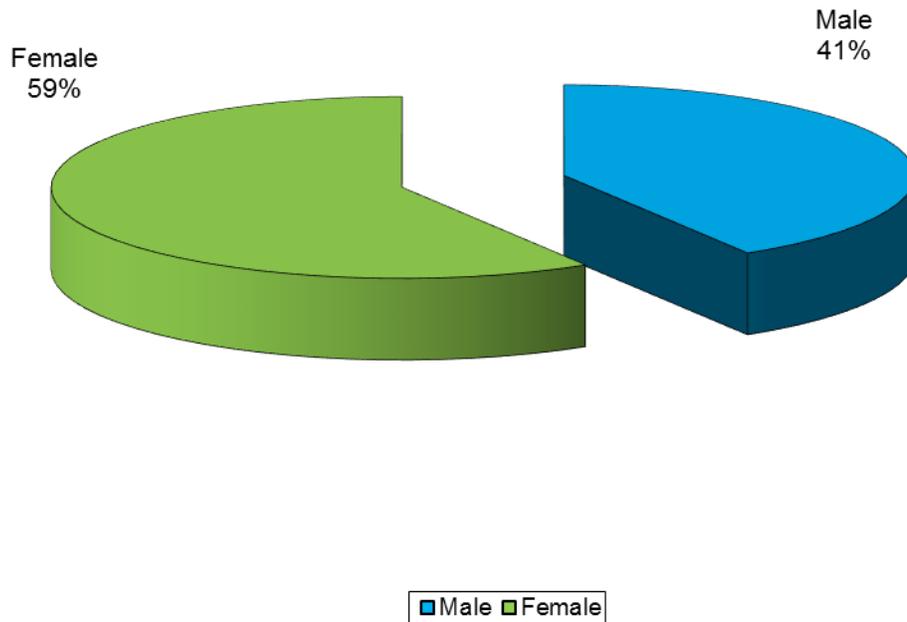
For more information about how to obtain an internship with the Greene County Juvenile Office, visit <https://greencountymo.gov/juvenile/sub224/index.php>. The deadline to apply for the Spring Semester is November 1st, the Summer Semester is March 1st, and the Fall Semester is June 1st.

## 2017 Employee Demographics

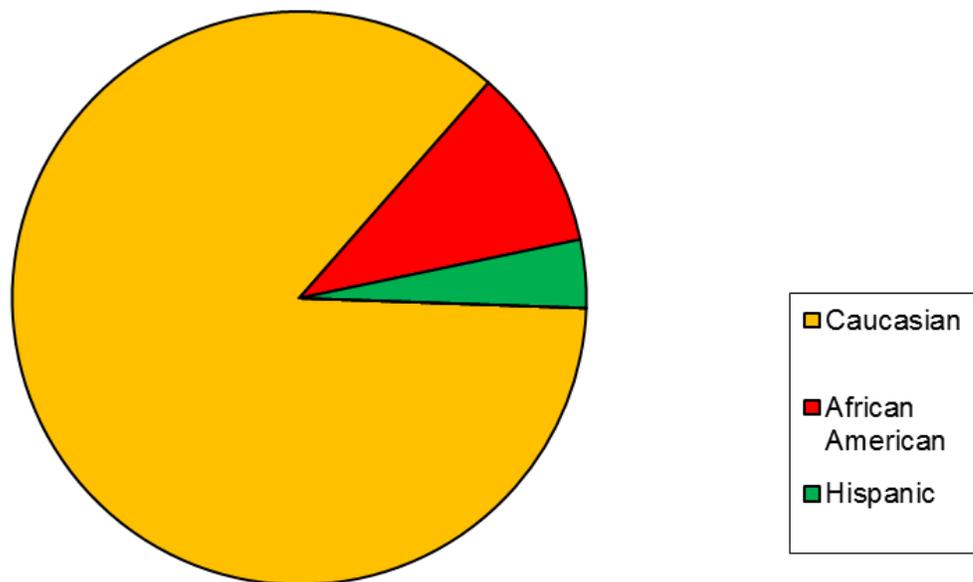


## 2017 Employee Demographics

### Employee Gender

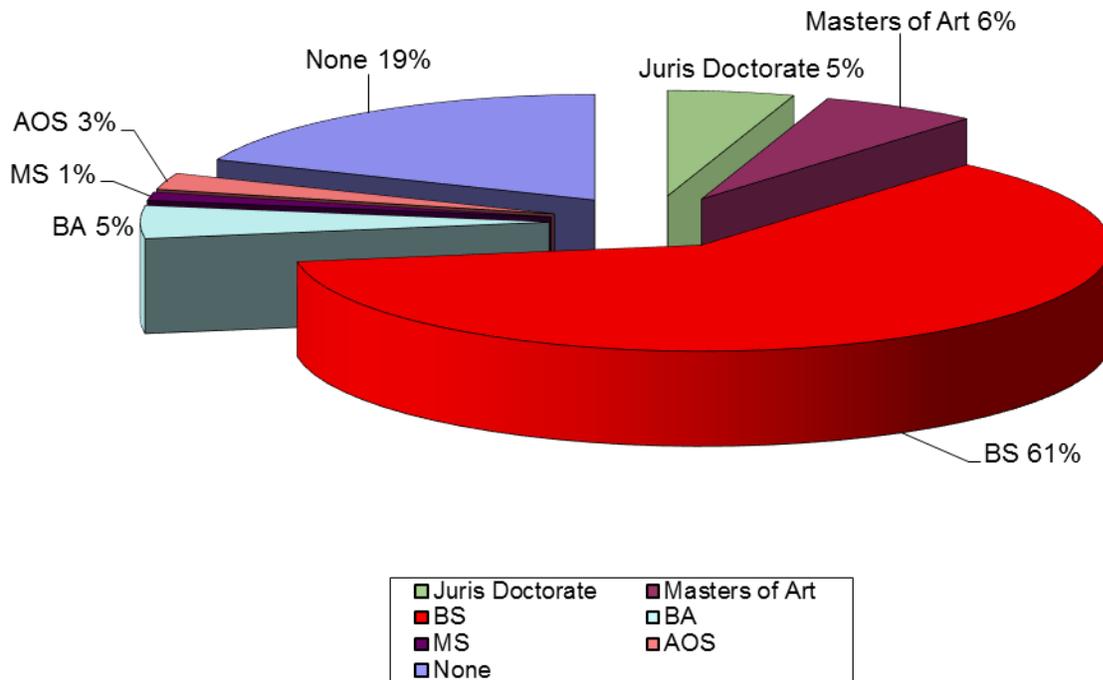


### Employee Race

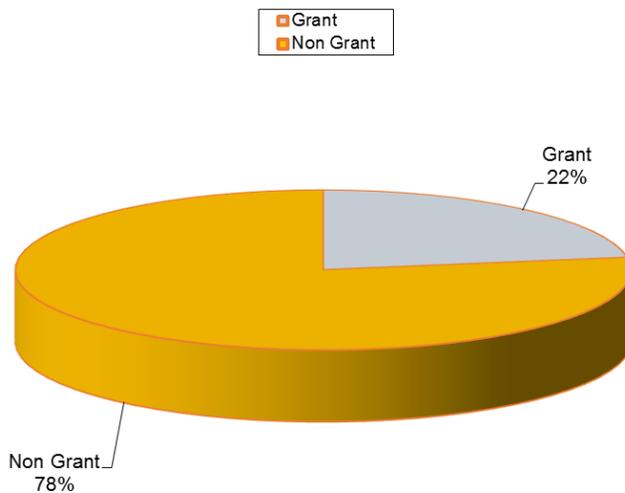


## 2017 Employee Demographics

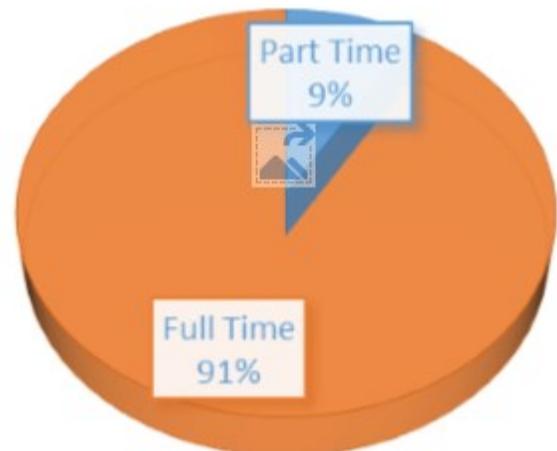
### Employee Degree Types



### Employees Paid By



### Full Time and Part Time Employees



## **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.

A Sporting Chance	Safe and Sober
Ambassadors for Children	School Police Services
Better Life in Recovery	Springfield Fire Department
Boys and Girls Club	Springfield Police Department
Burrell Behavior Health	Springfield Parks Department
Central Assembly of God	Springfield Public Schools
Cox Health	The Victim Center
Center for Dispute Resolution	Willard Police Department-PALS
Chaffee	Dogwood Ranch
Child Advocacy Center	Music Therapy of the Ozarks-Drury
Children's Division	OACAC
Community Partnership of the Ozarks	Matthew 25 Project-Drury
Division of Youth Services	Springfield Dream Center
Freeway Ministries	Southern Missouri Women Lawyers
Great Circle	Jordan Valley Clinic
Greene County, MO Offices	Trudi's Kids
Horses of Hope	Drury University
Hy-Vee	On Angel's Wings
Legal Services of Southwest Missouri	Ozarks Food Harvest
Mercy Corporate Health	Northwest Project
Missouri Alliance	Convoy of Hope
Missouri Career Center	Care to Learn
Missouri Mentoring Partnership	Adopt a Street
Missouri State University Nursing School	Adopt a Stream
Ozarks Technical Community College	Southwest Center for Independent Living
Parkview Christian Church	



