

**Greene County Family Court:  
Juvenile & Domestic Relations Division**



**Annual Report to the Community**

**2013**

# 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.*



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

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

**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. Pictured, from top left are: Allen Criger, Zach Adams, Kyle O'Dell, Brad Shelton, Bill Prince, Jeremy Trapp, Lisa Altis, Marie Swope, Susan Cox, Dan Johnson, Perry Epperly, Karen Lehmann, and Jill Randolph. Please contact us at 417-868-4008 if there are any questions we may answer.**

# Table of Contents

<b><u>Chapter 1 - Child Welfare</u></b>	<b>Pages 4-8</b>
Child Abuse & Neglect Unit	Page 4-6
Domestic Relations Unit	Page 7-8
<b><u>Chapter 2- Juvenile Justice</u></b>	<b>Pages 9-23</b>
Law/Status Violation Unit	Page 9-10
<u>G</u> irls <u>E</u> mpowering <u>M</u> inds & <u>S</u> pirits (GEM'S)	Page 11
Crossover Youth	Page 11
Probation Unit	Page 12– 13
<u>E</u> vening <u>R</u> eporting <u>C</u> enter (ERC)	Page 14-15
<u>R</u> esponding <u>A</u> ppropriately to <u>D</u> rug and <u>A</u> lcohol <u>R</u> eferrals (RADAR)	Page 16
Teen Court	Page 17
<u>G</u> reene <u>C</u> ounty <u>Y</u> outh <u>A</u> cademy (GCYA)	Page 18-19
Detention Center	Page 20-21
<u>G</u> etting <u>I</u> nvolved for <u>T</u> oday's <u>S</u> tudents (GIFTS)	Page 22
<u>H</u> omework <u>A</u> ssistance <u>P</u> rogram (HAP)	Page 23
<b><u>Chapter 3- Court and Support</u></b>	<b>Pages 24-27</b>
Legal Unit	Page 24-25
Support	Page 26
Grants and Revenue	Page 27
<b><u>Chapter 4- Community</u></b>	<b>Pages 28-35</b>
Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP)	Page 28
Internship Opportunities	Page 29
GCJO Employee Demographics	Page 30-31
Community Partners	Page 32-33
Glossary	Page 34-35

**On the Cover:** “Tree of Life” is a combined effort of at least ten different Greene County Juvenile Detention students. The project took over two months to complete, involving multiple different processes and materials. The essence of the project is a 2D grid drawing and painting of a tree that also includes multiple 3D origami pieces, such as flowers and cranes. The finished work is over 110 x 90 cm and is visually stunning. The way that the project came together is a comparable metaphor for life, in that we are all individuals that like to do things our own way, but we must be able to come together and work for a common goal or purpose. Submitted by Lee Vonallmen, B.F.A., B. Ed., Art Instructor for Springfield Public Schools, Head Wrestling Coach, Hillcrest High School.

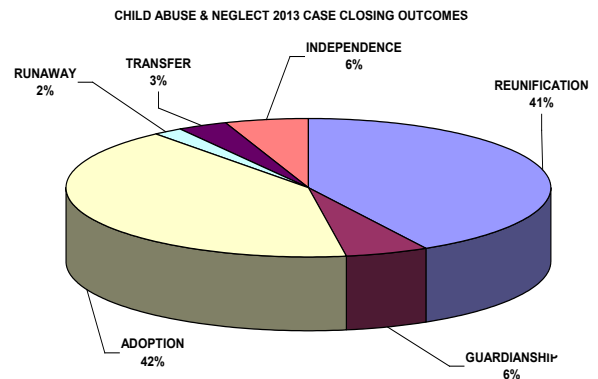
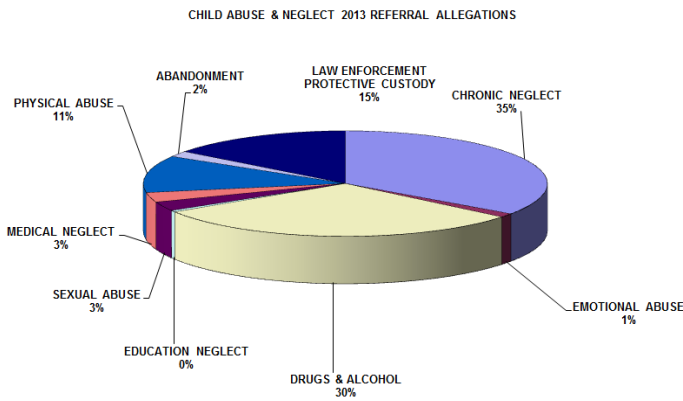


# Child Abuse & Neglect Unit



The Abuse and Neglect Unit, from back left: Kyle Collins, Laina Webster, Amanda West, Chris Deck, Brooke Risley, Whitley Spencer, Jeremy Trapp, Lisa Altis, Shayla Lowe, Cassandra Marsh, Rachel Roy and Dawn Dooley.

In 2013, the Greene County abuse and neglect deputy juvenile officers investigated allegations of abuse and neglect regarding 460 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. Throughout 2013, the average number of children in foster care declined by 4% from 2012. Throughout the year, the deputy juvenile officers were responsible for monitoring an average of 50 families and 85 children on their caseload.



2013 Court Petitions filed in the Abuse/Neglect Unit	
Abuse & Neglect	408 children
Termination of Parental Rights	180 children
Adoption (foster care, private, step-parent, foreign & adult)	194 children

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

# Child Abuse & Neglect Unit

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



Parents meet for Road to Reunification .

*“It gives those that don’t know an understanding of how the system works for you and you for it.”*

*“Learning how to better communicate with the team.”*

*“It just gave me the information I needed to get through this.”*

## **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. In 2013 over 80 parents attended the class.

**Kids In Court (KIC)** is a program that encourages older youth to attend their court hearings so that they have an active voice in their case. In 2013 46 % of older youth were able to attend their court hearings.

Older youth comments about why it is important to them to be at court hearings:

*“Because I could voice my opinion.”*

*“So that people know that I am part of this too and have a voice.”*

*“Because it made me feel more involved in my case and in my life.”*

*“I can tell the Judge how I feel.”*

*“I want to hear what everyone has to say in person.”*

*“It makes my mind more at ease to know exactly what is going on with my family.”*



**Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC)** is a specialized court that provides comprehensive supervision, drug testing, substance abuse treatment services, and immediate sanctions and incentives to parents addicted to drugs and/or alcohol. The Drug Court Commissioner and a team that includes representatives from the Juvenile Office, Children’s Division, guardian ad litem, parents’ attorneys, prosecuting attorney, probation and law enforcement agencies who work together to serve the best interests of children by helping parents resolve their drug and/or alcohol issues.

# Child Abuse & Neglect Unit

**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).

In 2013 FCI accomplished goals that included: Hosted two Family Group Conferencing trainings, Chosen as one of two Missouri sites for implementation of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) and developed a Birth Parent Support Group plan.

*The optimal permanency goal is for reunification with a parent, however, when that cannot happen other permanency options are sought. Throughout 2013, cases were closed for 363 children.*

**241**

**adoption hearings were held in Greene County in 2013, with the types of adoption ranging from...**

**through Children's Division**

**130**

**step-parent**

**24**

**relative**

**38**

**foreign**

**14**

**independent or agency**

**22**

**adult**

**5**



## Greene County Family Court - Domestic Relations Unit

The Domestic Relations Unit (DRU) serves families with cases pending in Family Court, to include dissolutions of marriage, paternity actions, motions to modify prior cases, and family access motions. All domestic relations officer's (DROs) have a master's degree in psychology and three are Licensed Counselors. Officers are located in the Judicial Courthouse.



From the left: Karen McIlravy, Michael Metz, Chelsey Ortiz, Karen Lehmann, & Becky Clifton Hopkins

### Alternative Dispute Resolution Class

Individuals involved in contested Family Court cases attend the Alternative Dispute Resolution in the Family Courts (ADR) class. The ADR class provides litigants with detailed information about the Family Court process, the effects of litigation on children, and discusses the benefits of mediation. Classes are held two to three Tuesdays per month at Burrell Behavioral Health.

*801 Litigants Attended in 2013*

*Average: 67 Litigants per Month*



#### **ADR Survey Comments:**

*"The class was very beneficial in walking through the court process, step by step."*

*"This presentation affected my decision 100% towards mediation."*

*"I found this class very helpful! I really hope that the information helps our case!"*

*"Thank you for working for kids and their families!"*

*"Great instructors! Their knowledge of the court system was helpful and their guidance was great as well."*

*"This class has helped me decide to reach out to the other party one more time in attempt to communicate."*

### Case Flow Management

Every case filed in Family Court is assigned to one of four Family Court Divisions. All petitions are tracked by DROs to ensure continuous movement towards finalizing each case via settlement or trial completion.

*2,761 Cases Filed in 2013*

*Average: 690 Cases Per DRO*

### Case Management Hearings

Contested cases involving children are scheduled for a case management hearing (CMH) with the goal to provide stability for the minor children through implementation of a temporary contact schedule and child support order. DROs facilitate conferences with attorneys and/or pro se litigants to summarize case details and expedite the hearing for the commissioners.

*362 CMH's in 2013*

*Average: 30 CMH's Per Month*

### Common Ground

Common Ground Supervised Access Program (CG) provides an opportunity for children to visit their non-residential parent (NRP) in a safe, secure, and monitored environment. Visits may be ordered due to a variety of reasons, to include intense conflict between parents, allegations of child abuse or neglect, domestic violence, substance abuse, criminal activity, or introduction or reintroduction of a child to a parent. CG meets the national standards for supervised access programs provided by the Supervised Visitation Network and is a self-sustaining program charging families \$20 per visit. Licensed DROs are able to provide an additional service of therapeutic intervention to assist the child and NRP in transitioning into a comfortable visit or to address specific issues.

*486 CG Visits in 2013*

*Average: 41 Visits per Month;*

*Serving 14 Families and 18 Children*

## **Investigations**

Investigations are ordered in Family Court cases that involve high-conflict custody disputes between the parents. DROs summarize background information and provide records as requested. Investigations include summaries of police and sheriff's department records, Missouri Children's Division records, and Greene County Juvenile Office records. They may also include interviews of the parties, home visits, medical and mental health records, or records requested from other agencies. Additionally, licensed DROs may be ordered to provide therapeutic assessments for families who can not afford to pay for a full psychological evaluation from an outside agency.

*48 Investigations Ordered in 2013*

*84 Probate record checks ordered for Guardianship petitions in 2013*

*132 Families Served*

## **Mediation**

All DROs are Court Approved Civil and Family Mediators. DROs may be ordered to mediate cases when the parties have a combined income of less than \$40,000. Mediated issues generally include: contact schedules, child support, and property.

*52 Cases Ordered to DRU Mediation*

*78% Agreement Rate*

## **P.O.W.E.R. Court**

Parents Overcoming Obstacles to Work and Exhibit Responsibility (POWER Court) provides community resources and job placement assistance to eligible litigants who are not paying court ordered child support. The goal is to minimize county and state monies spent on families with parents who have the potential for gainful employment but may need one-on-one assistance. This program is in collaboration with the Greene County Child Support Prosecutor's Office, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Missouri Career Center, OTC, and Family Court.

*12 Litigants Ordered to POWER Court in 2013*

*The DRU was approved for a \$10,000 Domestic Relations Resolution Funding (DRRF) Grant through the Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA). Monies were used beginning in 2013 to purchase new toys and supplies for courthouse supervised visits or for children who are waiting for their parents to complete court hearings. Monies were allocated to purchase new, updated, and age appropriate toys for Common Ground, and to pay the off duty police officers who provide security for Common Ground.*

*DROs enjoy unit lunch at  
Their favorite restaurant!*



*From the left: Chelsey Ortiz, Michael Metz,  
& Becky Clifton Hopkins*



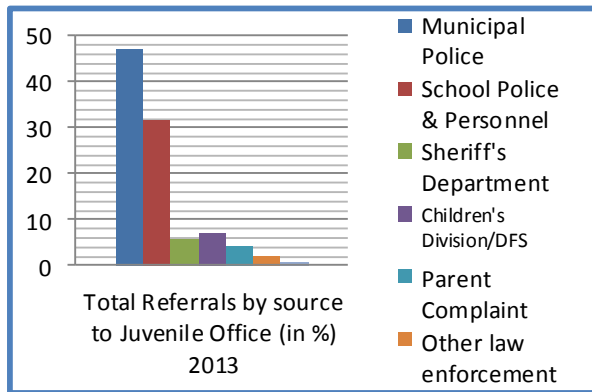
*Center for Dispute Resolution and Central Assembly for allowing the DRU to use your space for Common Ground on Tuesday and Thursday evenings!*

*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!*



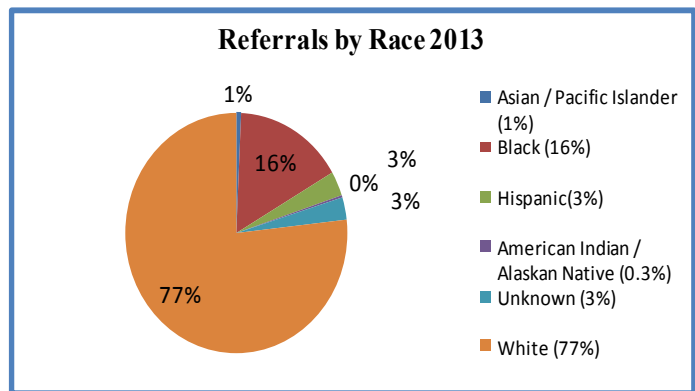
# Law/Status Violation Unit

The Law/Status Violation Unit received 1,430 juvenile Delinquency referrals and 342 non-criminal juvenile status offense referrals in 2013. The largest percentage of referrals came from municipal police departments.



Deputy Juvenile Officers pictured above (from left): Kyle O'Dell, Dustin Hathcock, Justin Tidwell, Cheryl Puzach, Brad Shelton, Tracie Nicholson, Catie Chauvenne, Jeff Engelhart, and Larry Edgar.

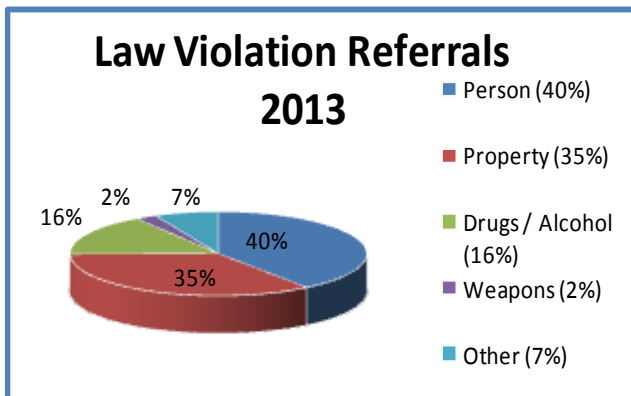
Fifty-two percent (52%) of the delinquency referrals/cases were referred by municipal police departments, whereas they referred twenty-eight percent (28%) of the status offense cases, for a total of forty-seven percent (47%) of combined referrals. School police Departments and school personnel made up the second largest source of referrals. They sent thirty-one percent (31%) of delinquency referrals and thirty-two percent (32%) of the status offense cases. The Division of Family Services referred a total of seven percent (7%) of cases and almost six percent (6%) of cases were referred by the Greene County Sheriff's Department. In 2013, at least four percent (4%) of Parent Complaint Forms were received from parents seeking intervention from the juvenile office.



## Investigations

Deputy juvenile officers (DJOs) within the Law/Status Violation Unit responded to the above referrals by assisting law enforcement or conducting follow-up investigation on the reports received. DJOs reviewed police reports, referral information, interviewed victims, witnesses and met with juveniles and their parent or custodian to gather the facts of the case.

DJOs met and discussed cases with staff attorneys to determine legal sufficiency, appropriate charges and court preparation plans. As part of the investigative process, youth reported as sexual offense victims are referred to the Child Advocacy Center for follow-up interview and services. During 2013, deputy juvenile officers referred or participated in 89 investigations where an alleged victim was referred to the Child Advocacy Center.



# Law/Status Violation Unit

## **Screening & Assessment**

In an effort to appropriately identify the risk level a youth poses to the community, DJOs utilized two validated objective screening tools in 2013, the Missouri Juvenile Offender Risk and Needs Assessment and the Missouri Juvenile Detention Assessment.

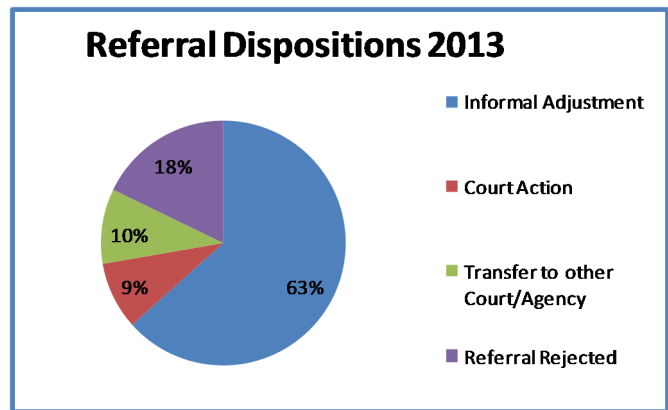
The tools help determine proper levels of detention, alternatives to detention and supervision/intervention plans for youth referred to the Juvenile Division. The Law/Status Violation Unit also administered a mental health/substance abuse screening for youth referred to the Greene County Juvenile Division during 2013 that included the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument-Version 2 (MAYSI-2). This screening instrument is designed to help identify a youth who may need further assessment and/or treatment for mental health and/or substance abuse.

## **Case Disposition**

Deputy juvenile officers prepared and disposed of cases through an informal adjustment process in fifty-nine percent (59%) of the referrals. Of those, 243 were referred for follow-up probation supervision including 77 that were referred to the Greene County Teen Court Program.

During 2013, 20 youth were referred to the Victim Offender Mediation program and 50 youth to the Victim Impact Panel. Ninety-eight (98) petitions were filed to handle cases through a formal court proceeding heard by the judge.

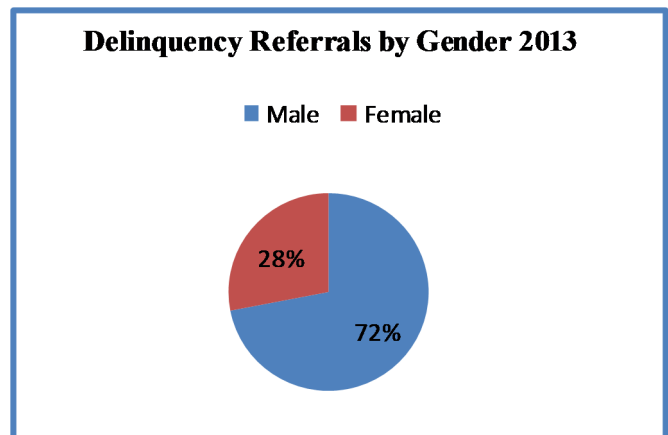
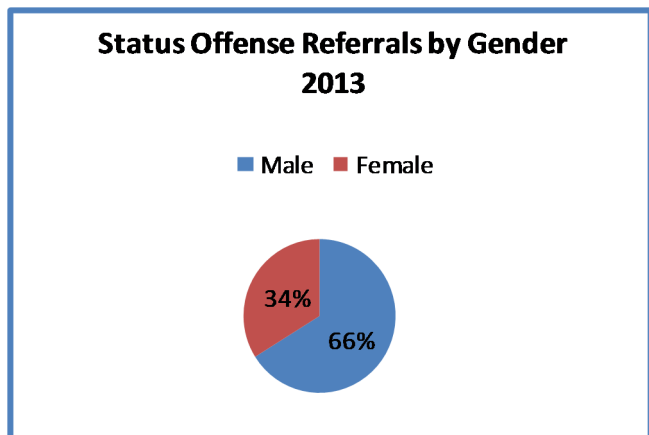
Deputy juvenile officers attend a team staffing for



each case where they share and discuss appropriate treatment recommendations in preparation for the court hearing. They also gather educational, social, psychological and offense history on these juveniles. Such information is included in a summary and made available to all parties of the case and ultimately offered to the court to assist in the disposition of the case.

## **Community Collaborations**

Deputy juvenile officers were involved in the community in several different taskforces and meetings. The participation in the monthly taskforces involved the Youth Violence and Gang Taskforce, Underage Drinking Taskforce, and the Homeless Youth Taskforce. DJOs from the Juvenile Office were also a part of a Multi-Disciplinary Team that met once a month that involved the Child Advocacy Center, Law Enforcement Officials in Greene County, Children's Division, Prosecutor's Office, and the Victim Center.



Girls Empowering Minds and Spirits is Gender Responsive Programming, funded by LEST II (Law Enforcement Sales Tax).

Girls once made up a small percentage of the youth in the juvenile system. That, however, is changing. The presence of girls in the system is growing and they now make up around 30% of all youth arrested (Ravoira & Lydia, 2010). Most current practices to address juveniles in the system were developed in response to males, but as the number of girls in the system continues to grow it is becoming more important to address the specific needs of our female youth.

GEM'S had many developments in 2013. A Facebook page and website were developed, and it's first newsletter was distributed. The program was featured in a story on news station KSPR 33. GEM'S also hosted a Career Daze series, which hosted a variety of speakers. Additionally, GEM'S took part in the Girls 4 Good Conference, as well as the CDR Network for Girls.



"Life" by a GEM'S participant, age 14.

## Crossover Youth

### Missouri Crossover Youth Initiative

What is Crossover Youth?

- Any Youth who has experienced maltreatment and engaged in delinquency.

Definition for the purpose of proposed pilot project – defined as a youth between the ages of 10 and 17 years old who are involved in the juvenile system pre or post adjudication and are at risk of maltreatment (risk in this scenario is determined by a referral to the juvenile office for protective custody) or a youth between the ages 10 and 17 years old who have an adjudicated abuse or neglect case and subsequently receive a juvenile justice referral for a delinquency or status offense.

What we know about Crossover Youth:

- Disproportionate number children of color.
- Majority male, but proportion of females is greater than general delinquency population.
- Majority have special education classes and problems at school.
- Majority have mental health issues and/or drug problems.
- Many remain in the child welfare system for long periods of time.
- Many experience several placement moves.
- Many live in group homes.
- Many have had other prior contacts for criminal charges or status offenses.



The model was created by the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute. The model is also supported by the Child Welfare League of America and Casey Family Programs. See practice model at: <http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/pm/practicemodel.html>

The practice model creates a nexus between research and the practice learning from the Juvenile Justice & Child Welfare Integration Breakthrough Series Collaborative. It provides a mechanism whereby agencies will strengthen their organizational structure and implement or improve practices that directly affect the outcomes for crossover youth. This will include but is not limited to the following

practices: the creation of a process for identifying crossover youth at the point of crossing over, ensuring that workers are exchanging information in a timely manner, including families in all decision-making aspects of the case, ensuring that foster care bias is not occurring at the point of detention or disposition, and maximizing the services utilized by each system to prevent crossover from occurring. The local Crossover Youth Implementation Team are developing a mentoring program for older youth, creating a partnership between the child welfare system and local universities, recruiting foster homes specifically trained to work with crossover youth, looking into utilizing a trauma screening tool, focusing on prevention and utilization of family group conferencing.

Contact Tim White [tim.white@courts.mo.gov](mailto:tim.white@courts.mo.gov) or Teresa Kennison [tkennison@ma-cf.org](mailto:tkennison@ma-cf.org) for more information.



# Probation Unit



**Pictured from left: Zach Adams, Nick Pleshka, Damon Young, Julie Hershberger, Susan Cox, Jamie Raab, Andy Silliman, and Tim White.**

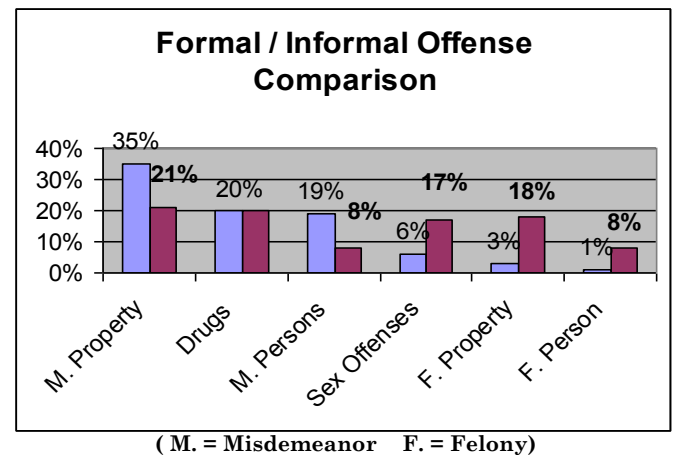
2013 was a year of change for the Greene County Juvenile Probation Unit. Two positions were moved from the Juvenile Court Diversion grant fund from the Division of Youth Services to LEST II County funded positions. We were also fortunate to have a position created that was dedicated to Gender Responsive Programming, called the GEMS coordinator. GEM'S stands for Girls Empowering Minds and Spirits. This position helped us focus our direction on programming that was appropriate for girls and young women who came into contact with the Juvenile system.

In 2013, the Probation Unit also revamped the way cases were assigned to officers. Historically, there were specific officers who only handled Informal cases, as well as officers who only handled Formal cases. With the transition of the two grant funded positions to full time Greene County employees, we gained the ability for all probation officers to supervise any level of youth.

With this transition, we created an equitable Case Assignment Tool that helps guide and direct the appropriation of cases. The various levels of supervision come with a weight, or score. This will ensure that case loads do not become too difficult for any one probation officer to manage. The scores range from 20 points for Intensive Probation all the way to 1 point for an Informal Adjustment. An example of an Intensive Probation youth would be a youth placed on RADAR rules (Responding Appro-

priately to Drug and Alcohol Referrals), or a youth that was placed on SHYMAT rules (Sexually Harmful Youth Management, Assessment and Treatment). Both of these types of probation cases require higher rates of contact with the youth, family and treatment team. These are youth that are of a higher Risk.

An example of an Informal Adjustment would be a youth who was only asked to attend a class, such as the Victim Impact Panel. There are not other supervision requirements with these cases and they often only have contact once per month. These are youth who score a lower Risk.



## Connecting to Parents and Guardians

The Probation Unit recognizes that our most valuable resource for the children we serve is their parents and guardians. The stronger the connection between parents and the probation officer, the more likely a child will succeed on probation. The Probation Unit holds two different groups to communicate with the parents of you on probation. The groups are Informed Supervision and Guiding Probation Success.

Informed Supervision is held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month and is held at the Division of Youth Service's Excel building. This class is taught by Juvenile Office staff along with Stan Barnes, a treatment provider. The purpose of the class is to help parents, guardians, and other supervisors, whose children are on probation for sexually harmful behavior, have a better understanding of their role, and what they need to do to help their child be successful as well as keep the community safe.

Guiding Probation Success is held 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at the Midtown Carnegie Library. This class is taught by the Supervisors of the Probation Unit. The purpose of this class is to help parents and guardians of children at all levels of probation, understand what their role is, what our role is, and what we can do to work together to help their children be successful on probation.

# Probation Unit

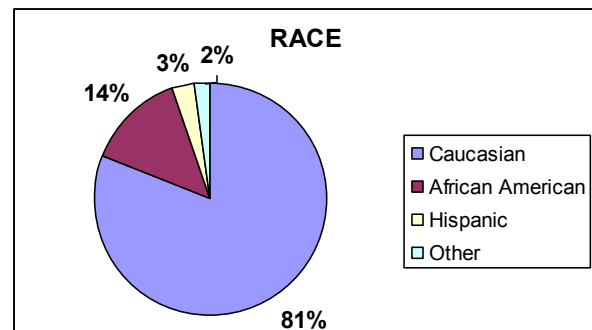
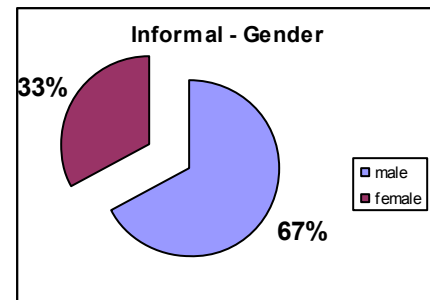
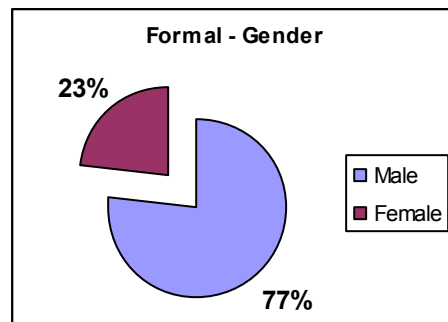
## Probation Statistics

Regarding Informal Cases, 58% of the 236 youth that were released from Informal in 2013 were successful. 33% of the cases closed were female. The racial make-up of the cases were as follows; Caucasian = 81%, African American = 13%, Hispanic = 3%, and Other = 3%.

The breakdown of offenses for Informal cases that were closed in 2013 were as follows; Misdemeanor Property = 35%, Drugs = 20%, Misdemeanor Persons = 19%, Status Offenses = 8%, Sex Offenses = 6%, Felony Property = 3%, Municipal Ordinance Offenses = 3%, Other Misdemeanors = 3%, Felony Person = 1%, Weapon Offenses = 1%, and Felony Other = 1%.

Regarding Formal Probation Cases, 72% of the 96 youth that were released from Formal Probation in 2013 were successfully diverted from a commitment to the Division of Youth Services. 23% of the cases closed were female. The racial make-up of the cases were as follows; Caucasian = 82%, African American = 15%, Hispanic = 2%, and Other = 1%.

The breakdown of offenses for Formal cases that were closed in 2013 were as follows; Misdemeanor Property = 21%, Drug Offenses = 20%, Felony Property = 18%, Sex Offenses = 17%, Felony Person = 8%, Misdemeanor Person = 8%, Misdemeanor Other = 5%, Weapons = 2%, Status Offenses = 1%.





## Evening Reporting Center

*Evening Reporting Center (ERC) provides intensive supervision services for higher-risk juveniles that are awaiting their court hearing or require a sanction.*



**Evening Reporting Center staff, from left: Brooke Parsley, Caleb Crump, Allen Criger and Eric George.**

The ERC offers youth the opportunity to remain in their home while pending hearing, instead of awaiting their court date in secure detention.

The ERC provides the supervision necessary to protect the safety of the community, while providing the youth the opportunity to learn necessary life skills and coping skills to help them be more successful in the community.

Further, youth who may be struggling with their probation rules, are given the opportunity to learn new skills and experience personal growth through a sanction at the ERC. In 2013, the ERC served 78 youth admissions to the program with an overall successful re-

lease rate of over 65%. The ERC was over 97% successful in preventing new law violations while youth were enrolled in the program.

The ERC program is based on a 20 day programming cycle. Once admitted into the program, youth are gen-

erally expected to complete all 20 days of programming and complete one "ERC Gives Back" project. ERC programming is provided by the ERC staff and our community partners. Programming includes topics such as anger management, coping skills, yoga, personal finance, athletic activities, Moral Reconciliation Therapy, job skills, and sexual education.

Youth are also provided homework assistance, individualized study time, and specialized school assistance through the HAP (Homework Assistance Program) and the GIFTS (Getting

Involved For Today's Students) programming. The HAP and GIFTS programming is provided by a grant through a Department of Elementary and Secondary Education grant in partnership with the Springfield Public Schools.



**Youth take part in an activity.**



## Evening Reporting Center

The “ERC Gives Back” program was implemented to teach youth the value of serving others and the community in which you live. The program is designed to target other agencies in the community that can benefit from the services provided from our youth so that a partnership is created that is mutually beneficial and long term for both agencies. In 2013, ERC youth assisted many agencies in the Greene County area including the City of Springfield, Arc of the Ozarks, Friends Against Hunger, Greene County Missouri, Humane Society of Southwest Missouri, Greene County Juvenile Office, United Way of the Ozarks, Springfield Fire Department and others.

At the Friends Against Hunger event (pictured above) our youth prepared and packaged for shipment 3,672 meals in about three hours. These meals are made so that they can be shipped to disaster areas and other areas of need throughout the world and prepared with water only. Our youth were very excited to have the opportunity to help others in need and enjoyed learning the skills of measurement, food safety and preparation and shipping.

In partnership with the Humane Society of Southwest Missouri, ERC youth are provided an opportunity to work with dogs and cats that are awaiting adoption. This “ERC Gives Back” project is designed to complement our dog training programming. The focus is for the youth to learn proper dog training activities in the ERC classroom environment, and then be able to apply



In 2013, ERC Youth created pumpkin piñatas for the RADAR Halloween Event.

that knowledge to the dogs and cats at the Humane Society. The hope is that by working with the animals, we are able to increase their socialization with people and increase their adoptability. The ERC integrates programming with the RADAR (Responding Appropriately to Drug and Alcohol Referrals) and the GEMS (Girls Em-



ERC Youth Specialist Eric George assists an ERC youth with the dog he selected to work with at the Humane Society. Collaboration with other programs and initiatives at the Greene County Juvenile Office is imperative to the success of the ERC.

powering Minds and Spirits) initiatives. This collaboration is integrated into “ERC Gives Back” but then also allows the youth to participate in the event that they helped create. For example, in 2013, ERC Youth created pumpkin piñatas for the RADAR Halloween Event (pictured left). The piñatas were delivered to the RADAR program and the ERC youth then participated in the games and dinner provided by RADAR. The youth enjoyed the opportunity to make the piñatas and then to watch them be used by other youth during RADAR. The ERC youth were then able to participate in the piñata event as well.

The ERC works hard to make sure the community is fully aware of the innovative programming and can watch the success of our youth.

*The ERC maintains a Facebook page which is located at <https://www.facebook.com/GreeneCountyERC>.*

*The ERC webpage located on the Greene County Juvenile Office site can be viewed at <https://www.greencountymo.org/juvenile/erc/index.php>.*

*For additional information regarding the ERC, we would recommend you watch our video located <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNaDHvejiFk>.*

# *Responding Appropriately to Drug and Alcohol Referrals RADAR 2013 Snapshot*

## EVENTS

- ⇒ 1st Annual RADAR Event-Skate Park
- ⇒ Minute To Win It Family Fun Night
- ⇒ Back To School Pool Party
- ⇒ Halloween Family Fun Night
- ⇒ Holiday Family Fun Night



## GUEST SPEAKERS

- ⇒ Mark Peck– Mercy
- ⇒ Danielle Heil– Highway Patrol
- ⇒ Aida Haas– Missouri State University
- ⇒ Officer Snider– Springfield Police Department
- ⇒ Violet Schlutz– Mercy
- ⇒ Former GCYA youth

## GROUPS

- ⇒ PACT 360
- ⇒ Substance Abuse Trivia
- ⇒ Drug Jeopardy
- ⇒ Moral Reconation Therapy



**Like Us On Facebook**



## DEVELOPMENTS

- ⇒ Formal RADAR Probation Rules
- ⇒ Formal/GCYA RADAR Process Implementation
- ⇒ New and Improved RADAR Website
- ⇒ New Facebook Page

## **Responding Appropriately to Drug and**

**Alcohol Referrals (RADAR)** is extremely important here at the Greene County Juvenile Office. Therefore we have developed and implemented programming and appropriate responses to these critical issues at each level of service.

**Our Purpose** is to serve youth in the best way possible to prevent use of dependency and illegal substances including drugs and alcohol. This is done through treatment partnerships, services, supervision and programming.

**RADAR Received The MAC (Missouri Association of Counties) Innovative Program Award  
October 21, 2013**

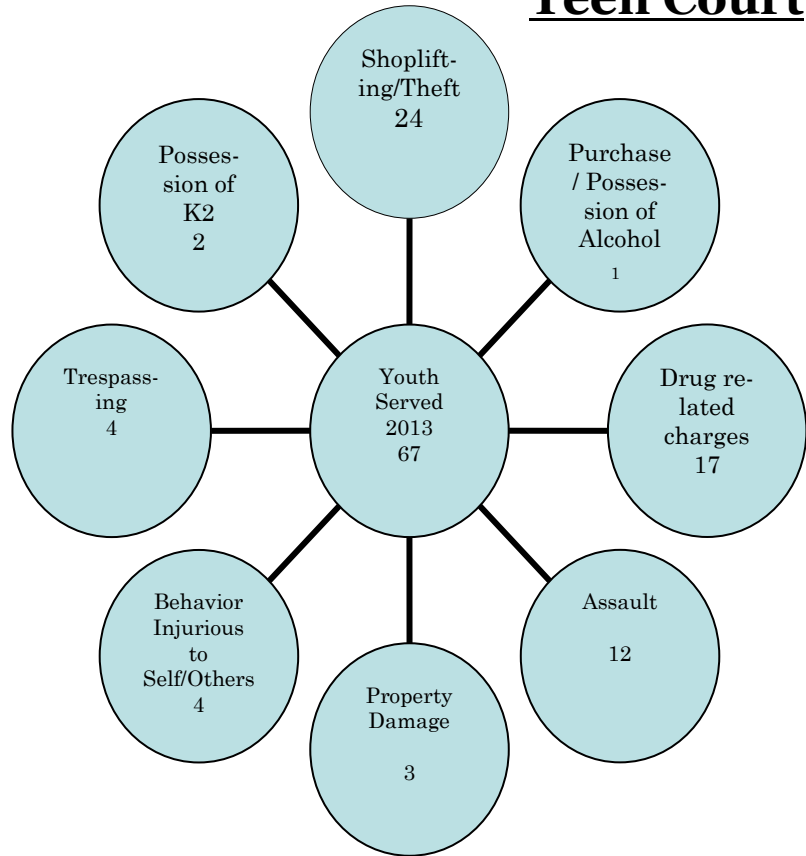
**BIG THANKS TO RADAR TEAM, JUVENILE OFFICE EMPLOYEES, COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION IN 2013**



# Teen Court

## Greene County Teen Court is an informal alternative sentencing

In 2013, 67 youth were served in this alternative sentencing program. 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 498 community service hours and 197 jury duties were assigned to youth participating in Teen Court. Additionally, youth from Greene County high schools, adult volunteers, Assistant Prosecuting Attorneys and Judges volunteer in this process. Over 500 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 70% of the time in 2013. 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.



### What was your overall experience in the courtroom during your trial? (A sample of answers)

- "It was great and it made me want to change."
- "This experience made me realize this is not the right road to go down."
- "It was very intimidating, like real court."
- "I felt I was given a proper trial and the punishment was fair."
- "I was very respected and felt the freedom to express my opinions."
- "I felt like they wanted to help me and encourage me to do right."

### Which part of your sentence did you feel you learned the most from? (A sample of answers)

- "Jury Duty."
- "Teen Court and CAPS points."
- "The Family Workshop because I can have a more open relationship with my dad."
- "Community Service."
- "Anger Management Classes."
- "I learned more from doing the essays."

[http://www.greencountymo.org/juvenile/teen\\_probation.php](http://www.greencountymo.org/juvenile/teen_probation.php)  
 Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Greene-County-Teen-Court/257475797601341>  
 YouTube Page: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mjYCNX2dXw8>

## 2013 Parent Exit Interviews

### Comments/Suggestions:

- "I appreciate the caring volunteers that make this program work."
- "Thank you for allowing my son to learn that the judicial system is fair!"
- "Teen Court has been a very positive influence on my son."
- "Teen Court had a positive experience with myself and my son. In the communication workshop I have learned to be more positive and ask open ended questions that do not involve yes or no answers."

## 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!!!

## Teen Court Judges

Don E. Burrell, Missouri Court of Appeals Southern District;  
 Gary W Lynch, Missouri Court of Appeals Southern District;  
 Jeffrey W Bates, Missouri Court of Appeals Southern District;  
 Mary Sheffield, Missouri Court of Appeals Southern District;  
 Todd Thornhill, Chief Judge of Springfield Municipal Court; Ron Carrier, Associate Circuit Court Judge 31st Judicial Circuit; and Jason Brown, Associate Circuit Judge.



# Greene County Youth Academy

*The Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA) is funded by a Juvenile Court Diversion Grant from the Missouri Division of Youth Services (DYS). The primary mission of the academy is to divert youth from DYS.*

Academic performance has been long recognized as having a high correlation with juvenile delinquency. The youth attend the GCYA School for at least a semester before transitioning back to public school. The students are tested upon their entry into the program, and on their exit, to determine their functioning grade level (4th grade, 5th grade, 6th grade, etc.). They are tested in Reading, Math, and Language. Upon reviewing the functioning level of each student who participated in the school program in 2013, it was determined that 60% were functioning below

grade level in all 3 subjects upon entry. On average, these students were able to raise their functioning level almost one full grade during their time at GCYA!

Teacher Lisa Meissner is responsible for teaching History, Science, and Family and Consumer Science. In History the youth studied American history, such things as the revolutionary war and the industrial revolution. In Science the youth went through the various systems of the human body, and are currently starting a section on the animal



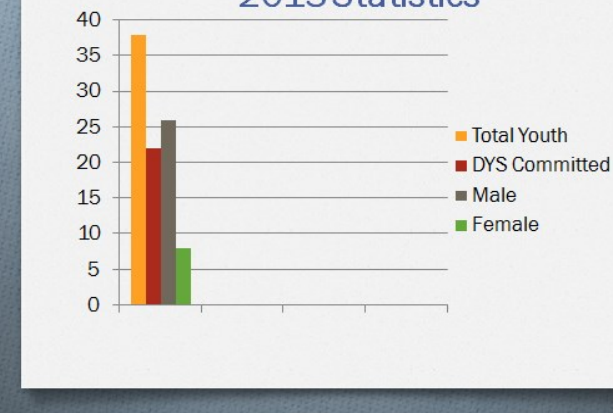
**Sunday Wildschuetz, left, and Lisa Meissner .**

world. In Family and Consumer Sciences the youth discussed wants vs. needs, goals, values, and decision making. They also worked on basic drafting skills. The students will be drawing their own floor plans and making a 3D model of the building structure!

Teacher Sunday Wildschuetz, is responsible for teaching Math, English, and Reading. The youth participated in Fantasy Football Algebra, which was a creative way to make algebra interesting. Youth submitted entries in the Language Arts Fair and won! Youth also participated in a poetry writing unit, and they have also collectively read over 20 books this year, which is a huge accomplishment for our youth! Ms. Wildschuetz conducted a CSI themed summer school. Youth got to study forensic sciences and got to listen to many guest speakers including: Crime Scene Truck, Crime Lab, Arsonist Investigator, Coroner, Detectives, as well as visiting 911 and Safety Building.

## Greene County Youth Academy

### 2013 Statistics



According to the final grant report for the 2013 fiscal year (which covered the period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013) GCYA served 38 youth, 22 of which were diverted from commitment to DYS. That is a preliminary 58% success rate. Better yet, 86% of those youth who completed the program within the 2012 calendar year remained diverted in 2013! In 2013 GCYA increased the number of female participants in the program to 8. Three (3) of those young women successfully completed programming and 3 are on track for successful release. That is a preliminary success rate of 75%. Along with the 8 females, the program served 26 males in 2013.

# Greene County Youth Academy

## Highlights

In 2013 we had three youths receive ribbons at the LAD Writing Fair, winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place, 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and one received an honorable mention. One of our youth had the privilege of admittance to the OTC middle college.

The staff and youth participated in a summer softball league through A Sporting Chance. The GCYA Panthers won second place, with only two losses! Our youth also participated in ballroom dancing lessons provided by both The Savoy Ballroom and Dance With Me Studios. We would like to thank the instructors, Anne and Andy Walls.

The female population at GCYA was able to participate in substance abuse counseling at Alternative Opportunities, in the LUV Program.

All youth were invited to participate in other treatment groups such as, the Diversity Awareness Program (DAP) and the Moral Reconciliation Training (MRT). Families of the youth were also invited to participate in Functional Family Therapy as a group, with all parents and youth involved with GCYA. We were also happy to work with



**From left: Deb Baltzell, Dan Johnson, Shannon Hock, Melissa Whittaker, Staci Hampton, Jarod Denney, Brandon Reed and Brett Long.**

“Trudi’s Kids,” allowing all of our youth to receive free dental, eye, and physical exams, as well as immunizations. The Greene County Youth Academy also created a Facebook page this year to share our accomplishments and stay connected to the community.

### Staff

Youth Specialist Jarod Denney conducted a Money Management class with the youth and is active in the School to Prison Pipeline (SToPP) initiative at GCYA.

Brandon Reed conducted a boys group, One Man Can, which offers lessons on being a

gentleman and how to show respect to others in your world.

Melissa Whittaker and Staci Hampton have diligently been working to develop more programming for girls enrolled at GCYA and are active in the GEM’S internal programming committee.

Dan Johnson, our Facility Manager, runs the Moral Reconciliation Training (MRT).

### Community Service

Community service is a key component to progression of a youth in the GCYA program. Volunteering is a great way to get the youth involved in their community and a

way for them to give back.

The youth at GCYA volunteered in a number of community service opportunities in 2013. Some examples of these opportunities include Horses of Hope, Dickerson Zoo, and The Salvation Army.

Another great opportunity comes from the Adopt a Street program. Our youth helped clean up North Boonville Avenue from East Calhoun to Commercial Street. GCYA also adopted the South Creek stream, from Kansas Expressway to Campbell Avenue, the staff and youth helped keep it clean.

Visit GCYA at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Greene-County-Youth-Academy/105689436133579>.



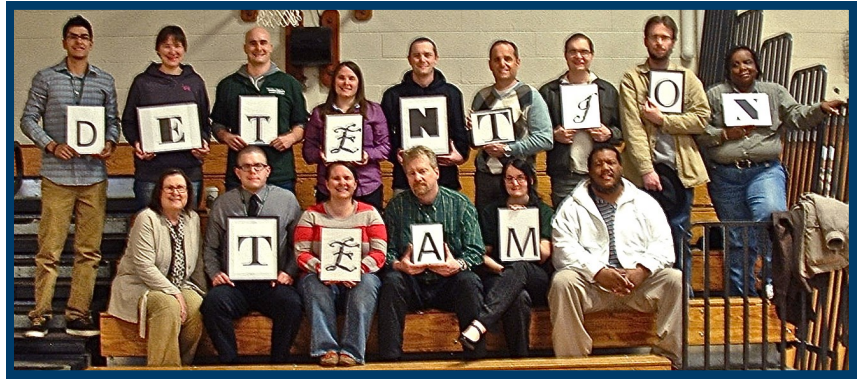
## Detention

In the calendar year of 2013, the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center admitted a total of 214 juvenile offenders. This number includes youth held for other counties and for the Division of Youth Services. Of the 214 admissions for 2013 there were 51 juveniles held for other circuits or the Division of Youth Services and 163 were Greene County juveniles held pending a hearing. The average daily population was 7 and length of stay was 12 days for 2013.

Before a juvenile is admitted to the secure detention center an admission assessment called a JDTA form is completed. This procedure is in compliance with Missouri Operating Rule 28 and is a 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 to be a threat to the community or a flight risk. Since participating in the JDAI several alternatives to secure detention have been created such as the Evening Reporting Center, pre-adjudication supervision and electronic monitoring in an effort to minimize the use of secure detention.



**Detention Superintendent Marie Swope and Youth Leader Caitlin Shouse working on the development of policies and procedures.**



**Top Row: Ryan Marquez, Caitlin Shouse, Eli Samek, Stephanie Myers, Mike Scofield, Brian Rea, Monroe Pate, Justin Baltzell, Sharon Felton. Bottom Row: Marie Swope, David Kuykendall, Robyn Taft, David House, Michelle Horn, Cliff Warren. Not Pictured: Jerod Beatty & Amy Hurley.**

There are a number of partnering agencies that use our facility to hold their youth while waiting for court or placement. The Juvenile Detention Center collects revenue for holding those youth, a small fee from the State of Missouri for each youth held and also collects a subsidy from the federal government's school lunch program to offset the cost of meals. In 2013, the total revenue collected was \$85,895.01. While the State of Missouri allows counties to charge families for the care of the children in secure detention Greene County did not bill the families of the youth held in detention. The Juvenile Detention operation budget for 2013 was \$709,032.62. This budget includes the cost of 14 full-time and 5 part-time professional staff that provided services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They conducted intakes and releases, supervised and transported youth as well as responded to medical, behavioral and environmental emergencies. The Juvenile Detention staff conducted all afterhours Juvenile Division business and the Deputy Juvenile Officers in detention filed 540 afterhours orders of protection in 2013.

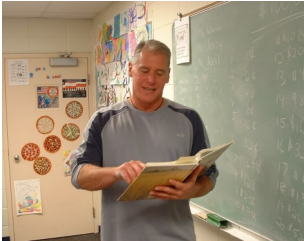
Prison Rape Elimination Act, standards which were completed by the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission, became effective in August of 2013. These standards were signed by the U.S. Attorney General and released by the U.S. Department of Justice with the expectation that all juvenile and adult confinement facilities will comply. The Greene County Juvenile Detention Center made plans to comply and wrote for and in March, 2013, received a \$28,993 grant from the National PREA Resource Center, operated by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency under a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Justice Assistance within the US Department of Justice for the purpose of assistance with becoming PREA compliant. The dollars received funded resident education about sexual assault, abuse and harassment. It also funded detention employee and volunteer training. Finally, the dollars provided for the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center's participation in Performance Based Standards (PbS), a best practice for maintaining a holistic approach to zero-tolerance for sexual assault, abuse and harassment.



In Greene County we strive to provide quality programming which will be meaningful to the youth that we serve as well as their families.

Meaningful programming continues to be our focus in order to maintain high quality conditions of confinement, per the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI).

The most significant detention program continues to be the academic program. Springfield Public Schools has a classroom in secure detention that enrolled 159 for the 2012-2013 school year. The results of academic testing showed that 85% performed below grade level in reading and 81% performed below grade level in math. Students who remained in the program for 30 days were reassessed and 67% of these students showed improvement of at least one full grade level in reading and 75% showed improvement of at least one full grade level in math.



Neil Adams

The teachers for the 2012-2013 school year were Mr. Neil Adams and Ms. Barbie Mooneyham. The Title I teaching position, held by Ms. Mooneyham, was increased for the 2013-2014 school year from part-time to full-time to include school re-entry as a focus for the Title I teacher. Ms. Mooneyham also managed the detention garden through the spring and summer with help from the residents. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year that detention had planted the garden and each year has been more productive. The residents seem to really enjoy the garden and Ms. Mooneyham used the garden as part of her science curriculum in the summer school program.

Additional programs offered to the Juvenile Detention in 2013 included: Health class, Crossroads and Freeway Ministries, Art, Recreational games and fitness instruction, Staff led special topic groups, and Moral reconation therapy.



Barbie Mooneyham

## *From the Perspective of Detained Youth*

*“Detention has shown me that I should be grateful for what I have at home and not take anything for granted”*

- 78% of detained youth report that when they leave detention they will talk to family if they need help working out a problem.

PbS Youth Climate Summary Report, data collection October 2013

*“I like to read and in detention I get to choose from a library of books to read from.”*

- 90% of youth admitted to secure detention are given locator tests to determine what grade level they are working at in math and reading. The average resident in detention tests out at a 7<sup>th</sup> grade level in these subjects.

PbS Youth Record Summary Report, data collection October 2013

*“I would like to thank my family because it’s been really rough being here and mostly my father has helped me through it by supporting me, visiting me and calling me every night.”*

- 89% of detained youth report that they talk with their parent or guardian.
- 56% of detained youth report receiving visits from family.

PbS Youth Climate Survey Summary Report, data collection October 2013

*“The staff show concern for the youth that come through detention and I really appreciate every one of them.”*

- 94% of detained youth answered positively to the question “Do staff seem to genuinely care about the residents?”

PbS Youth Climate Survey Summary Report, data collection October, 2013

*“I also liked the gym and the other activities we did.”*

- Over 89% of staff reported that the programming in the detention facility (school, counseling, recreation, life skills groups, etc...) helps residents understand what they need to do to succeed when the return home.

PbS Staff Climate Survey Summary Report, data collection October, 2013

*“The entire staff helped me improve my behavior and keep me on the straight and narrow path.”*

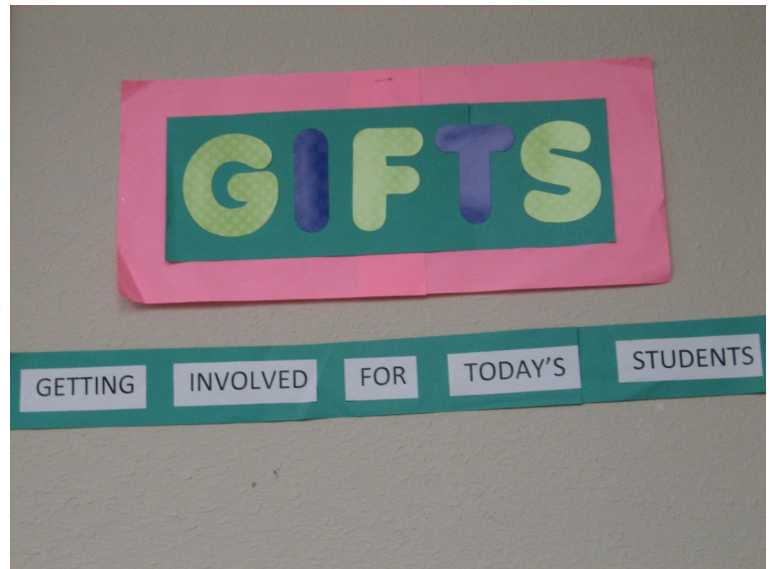
- 100% of staff answered positively when asked if staff are good role models and seem to genuinely care about the residents.

PbS Staff Climate Survey Summary Report, data collection October, 2013.

## Getting Involved for Today's Students

Afterschool programming plays an important role as one of GCJO's alternatives to secure detention of youthful offenders. GIFTS is the only afterschool program in the state that partners with a Juvenile Office. Rationale for this afterschool program is that it provides homework assistance, a safe place, and a balanced communication link between youth and teacher. Nearly 1/3 of all violent crime committed by juvenile offenders occur between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., and this afterschool programming provides an alternative place for youth to stay out of trouble. Afterschool programming is key in keeping youth off the streets and engaged in positive activities. GIFTS, is a grant funded afterschool program aimed at addressing the educational needs of youth under the supervision of the Greene County Juvenile Office. Demonstrations show that afterschool programs prove to be a good investment for the community; for example, for every dollar spent in afterschool programming, the return is between \$1.87 and \$5.29 in reduced crime.

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. GIFTS also provides help with ACT test prep and HiSET.



**Tom Gist, Gabrielle Wilson, and McKenzie Morrow, GIFTS/HAP staff.**



## Homework Assistance Program

HAP is available to youth Monday - Thursday from 2:30-6:00 PM. With a signed release form provided by the parents, GIFTS is able to track the youth's school attendance, grades, and homework. The Staff from GIFTS collaborates with area teachers to access each student's grades and homework assignments. Through this communication, GIFTS is able to focus on target areas that need developing for each individual student, as well as provide enjoyable activities for areas of interest the student excels in.

With this academic school year (2013-2014) the GIFTS's Homework Assistance Program (HAP) has greatly expanded. The new partnership with the Drury University Education Department has provided HAP with university student tutors who are seeking practicum hours. Beneficial experiences are gained for both the tutors and the students. Tutors gain the experience of working with a variety of students, and the students are presented with positive role models while simultaneously improving their grades. One university tutor wrote; "It's rewarding to see these students improve their grades. I love that HAP gives them an opportunity to pass classes they otherwise may not attempt." Furthermore, the tutors allow HAP to service a greater number of students and provide more intensive and innovative assistance for the youth. HAP has had many success stories throughout the year, two examples are mentioned below.

When a 9<sup>th</sup> grade male entered the HAP program he was passing one of seven subjects and had a cumulative percentage of 35. Three weeks later when the semester ended, he passed five of the seven subjects and had a cumulative percentage of 57.6.

Another male youth had not attended school for two years before he came to HAP for help with HiSET testing. On initial test, his scores ranged 24% to 42%. By the time he left, he was scoring above 60% on all tests. He left planning on taking the HiSET test.

Some youth value the experience of HAP so much that they return even after they are off of probation. GIFTS will be moving to a new GCJO facility this summer. With this move, GIFTS will be able to better meet the needs of Greene County youth.



**Above: Tom Gist, Program Coordinator.**

**Below: Students working in the GIFTS/HAP program.**





# Legal Unit

In 2013 the legal unit of the Greene County Juvenile Office gained a new full time attorney, Paul Shackelford. In addition the unit welcomed a new victim/ witness coordinator, Lee Shelton.

The unit is now made up of three full-time attorneys and a victim/ witness coordinator.

The legal unit provides representation, both in and out of court, to the Greene County Family Court, Juvenile Court, the Domestic Relations Division, and all Deputy Juvenile Officers and Probation Officers.

## Unit Hearing Statistics

In 2013, the legal unit attorneys appeared before the court in over **4,000** hearings:

**485** delinquency hearings  
**3,420** abuse and neglect hearings

**181** termination of parental rights cases

The legal unit was also involved in **16** appeals before the Southern

District of the Missouri Court of Appeals.

## Roles & Responsibilities

Juvenile Office attorneys are responsible for:

- Preparing pleadings associated with all cases and any appeal

that may stem from the cases. Providing legal advice to Juvenile Office Staff.

- Assisting the Juvenile Office with any issues that may arise by having an attorney on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Offering information and resources to the community, to include: providing training in juvenile law to law enforcement academies, speaking to attorney's at seminars, and presenting to other professionals who are involved with juvenile law and juvenile justice issues.



**Atty. Paul Shackelford, Atty. Brittany O'Brien, Senior Atty. Bill Prince, and Victim/Witness Coordinator Lee Shelton.**



**Staff attorneys Paul Shackelford and Brittany O'Brien review a case.**



## VICTIM SERVICES

In 2013, over **205** victims were contacted by our office in order to notify them of hearing dates, to provide information that an offender is placed or released from detention, to provide information regarding the outcome of a case, general case follow up, community services, and/or to request restitution information.

Restitution was also collected with over **\$13,000** distributed to the victims of juvenile crimes in Greene County.



The Greene County Juvenile Courtroom.

## ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAMS

**20** juveniles were referred to Victim-Offender Mediation program (VOM) and there were **50** referrals made to **6** Victim Impact Panels (VIP). All 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.



Attorney Bill Prince and Victim Witness Coordinator Lee Shelton review options for a victim.





# Support Unit

*The Support Unit gained two additional secretaries in 2013. There are twelve members on this team that assist in all areas of the Juvenile Office.*



**Pictured from left are: Michelle Blood, Twyla Allen, Lisa Loftis, Nicole Price, Cheryl Blakemore, Susie Schenck, Karen Mcilravy, Debbie Baltzell, Kate Morris, Karen Woodward, Jill Randolph, Shirley Speer, and Cindy Myers.**



**Support Staff Member Karen Woodward helping at The Salvation Army annual "Toy Shop."**

The Support Unit works as a team to maintain an active role in the community. It was an honor and privilege for the Support Unit to give their time at the 2013 Salvation Army Annual Toy Shop. In 2013, there were approximately 1,000 families and 2,500 kids that received Christmas assistance. Each volunteer is paired with a client and are referred to as "volunteer shopping buddies". We took the clients around the Christmas Toy Shop to help them pick out toys for their children, winter weather accessories, and they were also provided a box of food to make a Christmas meal.



**Shirley Speer locating a file.**



## Grants & Revenue

Grant	2013 Utilized Amount	Department
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education- Gettings Involved for Today's Students (GIFTS)	\$29,154.00	Probation
Division of Youth Services (DYS) Juvenile Court Diversion Funds (JCD)	\$283,940.00	Evening Reporting Center, Probation, Youth Academy
Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG)	\$5,390.00	Law/Status
Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)	\$2,973.00	Probation
Office of States Courts Administrator (OSCA)	\$5,250.00	Abuse/Neglect
Office of States Courts Administrator (OSCA)	\$10,000.00	Domestic Relations
PREA - Zero Tolerance (Nat'l Council on Crime)	\$12,825.00	Detention
Office of States Courts Administrator (OSCA)	\$19,033.00	Community Based
Title II	\$9,599.00	Law/Status & Probation
<b>Total Grant Amounts</b>	<b>\$378,164.00</b>	
OTHER REVENUE	2013 AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT
Department of Health and Senior Services	\$4,235.00	Evening Reporting Center
Division of Youth Services (DYS)	\$20,124.00	Secure Detention
Out of Circuit & Drug Court Reimbursement	\$16,950.00	Secure Detention
Per Diem State Reimbursement	\$34,412.00	Secure Detention
USDA Subsidy	\$14,409.00	Secure Detention & Youth Academy
<b>Total Revenue Amounts</b>	<b>\$90,130.00</b>	
<b>Total Grant &amp; Revenue Amounts</b>	<b>\$468,294.00</b>	

# Diversity Awareness Partnership

The mission of the Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP) is “**A Commitment to Embrace Our Unique Community**”. The vision of DAP is to celebrate and embrace diversity with the next generation. It is through working with the community and the youth we serve that we continue to pursue meeting the mission set before us. As we continue to see the demographics of Greene County change, we must lead the next generation of citizens down the path of diversity and inclusion.



DAP Logo created by Anton Pleshka.

## Diversity Discussions

DAP hosts Diversity Discussions with the youth at the Evening Reporting Center (ERC), Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA), and the Juvenile Detention Center. We use many different tools, including the Diversity Wheel that was so graciously given to the Juvenile Office by Lela Panagides. With these tools, we talk about what Diversity and Inclusion really is and what we can all do to improve the lives of those around us. We learn that we are all unique in our own way.

## Lunch Time Learning Series

In 2013, we were fortunate to have three Lunch Time Learning Series (LTLS) presentations. First, in January we had a wonderful panel discussion with representatives from the LGBT, Disabled, and Islamic communities. Each speaker was given the opportunity to present to the audience about their individual representative population. At the end, the panel was opened up to questions from the audience. It was chance for each group to help us understand how we can better embrace their unique and individual communities.

The second LTLS was held in April and the presentation was on the results from the staff survey conducted regarding diversity and inclusion. The 46 pages of results were tabulated and communicated to the audience as a whole. It was wonderful to see the positive response from the staff at the Greene County Juvenile office and their desire to further the mission of DAP.

The final LTLS was held in October. We were grateful to have Ken Estes from the Southwest Missouri Indian Center speak to the audience about Native American culture and history, as well as what we can do to embrace the Native American population in our area.



Diversity artwork provided by Carson, 7th grade.

## Diversity Art Contest

In 2013, DAP hosted a Diversity Art Contest that was open to children of all ages. We received multiple submissions from youth in the community, including artwork from the sons and daughters of Juvenile Office employees. Each child who submitted an entry received a prize package, and you can find their artwork displayed on the walls of the juvenile office.

# Internship Opportunities

The Greene County Juvenile Office provides many opportunities each year for college students to gain experience in juvenile services while benefiting the youth that we serve. Interns gain professional experience, earn college credits, make valuable connections in the community, and begin building their professional resume. Interns work in virtually all areas of the Juvenile Office and work directly with the youth we serve each day with the support and monitoring of the Juvenile Office Staff.

In 2013, the Juvenile Office Internship Program consisted of eighteen interns assigned to six different areas of the Juvenile Office including Abuse/Neglect, Teen Court, Probation, Delinquency, Detention and Evening Reporting Center. Although interns are assigned to specific areas of the Juvenile Office as their main assignment, all interns rotate throughout each area of the Juvenile Office to provide them the best opportunity to gain as much experience as possible. Interns shadow staff, observe court hearings, observe and assist in investigations, work on unit projects, and assist Greene County youth in becoming successful in our community.

Interns often express an interest in working in the field of juvenile services and many times look to the Juvenile Office as a place of employment. Often, interns are able to begin their careers shortly after their internship at the Greene County Juvenile Office by joining our team, or using the skills and talents gained in the internship process to obtain employment with other related agencies. In fact, in 2013, two interns proceeded to gain employment with the Juvenile Office.

Stefanie Myers began at the Greene County Juvenile Office as an intern for the Evening Reporting Center (ERC). After completing her internship at the ERC, Stefanie obtained employment as a Part-Time Youth Specialist in the Secure Detention section. Stefanie worked hard to learn her new role in detention and was a strong member of the secure detention staff. As a result, Stefanie quickly worked her way into the role of Full-Time Detention Deputy Juvenile Officer. Stefanie continues to serve in this role at this time.



**Intern Stefanie Myers**



**Intern Monroe Pate**

Monroe Pate began at the Greene County Juvenile Office as an intern for the Probation Unit. After completing his internship and several statistical projects for the Juvenile Office Monroe obtained employment as a Part-Time Youth Specialist in the Secure Detention section. Monroe has utilized his experience gained as an intern in his new position and credits his internship with helping him gain the skills to obtain and succeed in this position.

This is just an example of Juvenile Office staff that began as interns and have found employment at the Juvenile Office. At the time of this annual report, seven juvenile office staff were previously interns at the Juvenile Office. Additionally, juvenile office interns have went on in recent years to accept positions in the community including private investigation, Missouri Childrens Division and Missouri State University.

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>



**Intern Ryan Marquez (now a Youth Specialist in Detention) works the control panel during a youth admission to detention.**

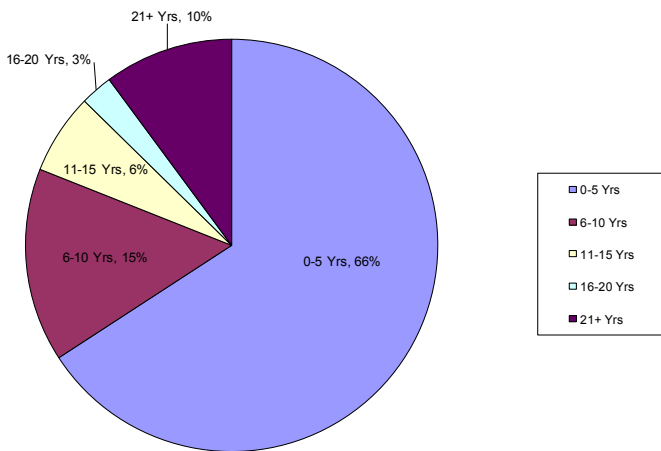


**Intern Kelsey Kincaid works with a youth at the Evening Reporting Center**

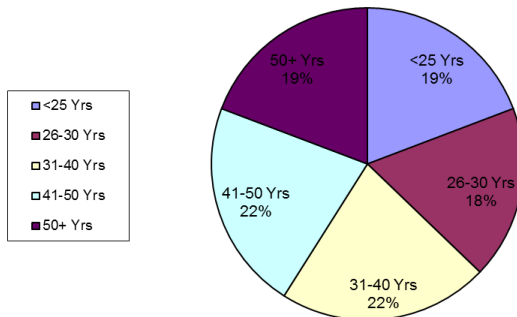


# July 1– Dec. 31, 2013 GCJO Employee Demographics

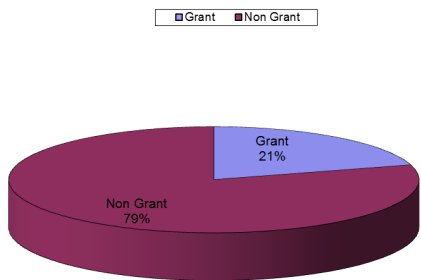
**Years Employed**



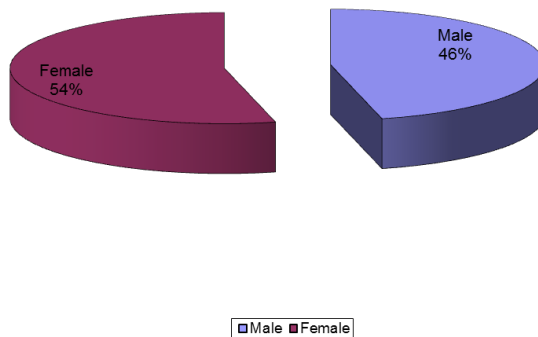
**Employee Age Range**



**Employees Paid By**

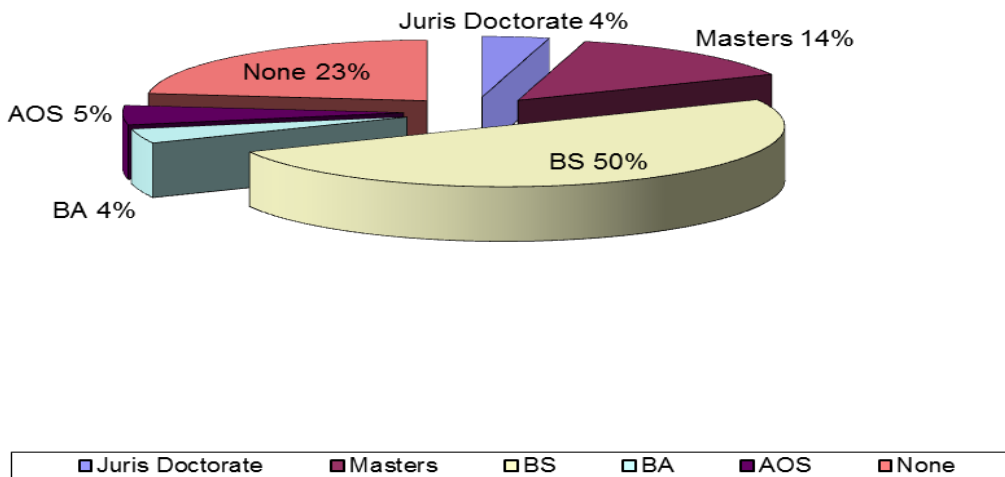


**Employee Gender**

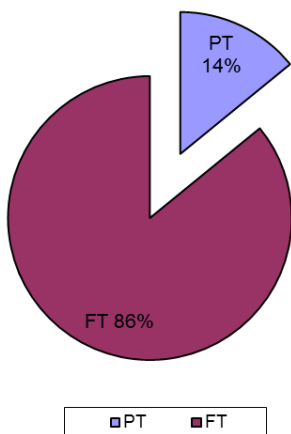


# July 1– Dec. 31, 2013 GCJO Employee Demographics

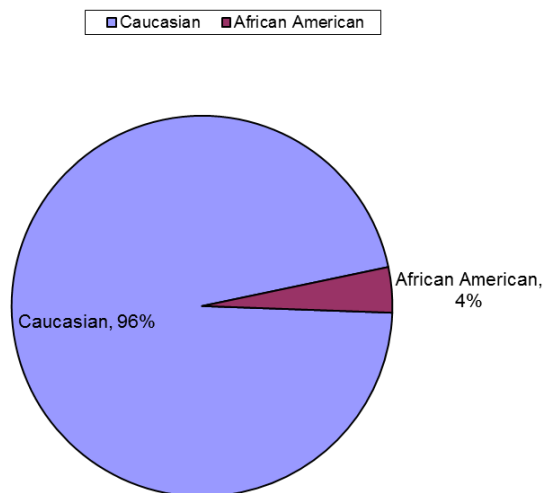
**Employee Degree Types**



**Full and Part Time Employees**



**Employee Race**

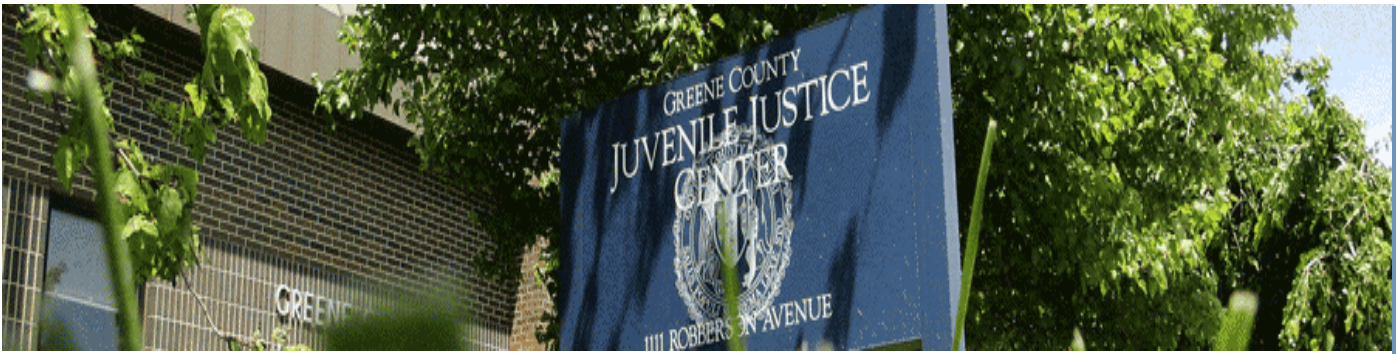




## Community Partners

*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 2013, those community partners were:*

Arc of the Ozarks	Greene County Children’s Division
Alternative Opportunities	Greene County Park Board
Ambassadors for Children	Greene County Prosecutor’s Office
Area Law Enforcement	Harmony House Family Violence Prevention Center
Association of Women in Communication (AWC) Springfield Chapter	Horses of Hope
Big Brothers/Big Sisters	IMAX Theatres
Boys and Girls Club	Lake Country Soccer
Boys and Girls Town	Lakeland Hospital
Boy Scouts	Leap Into Leadership
Burrell Behavioral Health	Legal Services of Southern Missouri
Care to Learn	Missouri Department of Conservation
Carol Jones	Missouri State University
Center for Dispute Resolution	NAACP
Central Assembly of God	Ozarks Counseling Center
Child Advocacy Center	Ozark Psychological Associates
City of Springfield—Traffic Services	Shapes Mentoring
Community Foundation of the Ozarks	Silver Dollar City
Community Partnership of the Ozarks	Solution Based Choices, LLC
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	Sporting Chance
Cox Hospital	Springfield Bar Association
C-Star Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment	Springfield Fire Department
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education	Springfield Little Theater
Dickerson Park Zoo	Springfield Nature Center
Discovery Center	Springfield Parks and Recreation
Division of Youth Services	Springfield Police Department
Drury University	Springfield Public Schools
ENACTUS	Springfield Skate Park
Evangel University	Swift Steps Counseling Services
EXCEL School	Teach to Inspire
Forrest Institute of Professional Psychology	The Victim Center
Friends Against Hunger	Tiger Sanctuary
	Tynes and Associates
	Vatterott College
	Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield



## **A word from a partner ...**

*“I had the opportunity to watch the ‘Make a Difference... Be the One’ program truly come to life one sunny summer afternoon. A youth from the GCYA program had a rich opportunity to experience how they could truly ‘Make a Difference’ in the life of a frail and elderly woman as she bravely attempted to experience the value of therapeutic horseback riding.*

*Not only did she value the therapeutic ride, she had an invaluable moment to express to the GCYA youth about how much she appreciated them helping her and keeping her safe, as they served as her side walker during her ride. They beamed as she said "I could not have done it without you helping me!" They truly were the one to make a difference!”*

*Shelly McColm,*

*Director Horses of Hope-MO, Inc.*

*GCJO Community Partner*

# 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, ender, 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.

**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



## Glossary of Terms

**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.

**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 give testimony or produce documentary evidence in a legal proceeding.

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

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

