

# Greene County Family Court: Juvenile & Domestic Relations Division



2016 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: Kyle O'Dell, Tracie Nicholson, Jamie Raab, Lisa Altis, Cassandra Marsh, Bill Prince, Brad Shelton, Andy Silliman, Michael Schofield. Front Row: Stephanie Baasham, Jill Randolph, Karen Lehmann, Susan Cox

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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## **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.

### **2016 Highlight of Services Provided:**

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

734 litigants attended ADR (Average: 61 litigants per month)

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

317 CMH's Completed (Average: 26 per month)

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

545 Visits Completed (Average: 45 visits per month; 183 families and 245 children served)

#### **Investigations:**

49 Investigations Ordered

102 Probate Investigations Ordered for Guardianship Petitions

#### **Mediation:**

77 Mediations Completed; 84% Agreement Rate

### **2016 Family Court Snapshot:**

**Retirement:** The DRU said goodbye to Commissioner Scott Tinsley and Commissioner Sue Chrisman. We wish them well in their retirement!

**Welcome:** The DRU welcomes Commissioner Susan Jensen and Commissioner Regi Martin.



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

#### **ADR Participant Comments:**

- "I thought this was a very helpful class – knowing the steps / definitions will help!"
- "The trainers understanding of what we are experiencing."
- "Good job, very helpful!"

"The entire class. I was not expecting all the great information that I did receive"

#### **CG Participant Comments:**

- "They have been very kind & understanding"
  - "They are always helpful and positive. Very much 100% about the family. They take the time to care for every client."
  - "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 difficult situation easier to cope with."





## **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

### **DRU 2016 Community Contributions:**

**Shared Spaces** – the DRU was awarded a \$17,086 OSCA grant to develop a co-parenting without conflict class for litigants involved in high-conflict cases. Monies were allocated for training, development, and implementation of the course.

**Pro Se Checklist** – the DRU was awarded a \$5,100 OSCA grant to collaborate with a local family law attorney to develop a checklist for self-represented litigants.

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

**Training** – DRO's attended: Human Trafficking Training, the Mental Health First Aide Summit, and the Stop the Violence Conference.

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

**Ambassador's for Children** - DRO's volunteered with Ambassadors for Children by sorting gifts and preparing the facility for Christmas wrapping for children in foster care.

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

Thank you to Burrell Behavioral Health 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 2016, the Greene County Abuse and Neglect Deputy Juvenile Officers investigated allegations of abuse and neglect regarding 370 348 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.

2016 Court Petitions filed in the Abuse/ Neglect Unit	
Abuse & Neglect	282 children
Petitions were filed on 85% of the referrals received.	

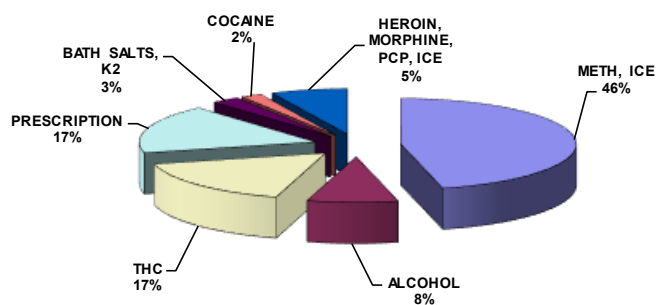
The Abuse/Neglect Unit investigated 194 families in 2016, and filed a petition to place children into protective custody on 177 of those families. Of the referrals received, 101 of which involved drugs and/or alcohol—44% of which reported polysubstance abuse. Petitions were filed on 88% of referrals involving drugs and/or alcohol. The most popular drug of choice in



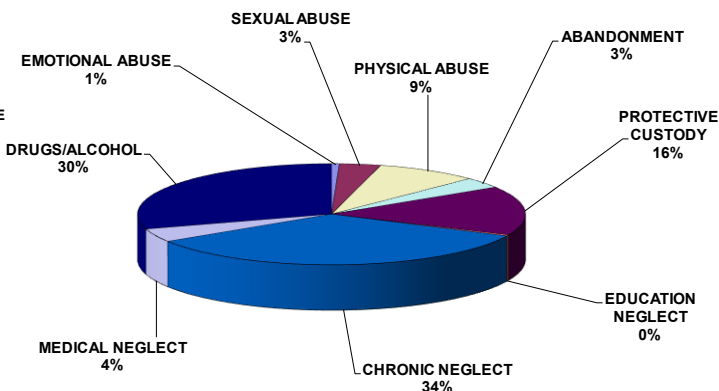
**Back:** David Dameron, Lisa Altis, Katie Berggren, Shayla Lowe, Justin Lockhart, Kevin Styles, Chris Deck, Kyle Collins.

**Front:** Cassandra Marsh, Laina Webster, Brooke Risley, Dawn Muir

**DRUGS OF CHOICE  
2016**



**Abuse & Neglect Referral Allegations 2016**



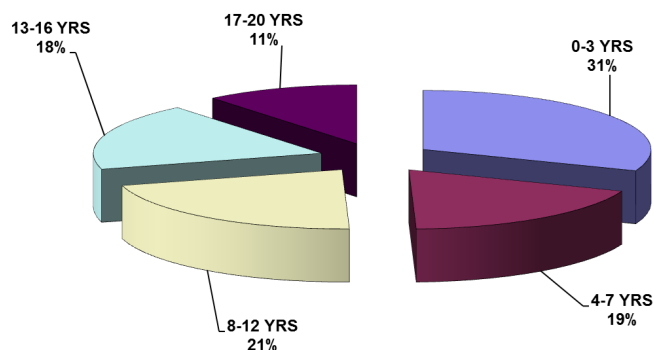
Children are placed into protective custody for a variety of concerning issues; and many cases involve multiple issues of concern.



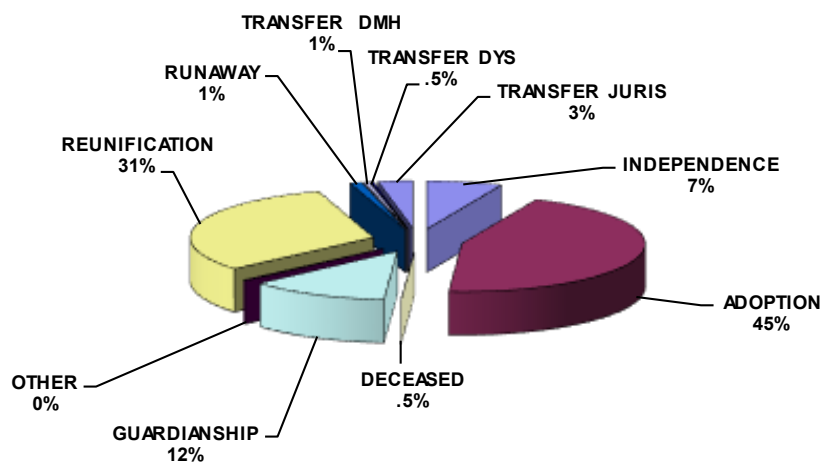


## Child Abuse & Neglect

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



CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT CASE CLOSING OUTCOMES  
2016



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

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

Fostering Court Improvement (FCI) is a collaborative partnership within the child welfare system tasked with identifying and working toward reducing barriers to achieving permanency for children in foster care. Greene County FCI is made up of juvenile officers, case management agencies, attorneys and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).

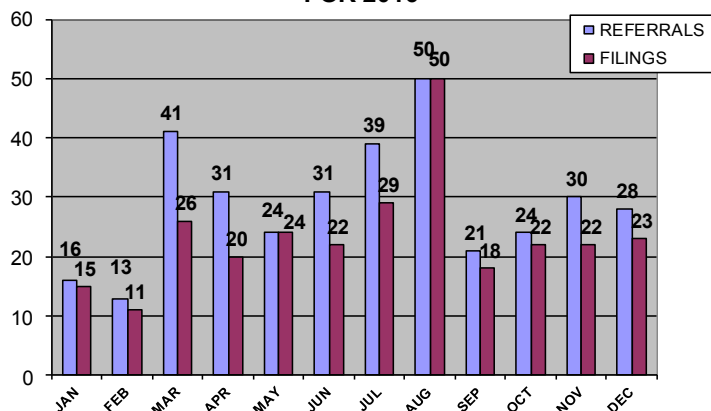
Road to Reunification (R2R) is a class which explains to parents with children who have been placed into foster care the court process, family support team roles, responsibilities & meeting process, and suggestions to improve parent-child visitation and interactions. The course is lead by the abuse and neglect deputy juvenile officers. 127 people attended the R2R class in 2016.

**The optimal permanency goal is for reunification with a parent. However, when that cannot happen other permanency options are sought**

**In 2016, 391 children's cases were closed.**

## Child Abuse & Neglect

**ABUSE & NEGLECT REFERRALS & FILINGS  
FOR 2016**



**For more extensive data and information please view our 20165 Child Abuse & Neglect Statistics report on our website.**

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

***"Letting me know that this is a very helpful things to make me a better parent for my child."***

***"What to do during visits and how to say goodbye."***

***"How to be more involved with the team and the case."***

***"Going more in depth in what is expected during the process of my case."***

***"Knowing the next steps."***

***"That the team wants parents to get their children back."***

***"Being able to ask questions."***

***"Made me at ease with everything going on and I understand more."***

***Information about the process to help make reunification easier and quicker."***

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

- An emphasis is places on providing awareness and direct access to community resources for older youth.
- Staffing's are held quarterly. Attending are the Juvenile Judge, the youth, the Court team member's and community partners.
- Events and activities for the youth are planned throughout the year.

During 2016 about 35 older youth are involved in TNT staffing's and activities.

The Abuse/Neglect unit would like to extend gratitude to the CASA Volunteer's, Family Members, Foster Parent's, Guardian ad Litem's, Parent Attorney's, Social Workers, Teachers, Therapist's, Treatment Providers and the many Community Partners who provide much needed support to the system and the children of our community.



## **CARE: Crossover, Assessment, Response, and Evaluation**

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

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

Additionally, CARE was developed to help provide community support for Crossover Youth. There have been a multitude of community partners involved with CARE. These



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

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

## **RADAR: Responding Appropriately to Drug and Alcohol Referrals**

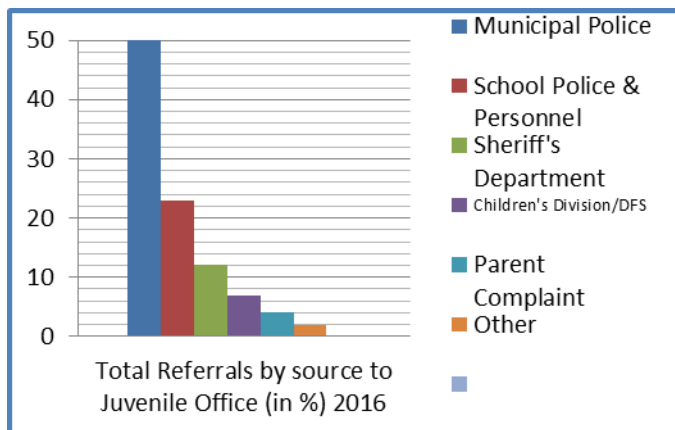
**Responding Appropriately to Drug and Alcohol Referrals (RADAR)** is a program designed to meet the needs of youth with substance abuse issues. RADAR uses speakers from the community and community engagement to encourage these youth to stay away from negative influences and maintain sobriety. RADAR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



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

## Law/Status Violations Unit

The Law/Status Violation Unit received a total of 1501 juvenile Delinquency referrals/charges and 402 non-criminal juvenile status offense referrals in 2016.

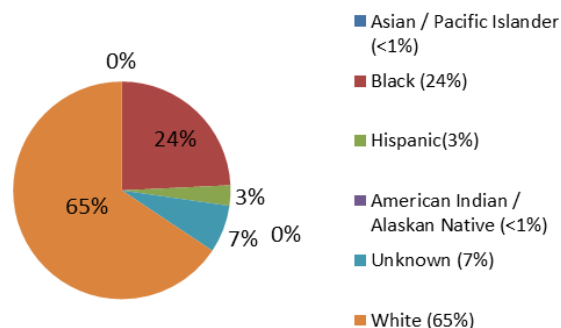


At fifty-two percent (52%), the majority of the total referrals/cases referred to the Law/Status Unit of the Greene County Juvenile office were referred by municipal police departments. School police and school personnel made up the second largest source of referrals, sending twenty-three percent (23%). Twelve percent (12%) of referrals was referred by the Greene County Sheriff's Department and seven percent (7%) of referrals were sent by the Division of Family Services. In 2016, at least four percent (4%) of Parent Complaint Forms were received from parents seeking assistance from the juvenile office. The remainder of the referrals was received by other law enforcement and other juvenile courts.



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

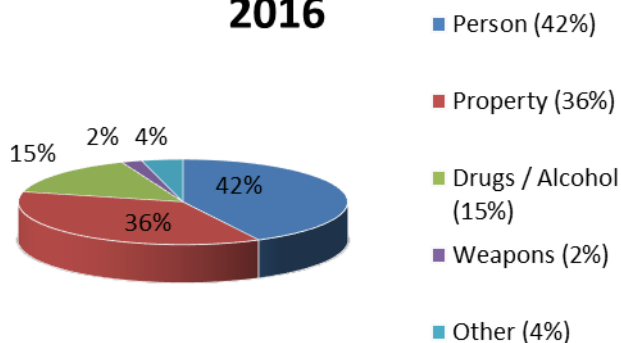
### Referrals by Race 2016



### 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, youths reported as sexual offense victims are referred to the Child Advocacy Center for follow-up interview and services. Investigations where an alleged victim was referred to the Child Advocacy Center.

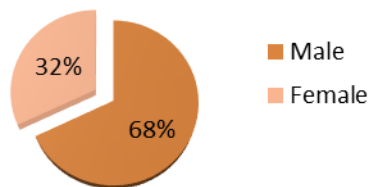
### Law Violation Referrals 2016





## Law/Status Violations Unit

### Delinquency Referrals by Gender 2016



#### Screening & Assessment

In an effort to appropriately identify the risk level a youth poses to the community, Deputy Juvenile Officers utilized two validated objective screening tools in 2016, 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 2016 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.



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

#### Case Disposition

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

Of those cases handled informally, 365 were referred for follow-up probation supervision including 129 that were referred to the Greene County Teen Court Program. During 2016, 61 youth were referred to the Victim Offender Mediation program or Victim Impact Panel. One hundred and one (101) petitions were filed to handle cases through a formal court proceeding heard by the judge. Deputy juvenile officers attended a team staffing for each case where they share and discuss appropriate treatment recommendations in preparation for the court hearing. They also gather educational, social, psychological and offense history on these youth. Such information is included in a summary and made available to all parties of the case and ultimately offered to the court to assist in the disposition of the case.

#### Community Collaborations

Deputy juvenile officers were involved in the community in several different taskforces and meetings.

DJOs from the Juvenile Office were part of a Multi-Disciplinary Team that met once a month. In December, DJOs in the law/status unit donated 353 items to the Ozarks Food Harvest, who provides over 1.4 million meals per month to children, families and seniors in need.



## **Detention**

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 2016, the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center had a reduction in youth admitted to secure detention, dropping 5% from the previous year's admissions of 235. Of the 222 juvenile offenders placed in secure detention, 66 youth or 29% were held for other counties and the Division of Youth Services. While this number is down from 2015, 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 2016 was just over \$110,000. The total operating budget for the detention center in 2016 was \$771,548.00. This amount meets clothing, food, and healthcare needs of the youth; and the employment of 14 full-time and 5 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 11 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 49%, 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 33% allowing for youth to receive treatment services more expeditiously.



In 2016 the Greene County Juvenile Detention Center was unable to continue its participation in the Performance Based Standards (PbS) program that allows this facility to measure its performance in various criteria with other facilities across the nation. This is an effort that will be reengaged in 2017. 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.



## Detention



Although unable to participate 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 place 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 2015-2016 school year were, Neil Adams and Terry Wilson. The teachers were assisted by Jerry White, Wanda White and John Cox. Kevin Zimmerman also provides art class each week and Michelle Obermeier provides Title I services part time.

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; Missouri State University provides art therapy; 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 2016 has been placed on training and retraining 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 2016, 960 ExPartes were filed after hours with the assistance of detention officers. This number is nearly 300 more than in 2015.

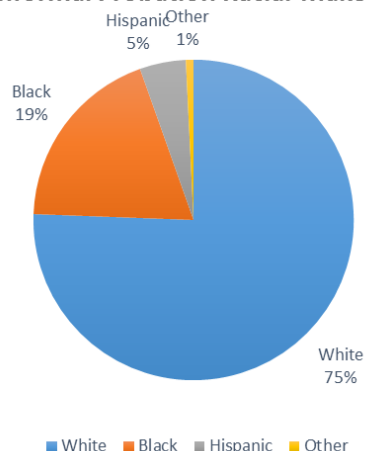
January, 2016 marked the retirement of long-time Detention Superintendent Marie Swope after 37 years of serving Greene County through many roles at the Greene County Juvenile Office. Susan Cox, another long-time employee, stepped into the role as Superintendent of Detention January 30, 2016.

## Probation



**Top/Bottom, Left/Right:** Jerod Beatty, Andy Sweatt, Katie Miller, Stephanie Myers, Tracie Nicholson, David Kuykendall, Hannah Harmann, Damon Young, Julie Hershberger, Andy Silliman

**Informal Probation Racial Makeup**

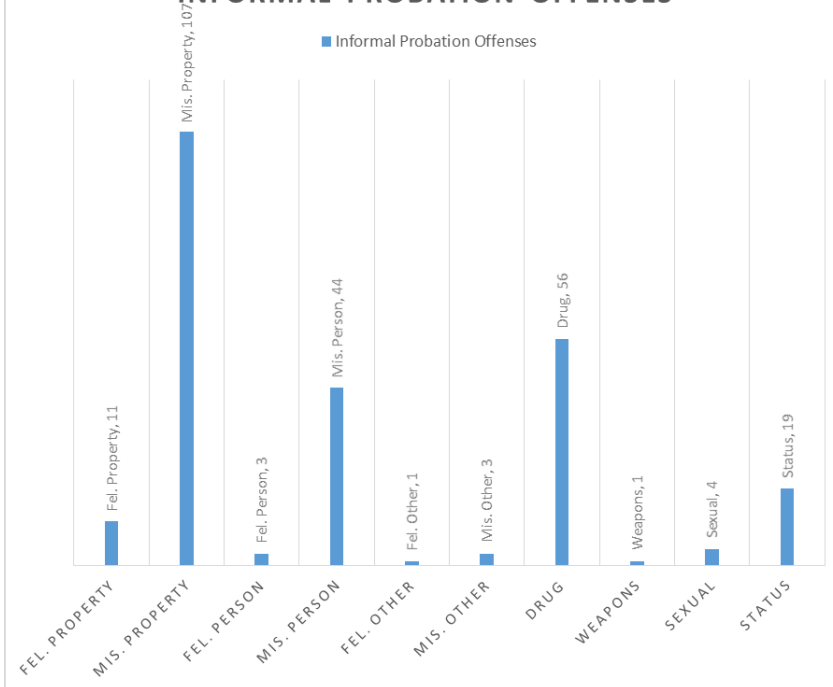


### PROBATION

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

In 2016, there were 258 Informal Probation Cases, with 54% of youth being Male and 46% being Female. Of these 258 cases, 254 were released from Informal Probation, with 154, or 61% of youth being successfully released.

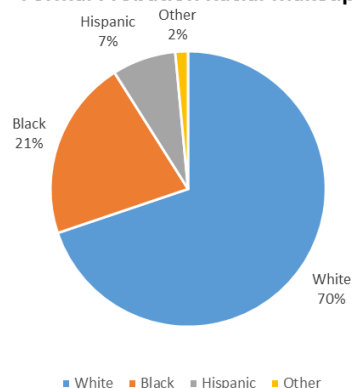
**INFORMAL PROBATION OFFENSES**



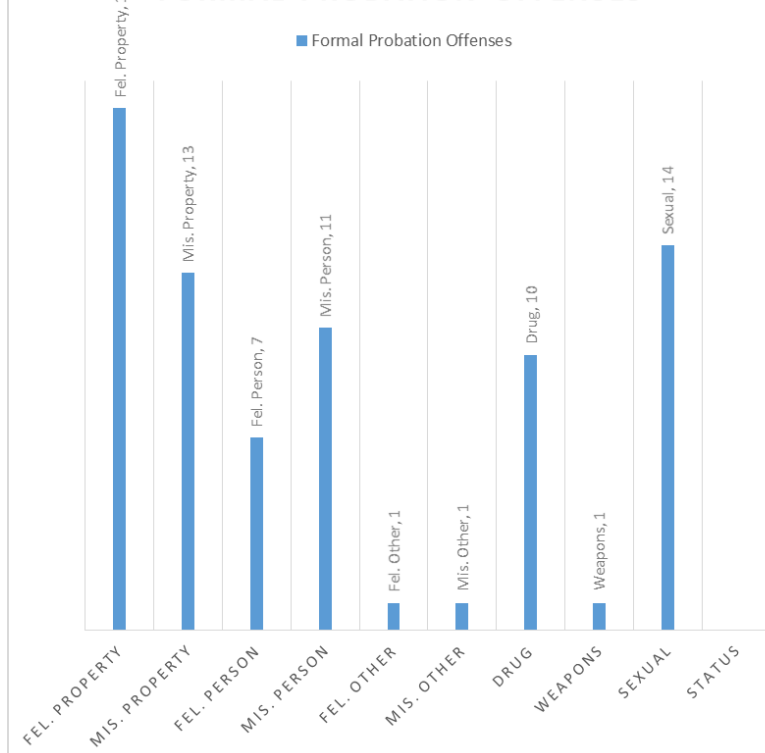
## Probation

In 2016, there were 80 Formal Probation Cases, with 79% of youth being Male and 21% being Female. Of the 80 cases, 79 youth were released from Formal Probation with 26 youth, or 61%, being successfully released.

**Formal Probation Racial Makeup**



**FORMAL PROBATION OFFENSES**



### Connecting to Parents and Guardians

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

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

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



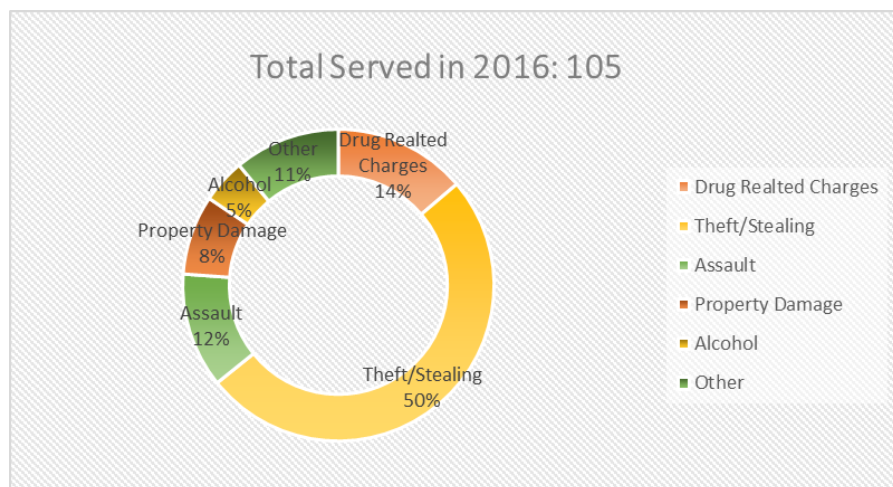
## Teen Court

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

Once a week, Teen Court hearings are held at the Greene County Juvenile Justice Center. In Teen Court, juveniles between the ages of 12 and 16 who have committed a misdemeanor offense are given the chance to go before a jury of their peers. Here, they accept a constructive and meaningful response for their behavior determined by the jury rather than have it determined by a Deputy Juvenile Officer or the Juvenile Court Judge. Each Defendant must accept responsibility for his/her actions to participate in Teen Court since juries do not decide innocence or guilt. The jurors' only job is to determine the appropriate sentence.

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

**In 2016, 105 youth were served in this alternative sentencing program.**



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

"While I was in the court room it made me feel like a grown adult. Being able to fix my mistakes that I made in the past."

"I was nervous but overall it was a pleasant experience and everyone was very respectful."

"My trial was fair. I was treated with respect and learned a life lesson."

"I was really scared but this is when I finally realized that what I do and how it affects people is really a big deal."

"Kind of scared because I didn't know how to prepare myself."

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

"I felt that the apology letter made me learn my lesson."

"The Family Communication Workshop help me realize that it is important to communicate and respect my mother."

"The Victim Impact Panel really opened my eyes when guest speakers came in and spoke to us about how much people's wrong decisions really affect their lives."

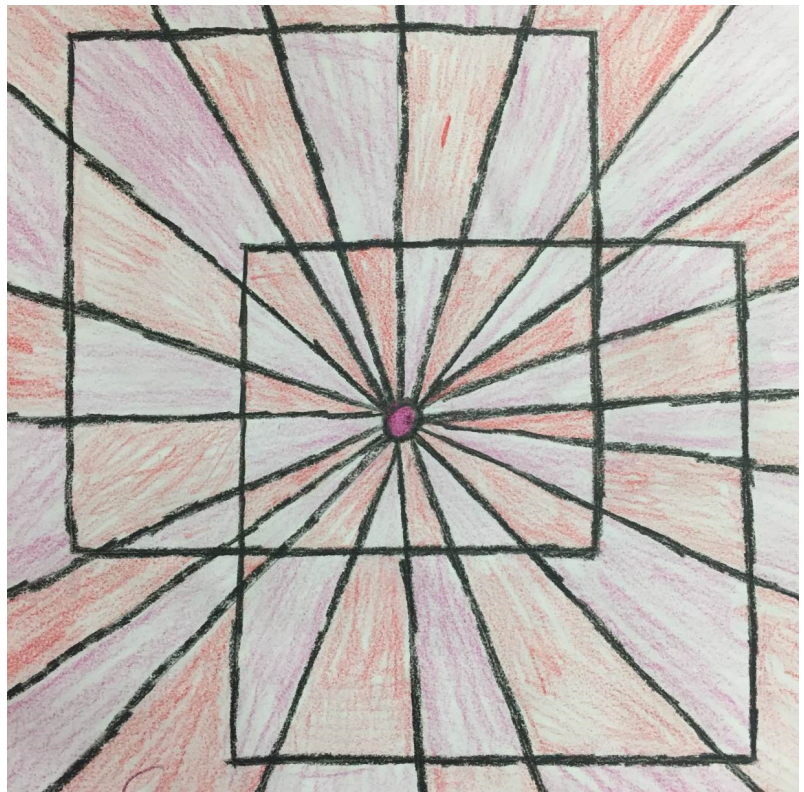
"During Jury Duty's I was a part of allowed me to see many people going through the same things I was."

"The Victim Impact Panel allowed me to see with my eyes the consequences of decisions and cause/effect."

## Youth Art



Along with the art pictured on the cover, these are just a few examples of what youth work on during Art Therapy Groups.





## Greene County Youth Academy



Back Row: Allen Criger, Joe Montanez, Melissa Whittaker, Jocelyn Lowry, Alina Kobaykhno, Brett Long, Dan Johnson, Nick Heisler

Front Row: Kyla Garner, Debbie Baltzell, Jamie Raab, Maria Ampilova

### **Academics**

The GCYA program works with the Springfield Public Schools (SPS) to provide our youth with educational opportunities. Sunday Wildschuetz is our SPS teacher, and she provides education to our youth focused on English, Reading and Math. GCYA also has one grant funded teacher, Joe Woodring, who focuses on Science, Social Studies, and life skills. The grant funded position is provided by a grant from the Missouri Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA). As a result of the partnership between OSCA, SPS, and GCYA, our youth are able to receive an incredible educational opportunity that helps keep the youth from getting behind in school while going through the legal process and helps them receive more direct contact than they would experience in a regular school setting. This partnership creates a strong likelihood of success for our youth and prepares them for the transition back to school as their legal status improves.



Teachers: Sunday Wildschuetz, Joe Woodring

The Greene County Youth Academy (GCYA) serves as a 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 school classes. Research has shown that a solid education is key to helping youth avoid further involvement in the criminal justice system. The goal for GCYA is to make sure that youth in our program receive individualized education services in combination with life skills and various forms of therapeutic services to provide them the greatest likelihood of future success.

### **Highlights**

It has been a busy year at GCYA! During the summer months, the Greene County Evening Reporting Center (ERC) merged with the GCYA program, eliminating the ERC program. This merger provided the opportunity for our office to streamline our services as diversionary programs and join together in working with the youth that we both shared in common. ERC staff were transitioned into the GCYA program as Youth Specialists or Family and Community Specialists and the ERC Coordinator transferred to a GCYA Program Supervisor. This merger allowed all staff to maintain their employment and their job duties, and allowed for the ERC staff to join the GCYA staff to have a larger group of staff to work with the youth as a whole. This process has greatly enabled the GCYA program to diversify programming, increase the quality of programming provided, and has allowed a stronger emphasis on one-on-one individualized therapeutic services and treatment. The merger of the programs has been a long process, taking the last half of 2016 to complete, but the rewards of this work are showing for our youth! We are now able to offer dual programming opportunities for youth, and will be expanding our dual programming in the summer of 2017 to include youth choice programming. Youth choice programming will allow youth to look at two or three programming components that will be presented at the same time, and give them the opportunity to select the programming they want to be able to attend. The better utilization of staff resources has allowed for more directed staff training opportunities, and a better ability for staff to focus on building strong bonds with the youth necessary to facilitate long term success as youth transition back to the community.



## Greene County Youth Academy

### Circle of Courage

GCYA transitioned to operating on the Circle of Courage model of positive youth development in April of 2017. 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. The concepts provide the foundation for psychological resilience and positive youth change and development.

While in GCYA, each youth is assigned a "quadrant" as a starting point. This is usually belonging. Each quadrant of the Circle of Courage has assignments, treatment goals, and developmental characteristics that we help youth attain. The goal of the belonging quadrant is to help youth achieve and forge strong, positive social bonds that are based on respect, being open-minded, and development of emotional awareness. The goal of the mastery quadrant is to help youth develop a strong focus on his/her goals, being cordial, and motivated. The goal of the independence quadrant is to help youth learn to be a great problem solver, and help them learn to be accountable and responsible. The goal of the generosity quadrant is to help youth be unselfish and empathetic, and to respect others boundaries. As youth work through the program, they will grow in all quadrants, as well as experience challenges in other quadrants. Youth will move around in the quadrants continually based on their needs.



### Community Service Projects and Community Engagement

As part of the GCYA program, our youth are involved in a many different community engagement projects. For example, GCYA has an adopted stream, two adopted streets, and various other community cleanup projects that our youth participate in continuously. Our youth also participate in a newsletter project each month with our partnering organization, Arc of the Ozarks.

GCYA will continue to partner with the Greene County Juvenile Office to participate in Service Projects hosted by the various departments of the Juvenile Office. GCYA will also partner with our Girls Empowering Minds and Spirits (GEMS) and Spartans programs as well to provide a vast array of opportunities for our youth to gain a sense of belonging in our community.



The Greene County Youth Academy participates a wide array of therapeutic programs in addition to regular programming. The goal behind these programs is to provide individualized treatment based on the need of each youth we serve. See the list below:

- Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT)
- Music Therapy
- Anger Management
- Art Therapy
- Individual and Family Counseling
- In-patient and Out-patient Substance Abuse Counseling

For more information about the Greene County Youth Academy, please visit our Facebook page at

[Facebook.com/gcjogcya](https://www.facebook.com/gcjogcya)

## Getting Involved For Today's Students

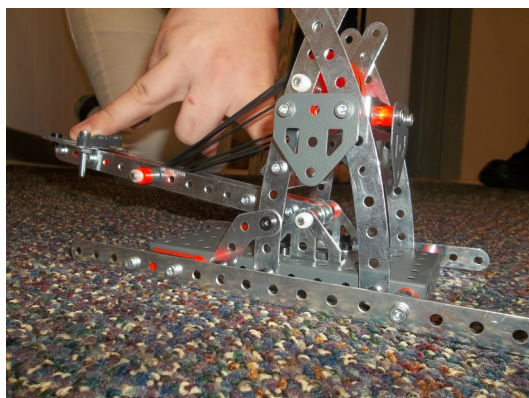


Jacqueline Scrivner, Tom Gist, Gabrielle Wilson

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



GIFTS also operates the **HAP (Homework Assistance Program)**. HAP is available to youth Monday - Thursday from 2:30-6:00 PM. The goal of HAP is to meet the educational needs of each student. Youth may select a variety of options from an "activity menu." Priority is given to homework completion and grade improvement. Students may also choose enrichment activities such as building simple machines, wind and water energy, and developing Microsoft Office literacy. Students may also prepare for ACT and HiSET tests. A release form signed by the parents, allows GIFTS to track the youth's school attendance, grades, and homework. This information is then provided to the probation officer on a weekly basis. The GIFTS Program also provides evening lessons for the youth of GCYA. These lessons are all focused on hands on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities. Area high school teachers are recruited to teach these lessons. Youth have been able to extract their own DNA, forensic anatomy, and temperature change. GIFTS continues to grow and implement new ways to meet the educational needs of our youth.



GIFTS added another certified teacher to the staff this year. Jacqueline Scrivner taught at various schools for 31 years. She has a B.S. in secondary Education and graduate work in guidance and counseling. Jacqueline also works with Springfield Public Schools as a homebound tutor, helping students who are too ill to attend school. The GIFTS staff is very happy to add Jacqueline to the team!

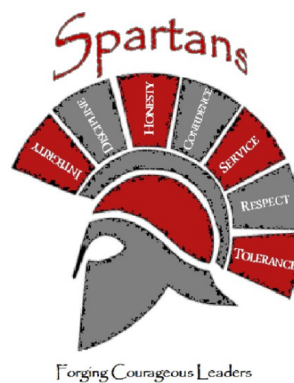


## Spartans



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

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





## Girls Empowering Minds & Spirits



Community Service



Volleyball– A Sporting Chance



*“Strengthening hearts and  
values now, for a  
dynamic, self-confident  
future”*



Queen City Rock Camp



Designed For Life

## **Girls Empowering Minds & Spirits**

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





## Support Staff



Back Row L to R: Danielle Walker, Sheryl Wright, Debbie Baltzell, Cheryl Blakemore, Shirley Speer, Karen McIlravy

Front Row L to R: Tanya McClure, Twyla Allen, Cynthia Myers, Jill Randolph



## Support Staff

Unit size—12 total

Roles and Responsibilities of each position within in the unit are:

Secretary

Receptionist

File Clerk

Community Outreach has been helping at Weaver Elementary for the Perfect Attendance Lunch




## Legal Unit



**Left to Right:** Paul Shackelford, Stephanie Bullard, Staci Denney, Brooke Downing, Danielle Walker.

In 2016, the legal unit of the Greene County Juvenile Division consisted of three attorneys and a Victim Witness Coordinator. The legal unit said goodbye to Victim Witness Coordinator, Jennifer Leek, and welcomed Staci Denney, who had formerly served as a Probation Officer with the Juvenile Office. Additionally, the Juvenile Office welcomed a new staff attorney, Stephanie Bullard who was previously serving as a Public Defender.

The attorneys in the legal unit provide representation, both in and out of court, to each of the other units of the Greene



County Juvenile Office. Additionally, the legal unit keeps the office informed of current and proposed legislation as well as new appellate court decisions to ensure that the practices in place at the office are current, relevant and legally accurate. The Victim Witness Coordinator ensures that victims of juvenile crime are contacted and then helps guide them through the juvenile court system.

## Victim Services

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

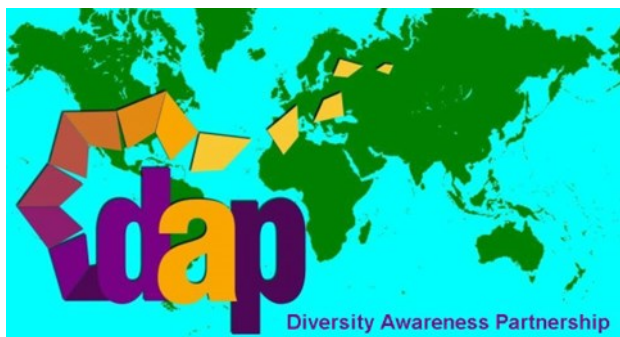


## ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAMS

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

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

## **Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP)**



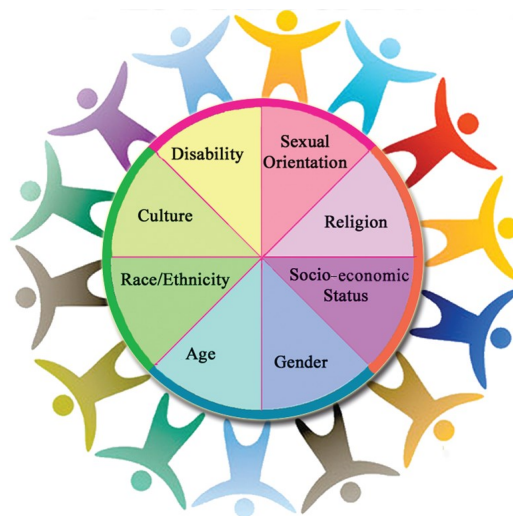
The purpose of the Diversity Awareness Partnership (DAP) is to celebrate and embrace diversity with the next generation of Greene County. DAP seeks to provide Greene County youth with opportunities to learn about and embrace our diverse community. DAP also provides opportunities for the employees of the Greene County Juvenile Office to learn more about diversity and the unique members of our community in order to better serve the citizens of Greene County.

2016 was again a busy year for the DAP team. We unveiled a new section of the DAP website, called *DAP 201*. There, you will find several resources to learn more about diversity issues, including articles and videos. You will also find activities designed to challenge your perception of diversity issues and discover that diversity is an issue that applies to everyone, regardless of race, religion, or gender.

We had several guest speakers again in 2016, continuing our traditional Lunch Time Learning Series presentations. In January, we welcomed Jen Leek and Marie Swope, who unveiled the DAP 201 program to Greene County Juvenile Office staff. They also presented a new diversity pledge for employees that pledges that our staff will respect our diverse community and will strive to serve all people with professionalism and respect, no matter our differences!

In November, DAP welcomed Michelle Horn with Missouri Vocation Rehabilitation. She educated our staff on the services that Vocational Rehabilitation can provide to youth and adults with physical and mental health diagnosis who wish to enter or remain in the workforce. Their services include career education opportunities and job training, help with necessary safety or accessibility equipment, and other services to provide those with disabilities the tools they need to keep working.

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



## Internship Opportunities



Kambry Wagner—Probation



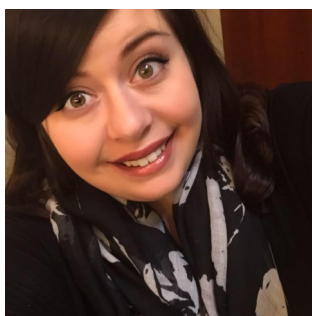
Lindsey Schnieder—GCYA  
(Greene County Youth Academy)



Matt Overcast—Legal



Rebekah Anderson—Detention



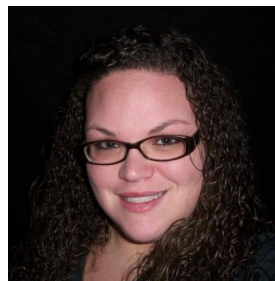
Nicole Greene—Abuse/Neglect



Taylor Swope - GCYA  
(Greene County Youth Academy)



Addie Blankenship—GCYA  
(Greene County Youth Academy)



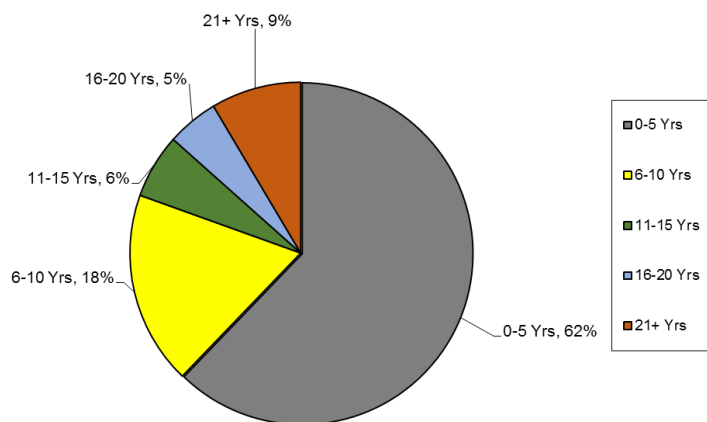
Merissa Fisk—Detention

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

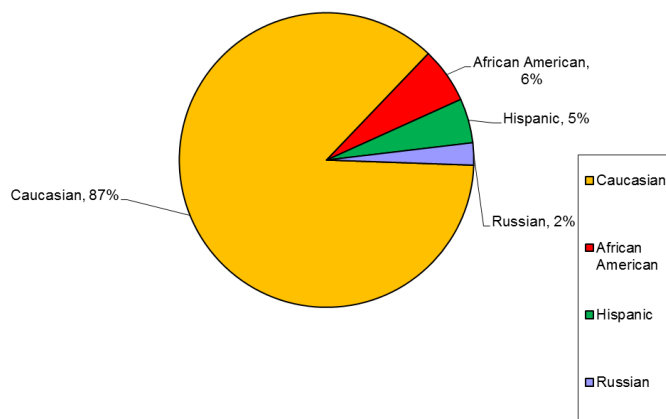
For additional information regarding our internship program or to apply to be an intern, please visit our website at <https://www.greenecountymo.org/juvenile/intern/index.php>

## 2016 Employee Demographics

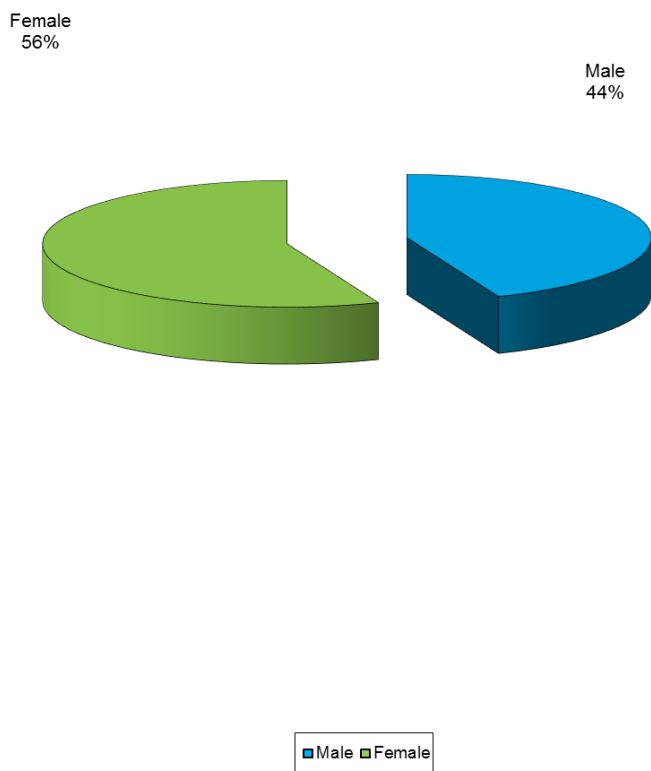
**Years Employed**



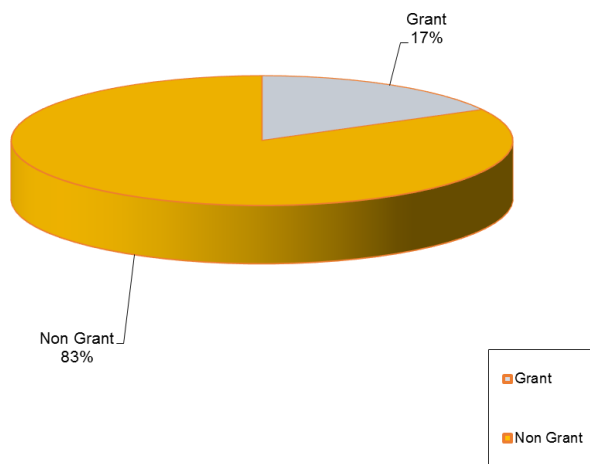
**Employee Race**



**Employee Gender**



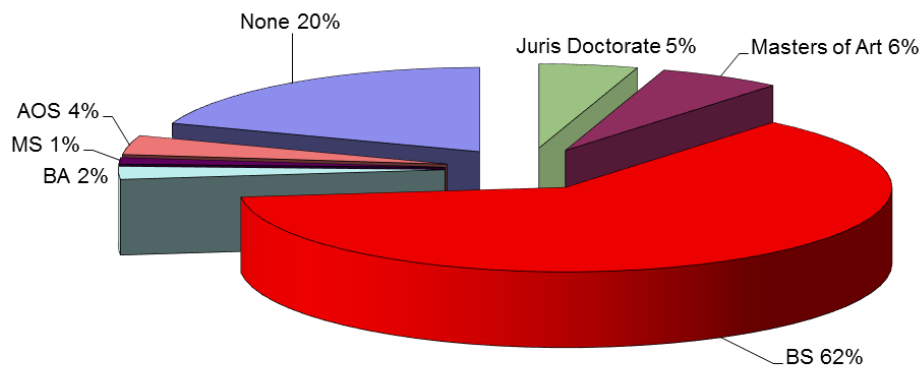
**Employees Paid By**



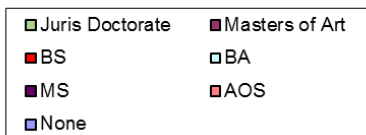
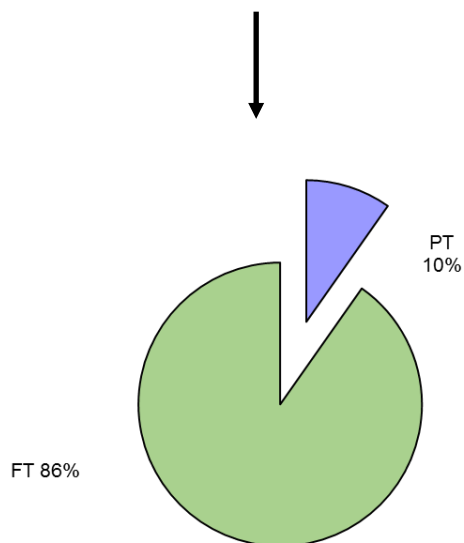


## 2016 Employee Demographics

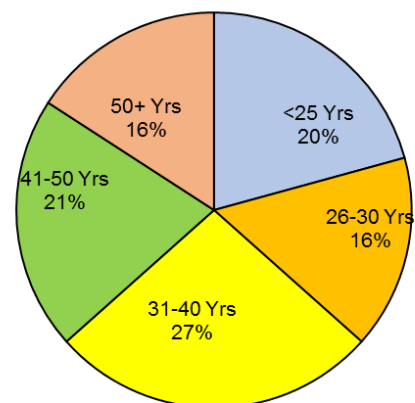
Employee Degree Types



Full and Part Time Employees



Employee Age Range



## **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  
 Ambassadors for Children  
 Asbury UMC  
 Better Life in Recovery  
 Boys and Girls Club  
 Burrell Behavioral Health  
 Center for Dispute Resolution  
 Central Assembly of God Church  
 Chaffee  
  
 Child Advocacy Center  
 Children's Division  
 Community Partnership of the Ozarks  
 Cox Health  
 Crossfit-Nixa  
 Division of Youth Services-Datema House  
  
 Freeway Ministries  
 GIFTS/HAP  
 Great Circle  
 Greene County Commissioners  
 Greene County-Environmental Planner  
  
 Greene County Sheriff  
 Horses of Hope  
 Hy-Vee  
 Legal Services of Southwest Missouri  
 Mercy Corporate Health  
 Missouri Alliance

Missouri Career Center  
 Missouri Mentoring Partnership  
 Missouri State University Dietetics  
 Missouri State University Nursing School  
  
 On Angel's Wings  
 Ozarks Technical Community College  
 The Potter's House  
 PSHP String Quintet  
 Safe and Sober  
 SALSP  
 School Police Services  
 Solutions Based Counseling  
  
 Springfield Fire Department  
 Springfield Parks Department  
 Springfield Police Department  
 Springfield Public Schools  
 The Victim Center  
 Willard Police Department-PALS



## Glossary of Terms

**Abuse:** Any physical injury, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse inflicted on a child other than by accidental means by those responsible for the child's care, custody, and control, except that discipline including spanking, administered in a reasonable manner, shall not be construed as abuse.

**Alternative Care (AC):** When a child has been placed into protective custody.

**Action:** A proceeding taken in a court of law. Term is synonymous with a case, suit, and lawsuit.

**Affidavit:** A written statement of fact prepared and signed by the DJO and Children's Division investigative worker and sworn before a person having authority to administer and oath.

**Adjudication:** Decision by a juvenile court judge that the juvenile committed the delinquent act.

**Adjudication Hearing:** A hearing to determine whether there is evidence beyond a reasonable doubt to support the allegations against the juvenile.

**Aftercare:** Supervision of a juvenile after release from an institution.

**Allegations:** The assertion, declaration, or statement of a party to an action made in a pleading, stating what he/she expects to prove.

**Answer:** A written statement of the respondent's case made in response to the plaintiff's complaint.

**Appeal:** The process by which a case is brought from one court to a higher court for review for a reversal or modification of the judgment of the lower court.

**Bailiff:** A court officer who opens and closes the court and keeps peace in the courtroom.

**Clerk of the Court:** An officer of the court whose duty is to maintain court records.

**Commitment:** Decision by a juvenile court judge to send the adjudicated juvenile to an institution.

**Contempt of Court:** An act that is meant to embarrass, hinder, or obstruct a court in the administration of justice. Direct contempt is committed in the presence of the court. Indirect contempt is when a lawful court order is not carried out or is refused by the party against whom the order was issued.

**Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA):** A volunteer that is a trained citizen who is appointed by a judge to represent the best interests of abused and neglected children in court.

**Court Summary:** A document prepared by the Children's Division or DJO and offered to the court for review.

**Continuance:** A delay or postponement of a court hearing.

**Criminal Non-Support:** A person who commits the crime of non-support when he/she knowingly fails to provide, without good cause, adequate support for the parent and/or minor children when legally obligated to do so. Criminal non-support is a Class A Misdemeanor in Missouri. If the violator leaves the state for purposes of avoiding obligation to support, then it is a Class D Felony.

**Default:** A judgment entered against a defendant who does not plead within the allowable time or does not appear at the trial.

**Delinquent Act:** A behavior committed by a juvenile that would have been a crime if committed by an adult.

**Deposition:** Testimony taken under oath outside the courtroom concerning the facts and circumstances surrounding an incident. It may be introduced as evidence in a court hearing at a later time.

**Detention:** Short-Term secure confinement of a juvenile for the purpose of ensuring the juvenile will appear for court and/or for the protection of the community.

**Detention Center:** A facility designed for short-term secure confinement of a juvenile prior to court disposition or execution of a court order.

**Discovery:** A pre-trial procedure that allows each party to get written or oral information from the other party.

**Disposition Hearing in Delinquency Cases:** A hearing held after a juvenile has been adjudicated to determine what sanction should be imposed on the juvenile.



## **Glossary of Terms**

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

**DJO:** Deputy Juvenile Officer

**Docket:** The order in which cases will be heard or tried on a given day. The list is often posted outside the courtroom with cases listed by the petitioner's name.

**Evidence:** Any form of proof legally presented at a trial through witnesses, records, documents, or other material.

**Family Support Team (FST):** A team that ensures that the necessary services and support are provided to all parties of the case. The team would include the mother/Father, DJO, Children's Division, CASA, guardian ad litem, parent's attorney, and any other individuals working toward the goal of reunifying the child back into the parental home.

**Family Support Team Meetings (FSTM):** The initial meeting is scheduled 72 hours after the child is taken into alternative care, as well as 30 days, 60 days, 90 days, and 120 days later. Later meetings are scheduled at six months and every six months thereafter. Additional meetings can be scheduled as needed or at the request of the team. Many decisions and recommendations are made by this team.

**Finding:** The court's or jury's decision on issues of fact. In almost all court orders, the findings of facts precede the actual order of the court.

**Guardian ad Litem (GAL):** An attorney or special advocate appointed by the court to represent the interests of a child in a civil or criminal proceeding involving that child. A GAL must be appointed if there is an allegation that the child has been neglected or abuse. The GAL is charged with promoting the best interests of the child in that proceeding.

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

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

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

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

**Judicial Notice:** An act in which a judge conducting a trial or framing a decision recognizes the existence and truth of certain facts having a bearing on the controversy without the production of evidence. Taking judicial notice is the awareness of certain facts that judges may act upon without proof or argument, because they already know them to be true.

**Jurisdictional Hearing:** A court proceeding in which the court decides whether the statements or allegations the Juvenile Officer made in the petition are true and whether the child will remain under the supervision of the court.

**Minor:** Any person under the age of 18.

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

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

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

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

## Glossary of Terms

**Parties:** The persons who take part in the performance of any act, or who are directly interested in any affair, or who are actively concerned in the prosecution and defense of any legal proceeding; commonly referred to as the petitioner and respondent.

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

**Permissive Placement:** Judge with authorize that a child can be placed back into the parental home. This step routinely occurs after the parents have made substantial progress on their treatment plan.

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

**Petitioner:** A person who brings an action seeking relief; the party who complains or sues in a personal action; also referred to as the plaintiff.

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

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

**Pro Se:** A person who represents himself in court, without the aid of an attorney.

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

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

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

**Respondent:** The person defending or denying an action; the person against whom the relief or recovery is sought.

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

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

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

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

**Taken into custody:** The act on the part of a police officer or Juvenile Officer to obtain custody of a juvenile who is accused of committing a delinquent act.

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

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

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

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





