



**ERIE COUNTY  
COURT OF COMMON  
PLEAS  
JUVENILE DIVISION**

**323 COLUMBUS AVENUE  
SANDUSKY, OHIO 44870**

JUDGE ROBERT C. DELAMATRE

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Magistrates

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2008 ANNUAL REPORT

**GOAL STATEMENT**  
**COMMON PLEAS COURT OF ERIE COUNTY, OHIO**  
**JUVENILE DIVISION**

The goal of the Erie County Common Pleas Court, Juvenile Division, is to serve all citizens with whom it has contact in a manner that:

- Complies with the constitution of the United States of America and the laws of the State of Ohio.
- Provides maximum services compatible with the judicious and accountable use of public funds.
- Preserves and protects the family unit and minimizes trauma at times when such unit is fragmented and troubled.
- Considers the needs of individuals, families, and the general public with bias toward no one.
- Assists in the care, protection and supervision of youth toward modifying unlawful and socially unacceptable behavior to a standard that prepares them for fulfilling, productive adulthood.



The Juvenile Court has jurisdiction over dependency, neglect, abuse, delinquency, unruly, traffic, juvenile bindovers to adult court, certain adult crimes referred to Juvenile Court, paternity actions, custody changes, child support enforcement, visitation and the modifications that occur in these areas, and contempt proceedings.

Each case is unique and has its own set of facts and circumstances that must be considered by the Judge or the Magistrates who hear these cases. Hearings include arraignment, adjudicatory and dispositional proceedings and other motions duly referred by the Judge of the Juvenile Division.

The Erie County Juvenile Court has a total of 114 employees, 97 of whom are permanent/full time, 7 of whom are part time, and 10 of whom are intermittent. Of that staff, 53 are connected directly to court services with 38 serving the Juvenile Detention Center. The Northern Ohio Community Correction Facility has 17 full time employees and 2 part time employees. The following chart depicts the growth in the budget in the past 20 years.

	COMPUTER	JUDICIAL	DETENTION	YOUTH	RECLAIM	JAIBG	DRUG CT	CCF	WRAPAROUND	
	FUND			SERVICES		GRANT	GRANT		GRANT	TOTAL
2008	8,478	2,109,032	1,625,768	137,929	648,769	0	0	1,179,724	214,751	5,924,451
2007	16,721	2,085,477	1,562,709	139,358	639,355	0	37,343	1,142,346	32,845	5,656,154
2006	19,236	2,072,240	1,529,065	132,983	612,645	0	55,701	1,017,578	0	5,439,448
2005	13,541	2,075,952	1,452,383	131,074	514,038	0	80,691	888,128	0	5,155,807
2004	9,540	2,129,551	1,461,860	130,242	505,615	15,396	109,806	221,657	0	4,583,667
2003	3,506	2,129,677	1,376,681	138,450	483,340	50,471	64,829	0	0	4,246,954
2002	3,020	2,098,934	1,181,122	194,718	449,210	99,946	0	0	0	4,026,950
2001	12,800	1,884,858	1,227,204	142,677	418,441	50,222	0	0	0	3,736,202
2000	21,385	1,717,889	1,160,111	199,875	401,347	0	0	0	0	3,500,607
1999	10,799	1,487,675	1,128,297	196,547	416,371	0	0	0	0	3,239,689
1998	5,236	1,307,500	969,402	178,796	419,200	0	0	0	0	2,880,134
1997	6,500	1,241,367	800,364	191,427	333,971	0	0	0	0	2,573,629
1996	0	1,228,122	773,355	191,359	344,184	0	0	0	0	2,537,020
1995	0	1,093,481	677,789	181,602	274,208	0	0	0	0	2,227,080
1994	0	1,054,478	636,131	270,357	166,085	0	0	0	0	2,127,051
1993	0	1,027,455	655,987	241,420	0	0	0	0	0	1,924,862
1992	0	937,292	606,557	248,937	0	0	0	0	0	1,792,786
1991	0	889,932	597,562	219,659	0	0	0	0	0	1,707,153
1990	0	859,407	578,692	188,000	0	0	0	0	0	1,626,099
1989	0	771,380	514,080	250,407	0	0	0	0	0	1,535,867
1988	0	683,413	501,277	318,735	0	0	0	0	0	1,503,425
1987	0	773,542	530,265	317,359	0	0	0	0	0	1,621,166
1986	0	565,679	571,493	273,024	0	0	0	0	0	1,410,196

During the calendar year 2008 there was a total of 3,252 cases referred to the Juvenile Division of the Erie County Common Pleas Court for its consideration and disposition.

NEW JUVENILE CASES FILED IN 2008	
COMPLAINT TO ESTABLISH PARENT/CHILD RELATIONSHIP	24
COMPLAINT FOR SUPPORT	149
COMPLAINT FOR CUSTODY/VISITATION	88
COMPLAINT FOR DEPENDENCY	66
COMPLAINT FOR NEGLECT	26
COMPLAINT FOR ABUSE	8
DELINQUENCY	1510
UNRULY	471
JUVENILE TRAFFIC	735
ADULT CONTRIBUTING CRIMINAL CASES	42
JUVENILE TOBACCO	65
GRANDPARENT P.O.A.	68
TOTAL:	3252

Those cases were handled in the following ways:

- (1) Official hearing before the Judge and Magistrates, at which the following dispositions were those most commonly ordered:
  - a. Fine and/or court costs assessed
  - b. Suspension or revocation of driving privileges
  - c. Case study ordered and/or placed on probation
  - d. Referral to other agencies for specialized counseling or treatment
  - e. Referral to one of the Court programs outlined in detail in this report
  - f. Out of home placement
  - g. Commitment to the Ohio Department of Youth Services
- (2) Diversion
- (3) Bond forfeiture
- (4) Certification to county of legal residence
- (5) Parent/child relationship established, custody, visitation and support ordered

In order to comply with accountability standards mandated by the Supreme Court, complaints that have multiple charges are counted as one case. Of the 3,252 cases that were filed in 2008, each of the charges were individually processed to accommodate additional staff involvement and time assigned on the Court's calendar. The total number of actual charges filed in 2008 was 3,829.

The following charts reflect the number of individual charges that were referred to the Juvenile Division.

**TOTAL NUMBER OF JUVENILE CHARGES IN 2008 BY TYPE AND SEX**

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
ABUSE	4	4	8
ABUSING HARMFUL INTOXICANTS	1	0	1
AGGRAVATED ARSON/ARSON	11	0	11
AGGRAVATED BURGLARY/BURGLARY	28	6	34
AGGRAVATED MENACNING/MENACING	24	7	31
AGGRAVATED ROBBERY/ROBBERY	7	0	7
AGREEMENT FOR PERMANENT SURRENDER	2	1	3
AID/ABET OFFICER	0	1	1
ASSAULT/FELONIOUS ASSAULT	86	28	114
ATTEMPT	8	2	10
BREAKING AND ENTERING	3	0	3
CARRYING CONCEALED WEAPON	10	3	13
CHILD ENDANGERING	0	2	2
CHRONIC TRUANT	26	38	64
COMPLICITY	44	8	52
CONSUMING	138	83	221
CONTRIBUTING	14	28	42
CRIMINAL CHILD ENTICEMENT	1	0	1
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	97	2	99
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	24	1	25
CRIMINAL SIMULATION	1	0	1
CRIMINAL TRESPASS	38	8	46
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS	1	0	1
CURFEW VIOLATION	116	75	191
CUSTODY/VISITATION	45	43	88
DEPENDENT & NEGLECT	57	35	92
DISCHARGE FIREWORKS	1	0	1
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	112	72	184
DISSEMINATING HARMFUL MATTER	4	0	4
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/THREAT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	46	24	70
DRUG LAW VIOLATION	128	25	153
ESCAPE	2	1	3
FAIL TO COMPLY W/POLICE OFFICER	5	0	5
FAILURE TO DISCLOSE PERSONAL INFORMATION	1	0	1
FLEE AND ELUDE	2	0	2
FORGERY	0	1	1
GRANDPARENT POWER OF ATTORNEY	37	31	68
GROSS SEXUAL IMPOSITION	2	0	2
HABITUAL TRUANT	4	10	14
IDENTITY FRAUD	1	1	2
INCITING VIOLENCE	1	0	1
INCORRIGIBLE	125	96	221
INDUCING PANIC	10	0	10
INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER	1	0	1
LITTERING	1	0	1
MAKING FALSE ALARMS	1	0	1

MISUSE OF CREDIT CARDS	2	1	3
OBSTRUCTING OFFICIAL BUSINESS	80	41	121
PASSING BAD CHECKS	1	0	1
PATERNITY AND SUPPORT			173
PHONE HARASSMENT (TELECOMMUNICATIONS)	3	0	3
POSSESSION OF CRIMINAL TOOLS	8	0	8
POSSESSION OF DEADLY WEAPON	6	1	7
PROVIDE FALSE INFORMATION	0	1	1
PUBLIC INDECENCY	0	1	1
RAILROAD TRESPASS	6	0	6
RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY	32	9	41
RESISTING ARREST	26	9	35
RUNAWAY	54	70	124
SAFECRACKING	1	0	1
SAFE SCHOOL	2	0	2
SEXUAL IMPOSITION	2	0	2
TAMPERING WITH EVIDENCE	11	0	11
THEFT	119	93	212
TOBACCO BILL VIOLATION	48	17	65
TRAFFIC	425	310	735
TRUANCY	14	19	33
UNAUTHORIZED USE OF M/V	3	6	9
UNAUTHORIZED USE OF PROPERTY	2	0	2
VANDALISM	15	2	17
VIOLATION OF COURT ORDER/PROBATION	215	87	302
VIOLATION OF PAROLE	7	0	7
TOTAL	2353	1303	3829

**TOTAL NUMBER OF JUVENILE CHARGES FOR 2004-2008**

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
4145	3825	4264	4246	3829

**TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTH AND ADULTS REFERRED IN 2008**

<b>CASE TYPE</b>	<b>MALE</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
CONTRIBUTING	14	28	42
CUSTODY/VISITATION	45	43	88
FELONY	160	36	196
VIOLATION OF PAROLE	7	0	7
TOBACCO BILL	48	17	65
VIOLATION OF COURT ORDER	102	60	162
VIOLATION OF PROBATION	113	27	140
UNRULY	244	227	471
MISDEMEANOR	633	372	1005
ABUSE	4	4	8
NEGLECT	12	14	26
DEPENDENT	45	21	66
TRAFFIC	425	310	735
PATERNITY AND SUPPORT			173
GRANDPARENT P.O.A.	37	31	68
TOTALS	1889	1190	3252

**TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUTH AND ADULTS REFERRED FOR 2004 – 2008**

<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
3636	3275	3689	3658	3252

**TRAFFIC CASES IN 2008 BY MONTH AND SEX**

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>BOYS</b>	<b>GIRLS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
JANUARY	43	32	75
FEBRUARY	36	23	59
MARCH	31	16	47
APRIL	26	32	58
MAY	44	19	63
JUNE	36	27	63
JULY	44	37	81
AUGUST	49	29	78
SEPTEMBER	30	21	51
OCTOBER	18	28	46
NOVEMBER	37	22	59
DECEMBER	31	24	55
TOTAL	425	310	735

**JUVENILE TRAFFIC CASES BY MONTH FOR 2004-2008**

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
JANUARY	66	48	70	52	75
FEBRUARY	51	63	54	50	59
MARCH	93	58	79	54	47
APRIL	67	48	54	52	58
MAY	73	97	113	86	63
JUNE	106	105	81	84	63
JULY	92	93	89	114	81
AUGUST	105	94	90	80	78
SEPTEMBER	110	77	69	94	51
OCTOBER	66	82	75	77	46
NOVEMBER	82	64	54	52	59
DECEMBER	61	53	60	57	55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>735</b>

**COMMITMENTS TO ODYS BY SEX FROM 2004 – 2008**

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Boys	6	5	7	5	6
Girls	0	0	0	0	0

<b>Motions Filed in the Juvenile Division in 2008</b>	
Custody/Establish/Modify	59
For Appointment of GAL	12
For Bindover	5
For Change of Venue	1
For Continuance	253
For Default Judgment	51
For Early Release	20
For Extension of Time to File	2
For Genetic Testing	23
For Imposition of Sentence	151
For In camera Interview	12
For Income Tax Exemption/Dependency	1
For Leave to Plead	3
For Nolle Prosequi	36
For Order to Commence Serving Jail Sentence	12
For Payment of Assigned Counsel Fees	120

For Payment of Court Ordered Evaluation	2
For Permanent Custody	17
For Physical Exam	1
For Placement in Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	3
For Protective Order	1
For Psychological Evaluation	6
For Temporary Custody	165
For Temporary Orders	1
For Transcript & for Payment, By the Court, of Said Transcript	7
Requesting a Restraining Order	1
Requesting ExParte Emergency Order for Temporary Custody	32
Requesting Furlough	1
Requesting Home Study	1
Requesting Name Change	6
Requesting Payment of Education Costs	1
Requesting WrapAround	1
Support/Modification/Enforcement/Termination	607
To Add/Substitute Party	47
To Amend Complaint/Motion	23
To Approve/Amend Case Plan	204
To Award Protective Supervision	87
To Change Placement	83
To Compel/Produce Discovery	8
To Consolidate/Merge	16
To Convert Hearing Type	3
To Convey	3
To Correct Judgment Entry	7
To Designate Process Server	1
To Determine Competency	5
To Dismiss or Close/Case or Motion	145
To Disqualify	1
To Establish Paternity	2
To Exempt Innocent Owner	5
To Forfeit/ Revoke Bond	1
To Intervene	5
To Modify Judgment Entry	12
To Modify Medical Insurance Order	1
To Modify or Eliminate Prior Restraining Order	6
To Modify Visitation	29
To Quash	2
To Recall Capias/Warrant	30
To Reconsider	2
To Recuse	2

To Remove Child from Foster Care	1
To Request New Trial	1
To Revoke Bond	3
To Show Cause/Contempt	69
To Stay	67
To Suppress Evidence	2
To Transfer Case	4
To Vacate Order	5
To Withdraw as Counsel	12
To Withdraw Motion	46
<b>Total</b>	2554

**MOTIONS FILED IN THE JUVENILE COURT FOR 2004 – 2008**

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
2635	2368	2549	2646	2554

**FINES, COURT COSTS, FEES AND BOND FORFEITURES FOR 2008**

MONTH	FINES	COURT COSTS	FEES	BONDS	COMPUTER	TOTAL
JANUARY	\$421.28	\$1,454.63	\$300.00	\$125.00	\$735.00	\$3,035.91
FEBRUARY	\$733.58	\$1,701.18	\$610.00	\$85.00	\$627.00	\$3,756.76
MARCH	\$1,257.10	\$1,192.42	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$530.00	\$3,329.52
APRIL	\$962.46	\$1,094.64	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$574.00	\$2,831.10
MAY	\$1,216.67	\$1,202.27	\$470.00	\$355.00	\$523.50	\$3,767.44
JUNE	\$992.82	\$973.00	\$135.00	\$360.00	\$413.50	\$2,874.32
JULY	\$1,349.36	\$1,353.58	\$705.00	\$1,005.00	\$606.50	\$5,019.44
AUGUST	\$962.17	\$912.00	\$335.00	\$1,071.00	\$422.50	\$3,702.67
SEPTEMBER	\$898.10	\$1,059.61	\$540.00	\$296.00	\$525.00	\$3,318.71
OCTOBER	\$999.86	\$747.50	\$400.00	\$140.00	\$434.00	\$2,721.36
NOVEMBER	\$479.37	\$793.95	\$3.55	\$300.00	\$443.00	\$2,019.87
DECEMBER	\$673.99	\$874.84	\$299.68	\$345.00	\$449.00	\$2,642.51
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$10,946.76	\$13,359.62	\$4,348.23	\$4,082.00	\$6,283.00	\$39,019.61

## A. Probation Department

The Probation Department is involved with youth who are adjudicated delinquent or unruly and need services beyond the intake and preliminary hearing levels. The Probation Counselor uses the GRAD Assessment tool to assist in the development of a plan to address the individual strengths and needs of each youth. If the youth has disruption in one area and poses a low risk to the community they will be placed in Intervention. Intervention is a time limited supervision to assure that the youth complies with court orders specifically designed to address the issue that brought the youth to the attention of the Court. In 2008, 44 youth were served on Intervention. The youth who are assessed as having disruption in more than one area of their lives and who may pose some risk to the community due to their current behavior are placed onto Probation. The youth are afforded the opportunity to participate in a structured probation plan designed to promote responsible pro-social behavior. In 2008, 221 Erie County youth were served by the Juvenile Probation Department. The job description for the Juvenile Probation Counselor has evolved as the result of increased research in the field of treatment of the juvenile offender. Many new research based practices have been initiated to benefit the youth as well as the community. Currently, the Juvenile Probation Counselors are employing case management techniques to bring a balanced approach to developing juvenile accountability, competency development and individualized assessment and treatment toward the goal of rehabilitation of the youth as well as the protection of the community. There are specialized caseloads to provide close supervision and coordination of services for females, sex offenders, drug and alcohol involved youth as well as the very young offender. In addition, the Probation Counselors emphasize parental accountability and responsibility. Some of the current responsibilities of the Juvenile Probation Counselor are as follows:

- Social History – In many cases, once the youth admits to or is adjudicated delinquent of an offense, the Court requests information that will help them make an appropriate disposition. The Juvenile Probation Counselor gathers information about the youth and family and completes a dispositional investigation report. The report is designed to shed light on three basic sets of issues: public protection, accountability and rehabilitation.
- Court appearances – attending hearings involving youth and submitting recommendations for disposition.
- Assessment of youth and family's needs.
- Structured probation plan for the youth and family.
- Referrals to services and coordination of services in the community.
- Home and school monitoring visits.
- Wrap around team participation.
- Continued education in the field of Juvenile Justice.
- Drug screening.
- Employment of graduated sanctions and incentives in the community.
- Involvement in the treatment progress of youth in out of home placement.
- Discharge planning for youth who are in out of home placements including the Juvenile Justice Center, Residential Treatment and Community Corrections Centers.

In addition to the juveniles, the Probation Department also carries an adult caseload. Adults who are charged with Contributing to the Delinquency or Unruliness of a Minor in Erie County are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Division. A pre-sentence investigation is completed by the

Probation Department to develop recommendations for sentencing. Recommendations for sentencing in the adult cases are designed to assure that no similar offenses occur, in order to protect the youth of Erie County. Adult sentences include jail time, fines and court costs, restitution, monthly reporting fees, house arrest through electronic monitoring, drug and alcohol assessments and treatment, individual and family counseling, sex specific evaluation and treatment, medication compliance, parenting classes, participation in wrap around teams, Adult Thinking Errors class, letters of apology to the victim and victim's family, and orders of no contact. In 2008, 2 adults were placed on probation, 2 adults were placed on diversion and 3 adults were given court orders that, although they were not placed on probation, were tracked by the Probation Department.

**B. Home Detention Program**

Home Detention is a contractual form of home supervision characterized by strict house arrest, intense monitoring for compliance with these rules and appropriate sanctions for violations. Youth are admitted into the program in lieu of remaining in the Detention Center pending further court action. Youth placed on Home Detention are allowed to live at home, attend school, work, and attend court ordered programs.

Youth are ordered to Home Detention by way of a court order from the Judge, Magistrate, or from the Intake Department.

There are two aspects to the program – House Arrest and Curfew. During House Arrest the youth must remain on his or her property at all times except for court approved activities.

Curfew means the youth may be away from the home without supervision. However, the parents must approve and know the youth's whereabouts at all times. Further, the youth must be in the home at a time set by the Court.

Probation Monitoring is another aspect of the Home Detention, House Arrest Program. Youth are placed on monitoring status by probation officers, Magistrates or the Judge. Youth on monitoring are seen frequently during the day, late evening, weekends and holidays. Contacts are made with parents, schools and other agencies who have involvement with the youth.

**Statistics for 2008**

<b>Total of Referrals</b>	384
Carry over from 2007	27
Total	411
<b>Total Number of Terminations</b>	
	364
Successful	309
Unsuccessful	55

### C. Community Service/Restitution Program

The Community Service/Restitution Program has been active since June 1987. The goal of the program is to make youth responsible for their behavior and to reimburse victims for personal or property damage.

In the Community Service Program the youth are assigned work hours, ranging from fifteen to fifty hours, depending on the severity of the offense. The youth can earn credit of five hours for being involved in extra-curricular activities at school or working at a regular job. This feature adds a positive note to the program and encourages the youth to become involved in the community. There is no identified victim in the Community Service Program.

In the Restitution Program, victims are compensated up to \$500 for any damages owed to them. The number of restitution hours is set according to the amount of monetary damages owed. The youth are paid \$7.00 an hour working at non-profit work sites. Upon completion of the assigned hours, a check is issued and sent directly to the victim.

Each youth is asked to read and sign a behavior contract which includes the rules and guidelines of the program. Failure to follow this contract can result in the following: letter of violation, contempt, or violation of court order.

The Court uses volunteer help throughout Erie County. These job sites include:

Castalia Fire Dept.	Boys & Girls Club	Castalia Cemetery	Boys Village	Erie Co. Care Facility
World Animal Foundation	Vermilion Schools	Vermilion Y.M.C.A.	Shawnee School	McCormick Middle School
Perkins Schools	Huron High School	Sandusky High School	Care & Share	Perkins Highway Dept.
Victory Temple Kitchen	Human Society	Pemberville Boys Ranch	STARR	Huron Health Care Center
Ohio Veterans Home	Huron Boat Basin	Huron Boat Basin	Perkins Police Dept.	

The youth are asked to assist the supervisor on the job site in the following ways: sweep floors, mop floors, empty trash, wash windows and desks, pick up litter, play checkers with residents, read to residents. Other job responsibilities are to sort clothes, peel potatoes, make cookies, pull weeds and rake. Youth also shovel snow and sweep sidewalks. The volunteer supervisors influence youth positively with their caring and concern. They give the youth compliments and support during the time that they are supervising them. This program serves the victim, the youth and the community.

A new program was started May 1, 2007 that only involves youth that are employed. For any youth that has a job, they have the option to do their community service at one of the job sites or they can donate non-perishable goods for credit toward their community service. For every \$10.00 worth of non-perishable goods they donate they receive five hours of community service credit. They can choose to do all of their hours this way or do half by donating goods and the other half at a job site. This program helps the youth give back to the community because the items they donate are given to Care & Share or Victory Kitchen.

Not only do the youth donate non-perishable goods, but they also donate school supplies in July and August and new, unwrapped toys in November and December.

#### STATISTICS FOR 2008

Community Service Youth	123
Restitution Youth	18
Total Hours Worked	3220.25 hrs.
Number of Victims Served	57
Total Paid to Victims	\$21,500.96
Amount of Non-perishable Goods Donated	\$680.57
Total Hours Completed by Donating Non-Perishable Goods	331hrs.

#### **D. Intake Department**

The function of the Intake Department is to review all juvenile complaints with the exception of juvenile traffic complaints. In 2008, 2,088 cases were reviewed. The Intake Department also prevents youth who exhibit unruly or incorrigible behavior from officially entering the court system. In addition, youth that meet certain criteria and are charged with their first misdemeanor offense are referred to the Court's Diversion Program. Informal hearings are also used to divert youth when appropriate.

The Intake Supervisor meets with the parents and/or guardians and the youth when the parents/guardians request to file unruly charges. An in-depth interview is completed and, if possible, referral is made to other social service or mental health agencies, and the youth is warned that continuation of unruly behavior will lead to court intervention and the possible consequences of such intervention. If, however, the situation warrants immediate court action, a complaint charging unruly behavior is prepared and signed by the parent or guardian.

The Intake Supervisor interviews and completes an assessment on all youth placed in the Detention Center who are not on probation.

The Intake Supervisor coordinates with the interstate compact office regarding runaway or delinquent youth from other states.

The Intake Supervisor holds informal hearings regarding students who are truant or have behavioral problems at school. These hearings are attended by the Attendance Officer, the principal of the school, the parents or guardian and the youth. At this time the problem is discussed in an attempt to reach a solution. The youth and parent or guardian are told that charges will be filed if the truancy or misbehavior continues.

For the current school year, the Erie County School System referred 183 students to the Erie County Family Court's Truancy Initiative Program. The school systems participating in this program are: Berlin-Milan, Perkins, Margareta, Huron, Ehope Vocational, Vermilion and St. Mary's Central Catholic.

Of the 183 students referred, 153 students completed the informal hearing process and 30 cases were referred to the Court for formal proceedings.

The Sandusky City School System referred 487 students to the Truancy Initiative Program.

Of the 487 students referred, 17 were redirected to the Erie County Juvenile Court Probation Department, 120 were set for formal hearing in the Erie County Juvenile Court and 350 students completed the Program.

#### **STATISTICS FOR 2008**

Total Number of Informal Hearings (Sandusky City & Erie County Schools)	623
Total Number of Formal Charges Filed	150
Total Number Successfully Completed	473

## E. Diversion Program

The Diversion Program accepts first time offenders who are charged with misdemeanor or unruly offenses. Felony referrals require the approval of the Prosecutor and Judge/Magistrate. A variety of complaints are referred to the Diversion Program. Examples of complaints referred are trespassing, criminal damaging, criminal mischief, curfew, menacing, drug/alcohol complaints, petty theft, arson, sound amplification, obstruction of justice, falsification, telephone harassment, disorderly conduct, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, receiving stolen property, littering, truancy, and a variety of incorrigible/unruly complaints.

A contract with specific conditions for the youth and parent is devised. The conditions of each youth's contract are developed based on the complaint and the discussion that takes place during the first appointments, which includes the youth, parent/guardian, and the Diversion Counselor. The conditions may include: mental health counseling, restitution for damages, letters of apology to victims, research papers, "thinking papers" (what have they learned from this experience), viewing of prevention films, skill classes, Jesse Program referrals, and Substance Abuse Education Program referrals.

Prevention films, skill classes and behavior charts are utilized to provide the youth with the tools necessary to develop a better understanding of oneself and empathy for others through positive lawful activities. The main skills taught are problem solving/decision making, resolving conflicts/managing anger, self-esteem issues and empathy for others.

The Diversion Program also makes referrals to outside agencies when necessary. Examples of outside referrals include Firelands Substance Abuse Education Program, fire prevention/education programming, and mental health counseling at various community agencies.

Skill classes are offered by the Diversion Unit as a disposition for court involved youth. Most youth are ordered by the Judge or Magistrate to attend and complete specific skill classes as part of their disposition. Other youth are referred to the classes as a part of their diversion requirements. These skill classes are offered and taught by the Juvenile Diversion Counselors on a monthly and as needed basis.

The skill classes are Actions/Consequences, Anger Management, Shoplifting Prevention, Truancy Prevention, Job Skills, Youth Thinking Errors, Peace is Elementary, Adult Thinking Errors and Truancy Prevention and Repeat Offender Program. Each skill class provides the youth with positive alternatives to dealing with anger, decision making, conflict management, problem solving, communication and many other social skills.

### Statistics for 2008

Youth served in Actions/Consequences Class	108
Youth served in Anger Management Class	24
Youth served in Shoplifting Class	55
Youth served in Truancy Prevention Class	51
Youth served in Thinking Errors	34
Youth served in Repeat Offender Program	7
Youth served in Job Skills Class	2
Youth served in Peace Is Elementary	61
Adults served in Thinking Errors	11
Total number of people served	353

## **F. RECLAIM Ohio and Youth Services Grants**

Through the Ohio Department of Youth Services, the Court receives funding from a subsidy grant. The subsidy grant is a combination of the Reclaim Ohio and Youth Services grants.

The Youth Services Grant originated in 1980 when the "Ohio Plan" (House Bill 440) was passed. The grant was established to help the courts treat the misdemeanor cases locally. The grant is distributed based on the amount placed in the line item by the Ohio legislature and then distributed to the courts based on the county's population. Each court is allocated a base amount of \$50,000. The remainder of the line item is then allocated to courts with a population of more than 25,000 on a per capita basis. In 2008, we received \$133,825 from the Youth Services Grant fund.

In response to a growing need for local alternatives for juvenile courts and overcrowding in Ohio Department of Youth Services institutions, the RECLAIM Ohio (Reasoned and Equitable Community and Local Alternatives to the Incarceration of Minors) was created on July 1, 1993, in House Bill 152. In January 1994, ODYS launched the RECLAIM Ohio pilot program with nine counties, including Erie County, participating. The pilot counties were selected based on their proposals and projected reduction in commitments to ODYS. During that year, the pilot counties had a 42.7% decrease in commitments to ODYS compared to 1993.

RECLAIM Ohio is a funding initiative that encourages the courts to develop or purchase a range of community based options to meet the needs of each juvenile offender or youth at risk of offending. By diverting youth from ODYS institutions, courts have the opportunity to increase the funds available locally through RECLAIM. These funds are based on a four year average of felony adjudications, with deductions for ODYS and community corrections facilities bed day usage during the prior year. This will allow courts to know prior to the beginning of the state fiscal year the amount of their actual RECLAIM Ohio allocation in order to plan more efficiently the use of their RECLAIM Ohio funds. "Public Safety Beds" are daily per diems for youth who are committed for a category I or II offense (aggravated murder, attempted aggravated murder, murder, attempted murder, kidnapping, rape, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, felonious sexual penetration and aggravated arson) and the county is not charged for youth committed on these charges.

In 2008, we received \$315,666 in Reclaim Ohio grant funds. The following programs were funded with RECLAIM Ohio and Youth Services funds in 2008: African American Alternative Center, Intensive Probation, Electronic Monitoring, Residential Treatment, Multi Systemic Therapy, Functional Family Therapy, Jesse Program, Mediation, Juvenile Drug Court, Wrap Around Services, Assessments and Drug Testing.

### **African American Alternative Center**

The Court contracts with a non-profit organization, The African American Alternative Center, which was established as an alternative to Department of Youth Services commitments by providing a treatment program for African American males. This is the only program within Erie County that solely addresses African American males. The Center provides positive adult role models, academic development, cultural awareness and racial pride, parenting skills, job development, recreation and talent development, and violence prevention programs. The Center is open from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekdays. 18 youth were served in 2008.

### **Probation**

RECLAIM grant funding is also used to fund one Probation Counselor position. The Probation Officer carries a specialized caseload for females. Female offenders present a higher likelihood of past victimization, mental health problems, substance abuse and family conflict. They often do not have access to specialized services. The Probation Counselor works to meet the specialized needs by developing a structured, competent community supervision plan. The Probation Counselor completes a GRAD assessment on each assigned youth. The needs assessment helps the Probation Counselor to identify mental health, substance abuse and family conflict issues. Referrals are made to evidence based practices within the community: drug and alcohol education and treatment, MST, FFT, individual and family therapy and health services. Probation generally

lasts six to nine months. The youth's behavior and progress are monitored by probation. In 2008, 59 youth were served on the gender specific caseload.

### **Electronic Monitoring**

Electronic Monitoring offers an alternative to incarceration by monitoring the degree of compliance to house arrest. The target population is youth charged with delinquency that could benefit by release from Detention pending disposition of the youth's case. Under electronic monitoring, an offender must wear a transmitter, which sends an encoded signal to a receiving/processing unit installed in the offender's home. The unit is connected by telephone to the host computer in a monitoring center. The offender wears the transmitter on his/her ankle. When they are within range of the receiving unit, the system indicates the offender is home. If the offender goes beyond the range of the unit, such as when he/she leaves home, the signal from the transmitter is not received and the monitoring center's computer is notified of the absence. If the offender fails to comply with the approved schedule, a call is made to the appropriate authority indicating a violation has occurred. The Court uses electronic monitoring as a community sanction and alternative to detention when appropriate. In 2008, 192 youth were served in the electronic monitoring program.

### **Home Based Services**

The Home Based Services program consists of two best practice programs, Multisystemic Therapy (MST) and Functional Family Therapy (FFT). Home Based Services are funded in part through RECLAIM grant funds to provide our community with affordable and effective remedies for serious, violent and chronic juvenile offenders. The goal of the Home Based Services is to strengthen parents and stabilize youth by reducing youth criminal activity, substance abuse and antisocial behavior through integrative, cost effective, family based treatment. Stabilized families are productive families. Juvenile Probation Counselors and Diversion Counselors will refer young people to the treatment program. A therapist from Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services provides treatment in the family's home for three to five months to meet three primary goals. The primary goals of MST treatment are: to eliminate or greatly reduce the frequency and severity of the youth's referral behavior (reduce criminal activity); to decrease problems that arise in raising children and adolescents and to empower youth to cope with family, peer, school and neighborhood problems. Additionally, the program helps to achieve these outcomes at a cost savings by decreasing rates of incarceration and out of home placements. The primary goals of FFT are to improve family communication and supportiveness while decreasing the intense negativity so often characteristic of these families. Other goals include helping family members adopt positive solutions to family problems and developing positive behavior change and parenting strategies. In 2008, 29 youth and their families benefited from Home Based Services.

### **Mental Health Services**

The Jesse Program focuses on providing treatment for unruly offenders through crisis intervention and family therapy. The first phase, crisis intervention is initiated when a police agency contacts the Court's on call worker. The on call worker provides immediate crisis intervention to the youth and the family members involved. The family therapy component begins with the youth and the family members attending a session with Psychological Associates on the first business day following intervention. The youth is required to participate in a series of one to six family counseling sessions. The overall goal of the program is to work through a crisis situation and allow the youth to remain in the community in lieu of being admitted to the Detention Center and to treat family disruption through counseling rather than through the Court process. In 2008, 6 youth and their families were served by the Jesse Program.

A Domestic Violence treatment group was initiated to address the specialized needs of youth who have been charged with domestic violence. Juvenile domestic violence is often the result of poor anger management skills and poor family communication as opposed to the pattern of control issues found in the adult cases. The group was developed to promote family safety and to reduce re-offending by focusing on anger management skills and family communication. Upon referral from the Court, two therapists from Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services of Erie County provide six

weeks of group treatment to the youth and the family. In 2008, this program served 14 youth and their families.

## **Mediation**

The Mediation Program considers and accepts all levels of offenses. Mediation is a method of alternative dispute resolution that allows parties to discuss interests and arrive at possible solutions to the problem. Offenders and victims are contacted and offered the opportunity to participate in the program. If they decide to participate, they are given the chance to state their view of the situation. Then a date is scheduled to bring both parties together for the mediation. When the parties reach an agreement through Mediation, it is drawn up in a contract and signed by all parties. If the parties do not come to an agreement, the case will be referred to the Court for a final course of action. By coming to an agreement, the offender has the opportunity to have his/her complaint expunged after sixty days providing he/she follows the contract and does not incur any new charges during that time.

Family Group Conferencing was added in 1999 as another component of the Mediation Program. Family Group Conferencing is similar to mediation, but consists of family, friends and victims that recognize the potential good of the offender and offers the possibility of social reintegration. Social reintegration can be accomplished through apology, restitution, community service, or other means.

During 2008, a total of 105 youth participated in the Mediation Program.

## **Clinical Assessments**

The Global Risk Assessment Device is a comprehensive, internet based computer program which allows the Court the ability to assess, communicate and case plan for each youth currently being served. The main purpose of the GRAD system is the ability to assess each youth on eleven separate domains, including trauma, prior offenses and mental health issues. From this assessment, a case plan can be developed with referrals for each domain area that contains a high risk. The GRAD also serves as a MIS system and allows the Court to look at aggregate data and make necessary changes. In 2008, 48 youth were entered into GRAD via the assessment.

The Court Ordered Diagnostic Assessment Program that includes drug and alcohol, as well as mental health assessments, was initiated in September, 2006. Many juvenile offenders have untreated drug and alcohol or mental health needs when they appear before the Court. To reduce recidivism, the youth's treatment needs must be identified and treated as early as possible. Once an assessment is ordered, a referral is made to Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services. They have special times set aside daily to get the youth in for the assessment quickly. The information from the assessment helps the Court make orders that will have a positive impact on the lives of the youth. In 2008, 23 youth were served under the Court Ordered Diagnostic Assessment Program.

## **Drug Testing**

The Court formalized the use of multi panel drug screens into a program funded by RECLAIM grant funds. The screens are used as a tool to help identify the use of illegal drugs by juvenile offenders. There are two program tracks within the system. In the first tract, the Juvenile Justice Center screens every youth admitted to the facility. The test results are used as information shared with the parent so that they might have the youth participate in a drug and alcohol assessment. The information will also be available to the Probation Counselor to assist in case planning. In 2008, 452 youth participated in drug testing.

## **Substance Abuse**

RECLAIM grant funds are used to partially fund the position of Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator. The Juvenile Success Division is presented in its entirety in another area of this report.

RECLAIM grant funds, in addition to other community funding, are used to fund the Seven Challenges Program in Erie County. Seven Challenges is an evidence based, best practice treatment approach designed for working with adolescents who have alcohol and other drug

problems. The program provides a framework to help counselors guide the youth through a decision making process and to successfully follow through with their decisions. Seven Challenges has become a part of the adolescent chemical dependency treatment at Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services.

## **Wraparound**

RECLAIM grant funds are used to partially fund the position of Wraparound Coordinator. Wraparound is a process that develops and carries out plans for Erie County children and their families who have very complex needs. Families who have used traditional services may find wraparound helpful in meeting the family's identified needs. The wraparound process is implemented with the involvement of those individuals that are important to the family. Wraparound hopes to improve the lives of the families by building on their strengths. It encourages them to make helpful, caring connections in the community. The wraparound process ensures that services are focused on the needs of the youth and his family. The plans developed are flexible and unique to each family and redefined on an ongoing basis. Goals are to reduce out of home placements, avoid Court involvement, reduce parent/child conflict and reduce recidivism. In 2008, 259 children were served through the Wraparound process.

## **G. Erie County Detention Center**

The Erie County Juvenile Justice Center contains two distinct, but separate, facilities. Although all under the same roof, the Erie County Juvenile Detention Center and the Northern Ohio Juvenile Community Corrections Facility share support areas of the facility (i.e. dining room, intake, medical office, indoor and outdoor recreation areas) but their respective resident populations never occupy these areas simultaneously. The Detention Center is a temporary holding facility for youth that is open twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week. The Center exists for the purpose of safely and securely housing youth who are held pending court action. The detained youth participate in positive and useful programming and are held accountable for their behavior by the use of an active behavior management system.

By statute, youth are detained in the Detention Center when they meet at least one of four criteria:

1. The youth may abscond.
2. To protect the youth from immediate or threatened harm.
3. No custodial parent or guardian
4. The youth is a danger or threat to others

Youth in detention are kept active daily from breakfast until bedtime with several programs incorporated into the daily activity schedule. All programming is positive and educational. The following are activities currently used in programming as scheduled by the Activities Coordinator:

Physical Education – residents who are not exempt due to medical reasons perform daily exercises. Weather permitting, youth participate in competitive games out of doors including basketball, volleyball, kickball or waffle ball. Basic fundamentals of each sport are demonstrated. Teamwork and sportsmanship are also emphasized to youth prior to participating.

Living Skills – A variety of group activities with sessions on self-esteem, peer pressure, drug and alcohol education/awareness, job applications, resumes, first aid, and other basic life skills.

Arts and Crafts – Youth are taught to use their imagination, individuality and hand/eye coordination to create pictures, paintings and designs.

Guest Speakers – Periodically, area community volunteers and professionals discuss their area of expertise on subjects such as alcoholism, drug abuse/addiction, birth control, AIDS/sexually transmitted disease, career plans, etc.

School – Youth are required to attend all scheduled school days while in detention. Residents receive individual work assignments from the respective home schools to ensure their continuing education while in detention. Those youth who are legally withdrawn or expelled from school are assigned remedial work based on their tested abilities. Effective August 2002, Erie, Huron, Ottawa Educational Services Center became the lead school operating the facility's classroom.

The Juvenile Detention Center staff consists of the Superintendent of Corrections, an Administrative Assistant, the Detention Director, a Quality Control Administrator, two part time Activity Assistants, four Shift Supervisors, one Training Officer, one Transport Officer, 18 full-time Juvenile Corrections Officers, one full-time Office Duty Worker, two full-time Cooks and one part time laundry aide.

The State of Ohio, in accordance with standards mandated for juvenile detention facilities, requires that all new juvenile corrections officer staff receive a minimum 24-hour orientation training prior to assuming independent responsibilities for the job within a detention facility. The State of Ohio further requires that all line staff receive an additional thirty-two hours of annual job related training. All non-direct care staff are required to receive sixteen hours orientation training prior to assuming independent responsibilities and at least an additional sixteen hours annual job related training. Managerial Staff is required to receive forty hours training during their first year of employment followed by twenty-four annual hours of job related training.

**Statistics for 2008**

Center Capacity	36
Total Admissions	666
Total Immediate Releases	193
Total Direct Sentencing	15
Total Bonded Youth	15
Total Bond Money Collected`	\$1,369.00

**H. Northern Ohio Juvenile Community Corrections Facility**

The facility opened on November 8, 2004, with a capacity of 30 beds with 24 of the beds funded by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The facility has a staff of 18 including a Superintendent of Corrections, Director, two Mental Health Therapists, Chemical Dependency/Intake Counselor, four Senior Youth Specialists, four Youth Specialists and two part-time Youth Specialists. The facility serves Erie County, Huron County, Seneca County, Ashland County and Sandusky County. The youth that are placed at the facility are males who have committed a felony and are 12 to 17 years old.

It is the mission of the Northern Ohio Juvenile Community Corrections Facility to serve the residents, their families, and their communities. This facility offers a safe and secure, nurturing environment. Treatment consists of specialized programs facilitated by a dedicated team. The treatment is designed to fit the needs of the residents and families along with the expectations of their local juvenile courts. The goal of the Center is that upon completion of the multi-phased programming, the residents will lead a more positive, productive, lawful, and healthy lifestyle.

The facility offers the following programs:

- Education - The services are provided through the Erie, Huron, and Ottawa Educational Services Center. There are two classrooms on site with the capacity of 15 youth per classroom. There are computers located in each of these classrooms. Services provided are teaching of standard high school and middle school level, distance learning to youth's home school and virtual learning.
- Substance Abuse Counseling - Youth are provided with substance abuse education and/or individual and group intensive therapy.

- Mental Health Counseling - Youth are evaluated through the staff therapist and seen on an individual basis. The therapist also runs group therapy on a weekly basis for all youth. Topics include anger management, coping skills and teamwork.
- Thinking for a Change - This program helps the youth decrease the thoughts and perceptions that lead to delinquent behaviors. Thinking for a change groups are conducted for all offenders in the program.
- Life Skills - Several sessions a week are presented on life skills. These topics include job interviews, communication with others and decision-making.
- Victim Empathy - Several sessions a week are presented on victim empathy. The goal of this treatment is to assist the youth in understanding how their behavior has impacted victims. Youth are taught how to change their attitudes toward other people and their property.
- Parent Education and Therapy - A major treatment component of the facility is to involve parents with the goal of increasing positive family functioning. In the group sessions, all parents are presented educational components such as setting limits, sanctions, controlling anger, parenting techniques and encouragement. Parents attend approximately eight sessions while the youth are placed at the facility. In addition, all parents are engaged in individual therapeutic sessions with their child.
- Sex Offender Treatment - All sex offenders are provided with a treatment schedule of both individual and group work. The goal is to have the youth take responsibility for their thinking, feelings and offending behavior in order to prevent further victimization by the youth.
- Aggression Replacement Training (A.R.T.) - This is seen in Ohio as a "best practice". Currently A.R.T. group is taking place once a week for an hour and a half. This concept teaches youth how to deal with stressful situations, anger and their cycle of anger so that they can begin to recognize their anger.
- Community Service - In order to teach the youth the importance of giving back to their community, we use community service opportunities. When the youth earn a certain level of trust in the program, they may be involved in going off grounds to community projects.

**Statistics for 2008**

Erie County	6
Ashland County	3
Seneca County	0
Sandusky County	1
Huron County	4
Lorain County	5
Crawford County	2
Henry County	1
Lake County	1
Summit County	1
<b>Total Youth Served</b>	<b>24</b>

## **I. Erie County Family Dependency Treatment Court**

The mission of the Erie County Family Dependency Treatment Court is to protect and support the children, preserve or reunify families and provide permanency for children whose parents have identified substance abuse that threatens the integrity of the family unit.

To this end the Erie County Family Dependency Treatment Court provides an intensive program that utilizes active and continuous judicial supervision of participant's treatment progress, and compliance with court orders. The Erie County Family Dependency Treatment Court Program utilizes a non-adversarial team approach in addressing the substance abusing parents. This team approach effectuates a coordinated strategy of community resources.

The Erie County Family Dependency Treatment Court Program is a voluntary program that is a minimum of eleven months in duration. The Erie County Family Dependency Treatment Court became operational in May, 2003. The program is categorized by four phases with specific goals and tasks that must be achieved for advancement. Abstinence from alcohol and other drugs is a primary requirement. Each participant signs a contract and releases of information upon admission to the program. Noncompliance can result in the imposition of sanctions and conversely, compliance can result in incentives.

During 2008 the participants of the program demonstrated improvements in the areas of employment, education, parenting, compliance with Erie County Department of Job and Family Services case plans and exhibited a decrease in substance use as evidenced by weekly status hearings and service provider reports. The Erie County Family Dependency Treatment Court was instrumental in the birth of one drug free baby.

### **Statistics for 2008**

Total number of clients	13
Clients graduated	3
Clients unsuccessfully terminated	4
Children involved in the cases	27
Birth of drug free babies	1
Families reunified	3
Clients that obtained employment	2

## **J. Erie County Juvenile Success Division**

The mission of the Erie County Juvenile Success Division is to strengthen families and the community by assisting non-violent youth experiencing issues with substance abuse become accountable, responsible, productive citizens through a judicially supervised, comprehensive, individualized, strength based program.

To this end the Juvenile Success Division provides an intensive program which utilizes active and continuous judicial supervision of participant's treatment progress, and compliance with court orders. The Juvenile Success Division Program utilizes a non-adversarial team approach in addressing the substance abusing youth. This team approach effectuates a coordinated strategy of community resources.

The Juvenile Success Division treatment team is comprised of designated employees of the Erie County Department of Job and Family Services, Bayshore Counseling Services, Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services, Sandusky City Schools, Erie County CASA Program, the Erie County Public Defender and the Erie County Prosecutor's offices.

The Juvenile Success Division Program is a voluntary program that is a minimum of nine months in duration. The program is categorized by four phases with specific goals and tasks that must be achieved for advancement. Abstinence from alcohol and other drugs is a primary requirement. Each participant and parent signs a contract and releases of information upon

admission to the program. Noncompliance can result in the imposition of sanctions and conversely, compliance can result in incentives.

During 2008 the participants of the program demonstrated an improvement in school attendance and compliance and a decrease in substance use and new charges as evidenced by weekly status hearings and probation reports.

Statistics for 2008

Total number of clients	16
Clients graduated	7
Clients unsuccessfully terminated	5
Birth of drug free babies	1
Youth that obtained employment	6



Erie County Juvenile Court  
323 Columbus Avenue  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

Northern Ohio Juvenile Justice  
Center  
1338 Tiffin Avenue  
Sandusky, Ohio 44870

