

Lorain County Court of Common Pleas

Domestic Relations Division Juvenile Branch



2008 Annual Report

The Court

Lorain County Justice Center
225 Court Street
2nd and 4th Floors
Elyria, Ohio 44035

Off Site Locations

Community Intervention Program
320 No. Gateway Blvd.
3rd Floor
Elyria, Ohio 44035

Juvenile Complex: Pathways, 1076 Infirmary Road
Stepping Stone, 1064 Infirmary Road
Turning Point, 1080 Infirmary Road



Multi-Purpose/Administration
1070 Infirmary Road
Elyria, Ohio 44035

Boys Detention Home, 9967 S. Murray Ridge Road
Girls Detention Home, 9911 S. Murray Ridge Road
Elyria, Ohio 44035





Debra L. Boros
Judge



David A. Basinski
Administrative Judge



David J. Berta
Judge



James T. Walther
Judge-elect

The Citizens of Lorain County:

The Court is very pleased to present our *2008 Annual Report* for your information and use. This report documents the Court's continuing efforts to enhance the services and programming provided to Lorain County citizens. Significant areas of activities are documented throughout this report through narrative, operating statistics and data.



The Court has a long-standing approach of maintaining a high level of services for the citizens of Lorain County. The Judges and staff pledge to seek innovative and efficient means of providing these services. We extend our gratitude to our many friends in the community for their continual support, collaboration and encouragement.

We hope you find this report enlightening, informative and welcome any questions or comments.

Respectfully Submitted,



David J. Berta
Judge


Debra L. Boros
Judge
David A. Basinski
Administrative Judge

MISSION STATEMENT

Lorain County Domestic Relations Court will serve the Citizens of Lorain County in a professional, dignified and timely fashion. The Court will protect the public interest, make cost-effective use of public funds, engage appropriate community resources in providing services, and endeavor to provide for the safety of the public. The Court will strive to ensure that parties receive a just determination in every Court proceeding and enforcement of their constitutional and legal rights. Foremost, the Court will provide for the care, protection, and well being of the children and families who come before it.

FORWARD

The Domestic Relations Division of the Lorain County Court of Common Pleas has exclusive jurisdiction over all domestic matters as well as jurisdiction over all juvenile cases. However, with the re-designation of the Court as a Unified Family Court, probate jurisdiction is now included in the array of cases that come before our Court. In 2009, with the November, 2008 election of Judge James T. Walther to replace retiring Probate Judge Frank Horvath, the Court shall complete its metamorphosis to a Unified Family Court.

Case resolution in the courtrooms, however, is only a part of the total service the Court provides. The Court has a well-established history of providing services and programming to the community. Further, there is continued evaluation, oversight, and innovation to assure that programming and services remain relevant, necessary, and operated in the most efficient and cost effective manner.

During 2008, the Court enjoyed another year of service to the community in the Justice Center. The staff takes great pride in their jobs and strives to set the standard of being the best example of public service.

The following pages will provide the foundation for a working knowledge of the makeup and responsibilities of the Court.

Doug Messer
Court Administrator

JUDGES

The three Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court Judges are very active in their courtrooms, hearing a variety and multitude of cases. The Judges refer a wide range of cases to the Magistrates. The type of cases and matters heard by the judiciary include, but are not inclusive of, the following:

Marriage dissolutions

Divorces - contested and uncontested

Civil protection order petitions - domestic violence

Pre and Post-Decree domestic relations contempt motions

Juvenile hearings involving the following:

- Motions to bind the juvenile over to the general division
- Commitments to the Department of Youth Services (DYS)
- Out-of-home placements
- Serious youthful offender matters
- Cases involving Sexual offender registration and notification

Objections to Magistrates orders and decisions

Motions to vacate Magistrates' orders

Motions to vacate final judgments

Permanent surrenders for adoptions

Judicial bypass hearings

Judicial releases from DHS

Marriage consents

Criminal Nonsupport Cases

Adoptions

Court Filings in 2008		
	New Filings	Terminations
Divorce with Children	377	391
Divorce w/o Children	302	319
Dissolution with Children	184	181
Dissolution w/o Children	191	197
Change of Custody	166	164
Visitation	24	27
Support	483	485
Domestic Violence	373	376
Uresa	1	1
All others	255	256
Total	2356	2397

MAGISTRATES

Due to the volume of cases and hearings before the Court, Magistrates are essential to the work being accomplished in an expedient and efficient manner.

PERSONAL COURT MAGISTRATES

Each Judge has on their personal staff three Magistrates, having general responsibility for covering all domestic and juvenile cases. Types of cases, issues and hearings heard by the Magistrates are determined at the discretion of their Judge.

GENERAL COURT MAGISTRATES

Several areas in the Court require Magistrate involvement. The following comprise this group (the departments are described later in this Report):

Intake Magistrates – Two Attorney Intake Magistrates, with offices located in the Boys Detention Home, have a multitude of duties. Along with an Intake Officer and an Intake Supervisor, Intake staff review all requests for detention and admission to the shelter care facility. The Magistrates conduct a variety of hearings, including arraignments on children brought to the Detention Home and hearings on unruly matters.

CSEA - Two full time magistrates, in a dedicated unit, conduct child support hearings.

Mediation - A magistrate hears and journalizes all agreements reached in the pro-se mediation process. In addition, this Magistrate serves as the Supervisor of the Mediation staff, a program of Family Court Services.

ADMINISTRATION

Doug Messer, Court Administrator

Administration has responsibility for the management and direction of all Court operations, with the exception of the Judges and their personal staffs. The team is made up of the Court Administrator, Deputy Court Administrator and the Administrative Assistant. The Deputy Court Administrator supervises the Department Directors, the Investigation and Referral (I&R) Team, and the Assignment Commissioners.

The Court is made up of five departments with over 200 employees. Court operations include: service provider contracting; fiscal management; human resources; program planning, implementation, development, and evaluation; handling disciplinary issues and conducting disciplinary hearings; public relations/media contact; and the operation and maintenance of the Court's physical facilities.

The Deputy Court Administrator has responsibility for the following: recruiting, interviewing, performing background checks, selection of qualified applicants; developing and planning staff training; development and ongoing oversight of the IV-E

reimbursement program; developing and managing special projects; and representative to the Integrated Services Partnership (ISP), as well as collecting statistical information related to ISP placements. This position will also act in the place of the Court Administrator when the Court Administrator is unavailable.

INVESTIGATION AND REFERRAL TEAM

The Investigation and Referral Team, through information gathering, investigation, and case assessment, makes a recommendation to the Court as to the appropriate level and type of Court intervention for juveniles needing probation services.

Case planners review cases prior to disposition and develop case plans when needed. The process includes a screening (using the MAYSI and OHIO SCALES), completion of the DIR and YoLSI, and reviewing the findings. If warranted, a mental health screening, psychological assessment, psychiatric evaluation or an alcohol/drug assessment may be arranged. Upon referrals to Court programs, the program staff will provide input into the case plan development. Recommendations will be developed based upon the information that is gathered.

At disposition, these recommendations will be presented for the Court's consideration, reflecting a specific case plan for the youth, including community control expectations for all parties and therapeutic interventions.

This year was the eighth for I&R, with 350 cases processed. Progress continues in reviewing and augmenting our evidence based programming. The task of I & R becomes blending the level of supervision with the RISK (for re-offending) and child's and/or family's NEEDS, identifying community resources to address the concerns revealed in the I & R assessment process.

A forensic psychologist is contracted to provide evaluations for youth when mental health or developmental concerns are present. The psychologist also provides fire setter, competency, and parental evaluations when needed. The psychologist is available for consultation as well. This year, 203 evaluations were completed. The psychologist has provided staff consultation, fitness for duty, and staff training as well.

The department includes an Education and Prevention Specialist who coordinates the psycho-educational programming offered by the Court. Some of the evidence based programming offered during 2008 included Thinking for a Change, Aggression Replacement Training, Girl's Circle, and Strengthening Families. This year Thinking for a Change was expanded into the Detention Home. The Education and Prevention Specialist also provides or supervises direct services to youth who are sentenced to the Detention Home. When needed, community based services may be provided to families who otherwise might not have access to them.

The I&R Program Manager also acts as the liaison for the Bellefaire Juvenile Offender Project, a collaborative effort between the local Mental Health Board, Lorain County

Juvenile Court, and Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau.

The project provides for an extensive psychological evaluation of violent juvenile offenders, residential placement for continued evaluation (if needed), and ongoing, in-home services.

The comprehensive evaluation involves psychometric testing, review of collateral contacts, academic testing (if needed), assessment of family functioning and review of Court records. From this evaluation, recommendations are formulated to address the identified needs.

During 2008, 18 youth were provided with a psychological evaluation through the Juvenile Offender Project, currently funded by the Integrated Services Partnership and 10 youth were evaluated through a contracted psychologist. The recommendations provided through the evaluation process were instrumental in determining an appropriate level of supervision and direction for Court intervention and referral.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY COURT SERVICES

John Ollerton, Director

INTRODUCTION

Family Court Services is involved in both domestic and juvenile matters. The domestic side involves Family Divorce Services and Domestic Support while the Court-to-School Liaison program addresses juvenile truancy.

FAMILY DIVORCE SERVICES

This department can be utilized by either Court order or party request when an agreement as to issues of custody and visitation cannot be reached or when assistance in compliance with orders of the divorce decree is needed.

Family Divorce Services covers six major areas:

1. Court-ordered Mediation
2. Pro-Se Mediation/MAND Mediation
3. Truancy Mediation
4. Visitation Assessment
5. Home Study
6. Seminar for Separating Parents
7. Seminar for Unmarried Parents with visitation hearings

Court-ordered Mediation is a process whereby the parents and a third-party mediator work together to gather information, isolate issues of disagreement, generate options to settle those issues, negotiate among those options, and reach a mutually satisfactory agreement to accommodate the needs of both parents and their children. This past year, 56 cases were submitted for mediation with 29 agreements approved by the Court for a 52% success rate.

The *Pro-Se Mediation* program enables citizens who divorced, established parentage in this county, or obtained an administrative order of paternity through the Lorain County Child Support Enforcement Agency to avail themselves of mediation. Issues for mediation include property that has not been returned or transferred, exchange of medical insurance information, unpaid medical bills, noncompliance with visitation schedules, and establishing visitation. In 2008, the Court received 439 referrals with 129 cases mediated. Agreements were reached in 82% of the cases mediated.

Juvenile Truancy Mediation was continued this year. These mediations bring together the child and the parent (or legal guardian) to examine the issues in the family that interfere with the child attending school on a consistent basis. In 2008, there were 42 referrals made for mediation. Of those who participated, 85.7% resulted in a mediated agreement.

In 2003, Family Divorce Services instituted the Mediation of Abuse, Neglect and Dependent ((MAND) program, for cases referred by Lorain County Children Services. This *MAND* process enables parents and interested parties to participate in working out a viable case plan with the goal of reunifying families. In 2008, the MAND continued to be available.

The *Visitation Assessment* unit assists the Court and parties in the implementation of visitation orders. This assistance may include an investigative report with recommendations to the Court regarding companionship, as well as implementing, monitoring, or supervising visitation schedules. A visitation assessment may be requested by either a client or his/her attorney but requires an accompanying Court order to access the service. In 2008, there were 86 cases referred for assessments with 130 reports completed and submitted to the Court. These reports include facilitation reports, supervised visitation reports and additional reports. A total of 266 supervised visits took place in the department this past year, serving 663 clients.

The *Home Study* unit prepares an investigative report to the Court. Information is gathered through interviews with parties and outside resources. The study assists the Court in determining the most appropriate placement for children and must be accessed by Court Order.

Home Studies Received for Investigation

Divorce.....	14
Allocation of Parental Rights...	33
Out of County.....	5
Total.....	52

The *Seminar for Separating Parents* is an effort to better inform parents about the impact of divorce on their children. The two-hour presentation provides pertinent information and resources early in the divorce process and strives to enhance the likelihood of parental cooperation. Attendance is mandatory for parents with minor children; resulting from the Court philosophy that a child's future welfare is impacted by parents' ability to

minimize the conflict exposed to their children.

Judge David A. Basinski and staff present the seminar. A court-produced video specifically addresses the needs of separating parents and is shown at times when the Judge is not available. The Court's publication, From Crisis to Cooperation, is a guide to assist families in coping with the divorce process and is given to all participants. The seminar is provided at no cost to the participants. This past year 934 parents completed the seminar.

The *Seminar for Unmarried Parents* was developed to help unmarried parents understand both the legal and emotional issues involved with visitation. Family Divorce Services staff facilitates the seminar and a Court magistrate is present to answer legal questions. The Court-produced video illustrates the importance of positive parental communication, the need for positive parent/child contact, and answers common legal questions. The seminar is provided at no cost to the participants. The seminar is followed by the offer of individual visitation conferences designed to journalize a companionship schedule for the non-residential parent. This past year 204 parents completed the seminar resulting in the following:

Visitation Conference Outcomes

Conferences Held.....	78
Standard Order of Visitation Reached.....	22
Cases Referred to FDS Visitation Unit.....	16
Cases Dismissed.....	38
Special Circumstance Conference.....	2
Received Certificate Only.....	95

DOMESTIC SUPPORT UNIT

The Lorain County Domestic Support Unit provides judicial services to the Child Support Enforcement Agency (CSEA), operated by the State of Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

Ohio's child support program is a federal, state and county partnership charged with creating and implementing programs that meet federal and state laws and regulations. The Lorain County Domestic Relations Court contracted for both judicial services and juvenile clerking services for 2008. The juvenile clerking contract totaled \$244,785 and the magistrate services contract totaled \$489,050. The contracts provide funding for the operation of the Domestic Support Unit and include full and partial reimbursement of salary and benefits for 16 court employees, including two magistrates.

The purpose of the Domestic Support Unit is to provide hearings to address all issues involving the support of children, including establishment, modification and contempt. The juvenile clerking unit provides staff to prepare and file all journal entries pertaining to child support in the Juvenile Clerk's Office.

During the 2008 calendar year, the Domestic Support Unit conducted 5,028 hearings involving issues of child support, providing 3,664 hours of magistrate hearing time to conduct IV-D child support activities. The staff in the Juvenile Clerk’s Office registered 24,036 journal entries for filing during the twelve-month period of 2008.

Hearings Conducted in 2008

Paternity.....	619
Contempt.....	2869
CNS.....	212
Arrears.....	289
Termination.....	268
Modification.....	540
All Others.....	231
Total.....	5028

COURT-SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM

The Lorain County Juvenile Court’s court-school liaison program addresses the attendance issues of students deemed to be truant from school. To address truancy, the program utilizes a formal process, which involves the collaborative efforts of Lorain County Education Service Center, the participating school districts, the Lorain County Juvenile Court, and the Lorain County Prosecutor’s Office.

The process for addressing truancy follows a continuum of approaches from prevention to intervention to prosecution. As a *preventative* measure, the school principal initiates the “process” with a letter to the parents of each student showing an early pattern of excessive absences. The letter explains the compulsory education laws, explains the district’s school attendance policy, and advises of a referral to the court-school liaison program, if the problem continues.

When a student has accumulated five unexcused absences, he/she may be formally referred to the attendance officer by the school principal or assistant principal. Upon receiving a referral, it is the responsibility of the attendance officer serving the school to address the issue of truancy with the parent(s) and the child utilizing a number of *interventions*. Student attendance is monitored on a *weekly* basis to determine the interventions needed to address the attendance problem.

During the 2007 - 2008 school year, **eighty-seven percent (87.47%)** of the **934** cases referred to the attendance officers, by the school principals, responded to interventions. Of the **thirteen percent (12.53%)** of cases which did not respond to interventions:

- **One hundred ten (110)** juveniles (**11.77%** of total referrals) were referred to the Office of the Lorain County Prosecutor for Chronic Truancy charges.
- **Seven (7)** adults (**0.75%** of total referrals) were referred to the Office of the Lorain County Prosecutor for charges of Failure to Send a Child to School and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor.

Attendance Officers participate in the prosecution process through:

- Preparation of a narrative report, case materials, and investigative reports to support the prosecution of a case.
- Participation in all adult/juvenile legal proceedings, in which the Attendance Officer initiated formal charges.
- Monitoring of the compliance of court orders.
- Filing a sworn affidavit with the Prosecutor's Office for the violation of court orders, which enables the Prosecutor's Office to file a motion for the violator to show good cause for failure to comply with a court order.

During the 2007-2008 school year, five attendance officers addressed **934** referrals from the following school districts and alternative-education schools.

• Avon	68 referrals
• Avon Lake	31 referrals
• Clearview	93 referrals
• Columbia	16 referrals
• Elyria	285 referrals
• Firelands	19 referrals
• Keystone	54 referrals
• Midview	132 referrals
• North Ridgeville	41 referrals
• Oberlin	75 referrals
• Sheffield/Sheffield Lake	51 referrals
• Wellington	13 referrals
• Lorain County Academy	4 referrals
• Lorain County Joint Vocational School	46 referrals
• Education Alternatives	5 referrals
• PEP Program (Positive Education Program)	1 referral

Seventy-eight percent (78%) of the students referred to the program during the 2007-2008 school year reduced the number of unexcused absences. The average percentage of decrease in unexcused absences, per child, was sixty percent (60.43%).

The program's rate of recidivism (violation of a court order to attend school) for the 2007-2008 school year was approximately three percent (2.9%).

A program social worker is contracted to address at-risk family issues, which interfere with a child's attendance to school. During the 2007-2008 school year, the attendance officers had referred seventy-three (73) "high risk" families to the program social worker. Following approximately twelve weeks of case management with the social worker, eighty-eight percent (88%) of the high-risk students referred to the social worker increased their attendance to school.

DEPARTMENT OF PROBATION AND YOUTH SERVICES

Bill County, Director

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Probation and Youth Services provides direct and indirect services for youth, and their families, that have been referred to the Court for delinquent (misdemeanor and felony level) and status (ungovernable, curfew, etc) offenses. The department operates and/or facilitates nine direct service programs and three diversion programs. The department includes the Intake function that controls admissions to the Detention Home and conducts initial detention hearings. Department personnel make recommendations to the Magistrates and Judges on all cases.

The Court has identified an increasing percentage of youth and families that require more comprehensive and complex case plans and interventions. In addition to supervision of youth and families and overseeing Court programs, Court staff collaborate with other community agencies to ensure that services and resources are identified and secured to assist youth and families and to reduce or eliminate barriers and/or needs. The Court is identifying an increasing number of youth that are cognitively challenged and/or developmentally delayed. We are working with community partners to find/create and fund the specialized services that this population requires.

The Department of Probation and Youth Services has been incorporating “evidence based” practices and programs in case plans and approaches for youth and family interventions. Cognitive based therapy, Anger Reduction Training, and Anger Control Therapy, Girl’s Circle, MST are examples of evidence-based programs that have been used in 2008. Many of the Probation staff have been trained to facilitate these programs and utilize these skills in their individual supervision of youth on probation.

The Probation staff administers the Youth Level of Service Indicators (Y-LoSI), a structured interview, at regular intervals during the youth’s probation period. Scores on these measures assist the Court in effectively targeting services and interventions that result in a higher rate of successful completion of probation by reducing risk factors. These types of strength based approaches, geared at reducing risk factors, continue to be the foundation of our programs.

The Probation staff provides different levels of supervision to court-involved juveniles that remain in the community. The diverse strengths and needs of the juveniles and their families require unique interventions and levels of supervision. The programs and services follow:

COMMUNITY CONTROL

Juveniles placed on General Community Control have been assessed as not needing significant and intensive Court services. However, they are required to complete a Court ordered case plan.

Juveniles placed on General Community Control are assigned a community control officer (CCO). The officer monitors the juvenile's compliance of court orders and case plan through contact with the juvenile, school officials, parents and other people significant in the juvenile's life.

The juvenile and family will be responsible for completing case plan components and following all rules of community control. The Officer is responsible for making reports to the Court regarding the youth's progress. Rewards and sanctions are administered through continual oversight of the juvenile's conduct. The responsibilities of the CCO include notifying all parties of hearings, providing security services for the Court, participating in meetings with outside agencies, and assisting families in working with those agencies.

Five Community Control Officers are assigned to the General Probation Unit of the department. These officers serve youth and families from all the communities of Lorain County as well as youth that are maintained on probation that live out of County. A total of 515 youth were served on general probation in 2008. These included youth that were placed on temporary orders prior to final disposition of their case. Fifty-eight per cent of the youth released from Community Control in 2008 had a decreased Level of Service Indicator (LOSI) score, while 4% had an increase in their LOSI score. A decreased LOSI score demonstrates reduction of criminogenic factors. General Community Control Officers also provide supervision for those adults placed on supervision for Contributing to the Unruliness or Delinquency of a Minor.

The Court can place an adjudicated youth on Monitored Time. While on Monitored Time, the youth will not get direct services from a CCO, but will be required to report to the Community Control department on a predetermined basis. Seventy youth were placed on this type of Community Control in 2008. Two Inside CCOs are responsible for this caseload. They make phone contact with the youth, parents, and others and report to the Court the progress of the youth. These CCOs also track continued cases and do initial interviews of youth and families referred for additional Court services.

IN-HOME DETENTION

The In-Home Detention Program provides a service that offers an alternative to detaining a youth in the Detention Home. Youth designated for placement in the program are, generally, less serious offenders that do not appear to represent a danger to themselves or to the community.

The release of some youth will require the use of electronic monitoring equipment, which is supervised by program staff. Use of this equipment permits 24 hour monitoring of a youth's adherence to "home detention".

To ensure compliance, all youth accepted into the program are required to sign a contract. Parents, or guardians, are also required to pledge to ensure compliance and report any non-compliance.

Court personnel monitor the adjustment of the youth while they are in the program. Random home visits and phone calls are conducted. Staff will also visit schools and work sites to ensure compliance with the rules of the program and the signed contract. Violation of the rules could result in the child being remanded to detention in the secure facility until a final Court hearing.

In calendar year 2008, 194 youth were provided In-Home Detention services. 74.3% of the program enrollees successfully completed the program requirements. Fifty youth, 25.7%, were readmitted to the detention home.

COMMUNITY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The Community Intervention Program (CIP) provides intensive supervision and services to delinquent youth throughout Lorain County. A Judge or Magistrate, as a disposition, when adjudicated delinquent for a criminal offense, places juveniles into the program. The target population is adjudicated youth ranging in age from 12 to 18 years with significant criminogenic factors as identified by the Investigation and Referral Team.

The program is based on a traditional intensive supervision model, characterized by low caseloads, averaging 10-15 youth per probation officer. Each caseload is comprised of a team that includes a community control officer and an evening/weekend monitor. The juveniles placed in the program have a prescribed case plan based on identified risks and needs. The program operates on a four phase "level system". As the youth progresses through the levels, by demonstrating appropriate behavior and meeting case plan goals, the supervision is reduced.

The program participant may participate in various groups such as anger management, character development, employment skills, and art therapy. The majority of programs were restructured in an effort to incorporate a more cognitive behavioral approach. Cost Benefit Analysis and Functional Analysis are two cognitive behavioral approaches utilized in the art therapy services, as well as other program provided services. Parenting skills programs are also available and are sometimes mandated. Program participants in need of mental health and substance abuse services receive assistance through partnerships with various community agencies and service providers. Youth ordered into CIP are required to participate in community service and recreational activities to assist in building appropriate social skills.

In 2008, the program served 101 adjudicated youth.

Calendar Year 2008

35% placed with felony level charges.

65% placed with misdemeanor charges.

60 youth were released from the program.

31 (52%) were released successfully (completed all court requirements and were satisfactorily released from court supervision).

SPECIALIZED SERVICES**SEX OFFENDER PROGRAM**

Juveniles adjudicated delinquent for a sexual offense are referred for a sex offender risk assessment. The assessment determines appropriate recommendations, with options including community treatment, out-of-home placement, or commitment to the Ohio Department of Youth Services. When the juveniles remain in the community, the Community Control Officer (CCO) will design safety plans to provide adequate supervision of the offender and protection for the victim and the community. The two Sex Offender specific CCOs supervise juveniles by monitoring their participation in sex offender specific treatment, monitor the juveniles' behavior and actions at home, school and in the community, and supervise compliance with dispositional orders of the Court. The CCOs receive specific training to assist in identifying indicators of recidivism.

Offenders participate in individual and/or group therapy with local agency treatment providers. The CCO maintains frequent contact with the treatment providers to share information, observations, and interventions. Programming lasts between 18 and 24 months. Failure to complete all requirements of the program will result in further Court action, potentially requiring out of home placement.

Based on age and type of offense the Court may classify an offender as a Sexually Oriented Offender Registrant (JSORN). In 2008, four juveniles were classified.

Calendar Year 2008

44	Juveniles supervised and participated in treatment
17	Completed all Court orders and were released from Community Control

These numbers only reflect youth that were initially placed on Community control after adjudication and an assessment. Four youth were committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services for sex offenses in 2008 and three youth were placed at the Northern Ohio Juvenile Correctional Center (operated by the ODYS).

MENTALLY ILL - MR/DD CASELOAD

Juveniles who are lower functioning and/or have a significant mental health diagnosis are placed on this specialized caseload. These juveniles usually already have an Individual Educational Plan (IEP), psychiatric and psychological treatment services, and/or in-home counseling in place prior to Court involvement. They will often need additional assessments, hospitalizations, and other intensive services due to their presenting needs. The Community Control Officer (CCO) provides close supervision and facilitates communication between community service providers, the family, and the Court. This facilitation is vital in identifying and overcoming barriers, recognizing progress, and resolving problems of the child and family. Social Workers in the community, providing case management services, work closely with the CCO that is providing intensive supervision. Another CCO was added to this caseload due to increased numbers and the complexity of the cases.

Calendar Year 2008

- 38 Juveniles placed in program
- 13 Successfully released from Community Control
- 1 Juvenile committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services
- 2 Placed at Court operated Group homes

BELLEFAIRE / JOP

The Juvenile Offender Project (JOP) is a collaborative effort between the Court, Integrated Services Partnership of Lorain County, the Board of Mental Health, and Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau. This partnership provides an extensive assessment and psychological evaluation for juveniles currently involved with the Court, primarily for offenses of violence that have exhibited significant mental health issues. The evaluation done by Bellefaire staff is comprised of multiple testing tools, an assessment of the family, and charts and reports from previous service providers and school systems. Community Resources are recommended and services put in place to assist the juvenile and family. Bellefaire also provides a JOP / residential bed when the need for inpatient treatment is indicated.

Community Control Officers are responsible for monitoring and assisting in the components of the case plans. The Court staff monitors and documents all contacts with the juvenile and family, attends staff meetings, makes home visits, participates in JOP / 4-C Cluster reviews, and provides transportation services. The MI / MRDD Community Control Officers work closely with the JOP participants.

Calendar Year 2008

- 7 Juveniles served
- 2 Juveniles released from Community Control
- 0 Committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services

SUCCESS FOR YOUTH

Success for Youth provides skill development for lower functioning, delinquent youth. Programming offers an opportunity to learn social skills, computer skills, and job skills to assist juveniles in obtaining employment and eventual independence. Success for Youth focuses on males and females from Elyria and Lorain, aged 15 – 17, who are experiencing difficulties due to their low level of intellectual functioning.

Catholic Charities collaborates with the Court to provide case management, social skills development, assistance with career development, preparation of resumes, computer skills and realistic job skills training that is designed to meet educational and employment needs, as well as personal development.

Calendar Year 2008

- 26 Juveniles served
- 3 Successfully released from Community Control
- 0 Juveniles committed to the Ohio Department of Youth Services

JUVENILE DRUG COURT

The Lorain County Juvenile Drug Court program assists youths who have been adjudicated delinquent and are drug and/or alcohol dependent. The program is funded, in part, by a grant through the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS). Judge Debra L. Boros and Magistrate Charlita Anderson-White preside over the Juvenile Drug Court. The Drug Court Team consists of the Program Coordinator, Community Control Officer/Case Manager, a Community Resource Manager, a substance abuse assessor from the Court, and the primary substance abuse treatment therapist from the Walter G. Nord Center (a community service provider).

The Court’s Investigation and Referral Team refers juveniles to the program, which is voluntary. Once the juvenile and parent agree to participate in the program, the juvenile will begin outpatient counseling through the Nord Center. Parental participation is mandated throughout the program. Parents are required to attend and participate in their child’s treatment and attend status review hearings with the Judge or Magistrate.

The average length of program involvement is 10- 12 months. Throughout the program, participants must abstain from drugs and alcohol, demonstrate positive behavior in the community and school, obtain employment or participate in a consistent positive activity, and internalize treatment components to advance through the five levels of the program. Upon graduation from the program, the juvenile’s presenting charge is dismissed with the agreement of the Prosecutor’s Office. Failure to successfully complete the program will result in the matter being set for disposition.

Calendar Year 2008

	MALES	FEMALES
Participants	18	1
Terminations	10	1
Graduations	3	0

FAMILY DRUG COURT

Family Drug Court is funded through a grant from the Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS). Family Drug Court assists clients of Lorain County Children Services (LCCS) who are drug/alcohol dependent and their children have either been adjudicated abused, neglected or dependent, or the clients are involved with LCCS on unofficial / In-Home cases. Participation in Family Drug Court is voluntary, but upon agreeing to participate, a Court order or agreement through a Contract of Participation, requires compliance. Compliance is expected with all program components. The ultimate goals are for participants to retain or regain custody of their children, working towards completion of the case plan components, and maintaining sobriety. Failure to comply can result in LCCS seeking permanent family/relative placement, temporary custody, permanent custody, foster care or adoption.

The Family Drug Court team is comprised of the Honorable Judge Debra L. Boros and Magistrate Michele Silva Arredondo (who preside over the Family Drug Court), Program Coordinator, Treatment Counselor, a representative from Voices for Children (guardian ad litem), Genesis House, Elyria YWCA, Faith House, the Nord Center, and Lorain County Children Services. Collaboration between agencies provides In-Kind services addressing drug/alcohol dependency, parenting skills, domestic violence awareness, life skills preparation, employment assistance and assistance in obtaining housing. Participants are also referred to mental health agencies for assessments, individual counseling, parenting skills and domestic violence sessions.

Calendar Year 2008

14	Women served
9	Children returned to mother's custody
6	Children placed with a parent or relative
5	Children placed in foster care
2	Family Drug Court Graduates

JUVENILE INTAKE DEPARTMENT

The Juvenile Intake Department, located at the Boys' Detention Home, performs several functions for the Court. This unit handles the following:

- Unofficial complaints
- First offense shoplifting cases
- Tobacco violations
- Arraignments on official status charges (or cases)
- Unofficial hearings for intervention and diversion purposes

The Intake staff are available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, to respond to law enforcement's requests for admission to the boys' and girls' detention homes. The following was heard in 2008:

- 1,701 referrals were reviewed and processed

- 286 unofficial hearings conducted
- 507 hearings on official charges on non-detained juveniles
- 581 preliminary detention/arraignment hearings and release hearings for juveniles admitted to the detention homes

The Adolescent Domestic Violence/Anger Management Program is a collaboration between Catholic Charities and the Court to provide an alternative to post-adjudication detention. When children involved in domestic violence are admitted to the DH or Turning Point, a social worker will screen, assess, and then provide group sessions to juveniles and families. There were 168 referrals to this program in 2008.

The Lorain County Juvenile Intake Department's responsibilities include oversight of *Diversion Services* programming and supervision of juveniles placed on community control for status offenses, an act that would not be illegal if committed by an adult. There were 290 referrals for diversion services in 2008. Sixty-six families availed themselves of these services and another 24 families participated in the program after an unofficial hearing. Community control officers contacted the families, identified issues, and made referrals to appropriate community services. Follow-up communications were made to ensure that services were accessed and were appropriate. 88 youth were placed on status offender probation. These youth were provided supervision and an opportunity for additional Court services.

SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMS

Yes Program

The Youth Education Shoplifting Program (YES Program) is an educational, rehabilitative program offered to juveniles referred to the Court for first time petty theft/shoplifting offenses. Participants are ordered into the program from both official and unofficial cases heard by the intake magistrates.

In 2008, 112 juveniles completed the program with a consistent recidivism rate between 1-3%.

Eduvention/Substance Abuse Education Program

The Court's Eduvention Program is designed to provide drug and alcohol education and information to juveniles, and parents, referred to the Court for misdemeanor alcohol or drug offenses. Juveniles and their parent/guardian can attend the four sessions of the program in lieu of a delinquency charge being filed. Eligible participants are typically, but not exclusively, first time offenders. Some participants are ordered to attend the sessions. A record of their attendance is docketed into the record.

The Lorain County Alcohol and Drug Abuse (LCADA) Services provide, at no cost to the participants, Eduvention, off-site from Court operations. Pre and Post program

testing, as well as a screening instrument, is administered to participants to determine the need for further assistance or treatment.

Calendar Year 2008

229 referrals to the program

196 completed

17 completed substituted programs

22 were officially charged and arraigned

JUVENILE STATISTICS

Age and Gender of Youth	Female	Male	Total
Age 8	0	0	0
Age 9	0	0	0
Age 10	3	9	12
Age 11	6	16	22
Age 12	14	27	41
Age 13	39	105	144
Age 14	83	161	244
Age 15	135	256	391
Age 16	147	376	523
Age 17	151	401	552
Age 18	12	60	72
Total	590	1411	2001

Where Youth Reside	Female	Male	Total
Amherst	21	48	69
Avon	11	27	38
Avon Lake	7	52	59
Columbia Station	5	9	14
Elyria	182	373	555
Grafton	15	35	50
Lagrange	6	21	27
Lorain	225	541	766
North Ridgeville	31	78	109
Oberlin	9	42	51
Sheffield Lake/Sheffield Village	13	58	71
South Amherst	0	2	2
Vermilion	23	37	60
Wellington	1	18	19
Other	41	70	111
Total	590	1411	2001

Reason for referral	Female	Male	Total
Aggravated Murder	0	0	0
Alcohol Consumption	45	91	136
Arson	1	6	7
Assault	68	142	210
Attempted Murder	0	0	0
Breaking & Entering	0	17	17
Burglary	7	54	61
Criminal Damaging	9	61	70
Criminal Mischief	4	11	15
Disorderly Conduct	64	140	204
Domestic Violence	71	92	163
Drug Offenses	7	92	99
Escape	0	0	0
Falsification	6	5	11
Inducing Panic	1	10	11
Kidnapping	0	1	1
Menacing	7	34	41
Obstructing Official Business	6	20	26
Other	10	21	31
Rape	0	18	18
Receiving Stolen Property	8	40	48
Resisting Arrest	3	6	9
Riot	5	14	19
Robbery	5	29	34
Runaway	0	0	0
Sex Offenses	2	31	33
Telephone Harassment	5	3	8
Theft	80	89	169
Tobacco	29	76	105
Trespassing	2	32	34
Truancy	60	90	150
U.U.M.V.	4	18	22
Ungovernable	78	127	205
Vandalism	0	20	20
Vehicular Homicide	0	1	1
Weapons Offense	3	20	23
Total	590	1411	2001

Dispositions	Female	Male	Total

Committed to Adult Correctional Facility	3	41	44
Committed to ODYS	12	63	75
Continued on Probation	26	82	108
Courtesy Supervision	4	5	9
Dismissed	88	147	235
Fines & Costs and / or Restitution	181	428	609
Fines & Costs and / or Restitution - Suspended	137	281	418
Judicial Review	0	1	1
Other	8	13	21
Placed on Monitored Time / Felony	4	15	19
Placed on Monitored Time / Misdemeanor	23	40	63
Parole	4	12	16
Parole Revocation	0	11	11
Placed on CIP / Felony	2	30	32
Placed on CIP / Misdemeanor	14	16	30
Placed on General Community Control / Felony	21	76	97
Placed on General Community Control / Misd	33	63	96
Placed on Community Control- Other / Felony	2	9	11
Placed on Community Control- Other / Misd	6	16	22
Placed on Community Control- Sex Off / Felony	1	16	17
Placed on Community Control- Sex Off / Misd	0	2	2
Placed on Community Control- Status	11	16	27
Residential Facility Placement / Felony	9	23	32
Residential Facility Placement / Misdemeanor	10	9	19
Sentenced to Detention Center / Felony	3	18	21
Sentenced to Detention Center / Misdemeanor	12	40	52
Serious Youth Offender	0	2	2
Sex Offender Classification Modified	0	1	1
Suspended Commitment / Sentence	8	19	27
Transferred to Adult Court	0	6	6
Transferred to Another Court	9	38	47
Unavailability	65	174	239
Total	696	1713	2409

Traffic Dispositions	Female	Male	Total
Dismissed	18	53	71
Fines & Costs	280	448	728
Fines & Costs Suspended	1	8	9
License Restricted	21	34	55
License Suspended	91	189	280
Other	1	3	4
Seatbelt Mail-in Waiver	15	34	49
Transfer to Another Court	83	128	211
Unavailability	19	50	69
Total	529	947	1476

Traffic Violations	Female	Male	Total
Alcohol Offenses	4	31	35
Assured Clear Distance	83	65	148
Driving Under Suspension	4	25	29
Failure To Control	39	54	93
Failure To Yield	51	50	101
Impeding Traffic Flow	0	6	6
Improper Backing	8	7	15
Improper Lane Usage	10	23	33
Improper Turn	10	15	25
Jaywalking	1	7	8
Leaving the Scene	5	7	12
License Plates	3	8	11
Lights Violation	3	3	6
No Driver's License	29	69	98
Noise Violation	1	6	7
Other	2	25	27
Reckless Operation	7	22	29
Seat Belt	22	47	69
Speeding	220	358	578
Squealing Tires	0	3	3
Tinted Windows	0	3	3
Traffic Control Device	39	62	101
Unsafe Vehicle	8	9	17
Walking in Roadway	8	11	19
Total	557	916	1473

DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Dale M. Kaminski, Director

INTRODUCTION

The Juvenile Facilities Complex provides locked and unlocked residential placement and shelter care for male and female juveniles. The complex consists of two detention centers and four juvenile program facilities in a campus-style setting.

Lorain County Juvenile Detention Home 9967/9911 South Murray Ridge Road, Elyria

The purpose of the detention home is to provide secure confinement of appropriate juveniles under age 18. Judges and magistrates determine if detention is appropriate as indicated by statute or the Ohio Supreme Court Rules. Unruly or ungovernable youth may not be placed in detention beyond twenty-four hours. However, a delinquent youth may be confined to detention by an order of the Court for a period not to exceed 90 days. In 2008, there were 142 youthful offenders sentenced to the detention home.

The Lorain County Detention Homes are licensed and monitored by the Ohio Department of Youth Services. The facilities are designed to house 44 males and 12 females. The staff ratio during daylight hours is 12:1, with a ratio increasing to 25:1 during the 10pm-6am shift.

During the admission process each youth is administered the MAYSI II test which screens for mental health issues. Applewood will conduct an assessment if issues are highlighted. The medical staff is available at any time for consultation and has regularly scheduled hours. Within seven days of admission, the detention home nurse or doctor physically examines every juvenile and administers a tuberculosis screening.

While in detention, education continues year-round through the Educational Service Center of Lorain County. Upgrades now provide for twenty-five individual computer stations with emphasis placed on the state proficiency exams.

2008 Admissions

- 856 males
- 322 females
- 1178 juvenile admissions
- Average length of stay: 21 days
- Average male daily population: 52
- Average female daily population: 16
- Average daily population total: 68

**Pathways Group Home / Stepping Stone Residential Center
1076 / 1064 Infirmary Road, Elyria**

Pathways Group Home and Stepping Stone Residential Center are non-secure court-operated programs for female and male offenders, ages 13-17. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services licenses and monitors the facilities, which are limited to 10 females and 20 males at any given time.

Pathways and Stepping Stone prepare residents for successful reintegration into the community. The program assists juveniles in learning how to better manage personal problems and family issues, as well as develop an increased ability to access community resources, and develop positive goals for the future.

Referrals to Pathways and Stepping Stone are made through the internal processes of the court. The Department of Probation, Investigation and Referral Team, Magistrates, Lorain County Children Services, and mental health workers provide input. The Judge makes the final determination and places appropriate candidates into the programs.

The formats of Pathways and Stepping Stone parallel each other. Each is a one-year program divided into three phases. Phases I and II are designed for 90 day durations and phase III the remaining six months. In phase I, the juvenile resides on-site with some limited home visits. Phase II is a transition period with the juvenile residing with their parent/guardian during the week and at Pathways/Stepping Stone during the weekend. Phase III is aftercare. The juvenile resides in the home of the parent/guardian and is supervised by the Community Control Officer (CCO).

The Educational Service Center of Lorain County provides educational services for the residents in the facilities. Two certified teachers are present M-F to work with the residents of Pathways and Stepping Stone.

Case plans are developed for each juvenile. Areas addressed through service providers include daily family issues, health, living skills, individual and family counseling, and drug and alcohol issues. The Stepping Stone residents had the opportunity to participate in the Boy Scouts in 2008. They had monthly meetings and went on several over-night camping trips.

2008	Pathways	Stepping Stone
Participants	38	58
New Admissions	20	31
2007 Carry-Over	18	27
Successful Completion	09	08
Committed to ODYS	08	12
Sentenced to Detention Home	05	06
Lorain County Jail	01	04
Transferred to CIP	01	01

Moved out of County	01	00
Specialized Services	00	01
Prison-out of State	00	01
Currently in Program	13	25

Turning Point
1080 Infirmary Road, Elyria

Turning Point is a non-secure residential facility providing short-term care (maximum 14 days) for 5 males and 5 females ages 12-17. The juveniles are involved in domestic dispute situations or selected status offenses. The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services licenses Turning Point. Turning Point provides 24-hour supervision and guidance by trained childcare staff. In addition, a full-time social worker provides services to the juveniles and their families with appropriate community service referrals.

Admissions are approved by the Intake Department and judicial orders. Turning Point does not function as a sentencing or dispositional alternative. It is a program for youth in crisis or emergency situations.

The goal of Turning Point is to return the youth to their home after a brief respite without further intervention by the court. During 2008, Turning Point served a total of 247 youths – 120 males and 127 females.

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPORT SERVICES

Marilyn Parker-Jeffries, Director

INTRODUCTION

This department provides services and support to the community and court staff. The department is comprised of the following: The Pay-Back Program, Merit Program, Voices for Children, and Juvenile Clerk’s Office.

THE PAY-BACK PROGRAM

Restitution is an essential component in the rehabilitation process. It is also the means whereby victims find recourse through the justice system. Through this program, the offenders are held accountable for their financial obligations to victims.

The Pay-Back Program has four objectives:

- Ensure the offender’s compliance with Court orders
- Provide a work experience that allows the offender to make restitution
- Provide victims with access to the Court for reasonable redress
 - Facilitate communication between the Court and all involved parties: i.e. victims, prosecutors, insurance companies, etc.

The process is initiated by a Court order for restitution. The program contacts the victims

and they are required to supply the Court documentation for their loss. Once the restitution amount is determined, the juvenile is given two payment options:

1. Execution of a monitored, monthly payment schedule
2. Placement in a court developed jobsite

At the job site, juveniles are credited with minimum wage compensation and payment to the victim is made through the Lorain County Treasurer's Office. The program partners with numerous jobsites throughout the county. The job sites provide a work experience for the offenders and on site supervisors evaluate the offender's work performance.

Statistics for 2008

- 808 cases referred for investigation of restitution
- 204 served
- 99 carried over from 2007
- 110 admissions
- 108 terminated
- 87% successfully terminated - restitution paid in full
- \$30,175.42 collected through payment schedules and dispersed to victims
- 1,183 hours of community service were performed, earning \$8,104.01
- \$37,697.01 in victim payments

MERIT

The MERIT Program has the responsibility for tracking the following programs:

Anger Management:

In 2008, the Court's Education and Program Coordinator oversaw two anger management programs. The Programs provide basic and intermediate psycho-educational groups to aid juveniles (and their parents) in addressing anger issues. Anger Control Training, facilitated by Psychiatric and Psychological Services, is a basic nine-week program, while Aggression Replacement Training, facilitated by Court staff, is a more intensive ten-week, twenty-session program.

Anger Control Training:

Number Ordered 2008	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over Cases to 2009
50	18	11	62%	21

Carried over from 2007	Total Served	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Completions	Success Rate	Carried Over to 2009
61	111	33	52	39%	26

Aggression Replacement Training:

Number Ordered 2008	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over Cases to 2009
65	29	11	73%	25

Carried over from 2007	Total Served	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Completions	Success Rate	Carried Over to 2009
47	112	48	35	58%	29

Community Service:

Number Ordered 2008	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over Cases to 2009	Number of hours completed
717	413	48	90%	256	12,159.25

Carried over from 2007	Total Served	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Completions	Success Rate	Carried Over to 2009
545	1262	693	239	74%	330

This is the fourth year the MERIT Program has collected non-perishable goods, cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items for the needy. Once again, the court donated most of the items collected to the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Elyria, while the rest was donated to families in need that are involved in the court. This year, there was a total of \$5,408.50 collected in groceries, cleaning supplies, household goods, clothing, and diapers. That accounted for 2,704.25 hours of community service completed.

Psycho-Educational groups are interventions intended to reduce the risk factor associated with criminal behavior. During 2008, the Court utilized evidence based programming to address criminogenic factors. Evidence based programs are those whose outcomes have been researched and found to be effective. Training was provided to staff to assist in the facilitation and presentation of these groups.

Strengthening Families 10-13 and 14-17

The Strengthening Families Program is a joint effort between Catholic Charities and the Lorain County Domestic Relations Court. The program's goals are to prepare youth for their teen years, avoid problems with drugs and alcohol, and strengthen family communication. Parents discuss what youth in the age range of their groups are like, making rules and enforcing consequences, how to solve problems with youth, and ways to show love and support. The youth learn how to handle frustration, resist peer pressure, appreciate parent/caregivers, and how to get along with others.

Strengthening Families 10-13:

Number Ordered 2008	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over Cases to 2009
34	13	13	50%	8

Carried over from 2007	Total Served	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Completions	Success Rate	Carried Over to 2009
16	50	20	22	48%	8

Strengthening Families 14-17:

Number Ordered 2008	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over Cases to 2009
82	30	34	47%	18

Carried over from 2007	Total Served	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Completions	Success Rate	Carried Over to 2009
57	139	50	68	42%	21

Thinking for a Change:

Thinking for a Change is a cognitive behavioral program that addresses problem solving, social skills, and cognitive self-change. The program utilizes role-plays, as well as other appropriate interventions. The goal is to change behavior as a result of changing thoughts.

These numbers represent only general and non-probation cases.

Number Ordered 2008	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over Cases to 2009
113	54	20	73%	39

Carried over from 2007	Total Served	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Completions	Success Rate	Carried Over to 2009
35	148	69	39	64%	40

Girls Circle:

The Pathways to the Future curriculum is a skill building support circle for use with at-

risk or court-involved girls. It examines thoughts, beliefs, and actions about friendship, trust, authority figures, mother/daughter relationships, sexuality, dating violence, HIV, drug abuse, stress and goal setting. It encourages girls to explore their choices and decision making through lively, prepared discussions and activities.

Number Ordered 2008	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Terminations	Success Rate	Carry Over Cases to 2009
48	15	10	60%	23

Carried over 2007	Total Served	Successful Completions	Unsuccessful Completions	Success Rate	Carried Over to 2009
22	70	27	20	57%	23

VOICES FOR CHILDREN - Lorain County CASA/GAL Program

Voices for Children (VFC) is a member of the nationally recognized National Court Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem Association (NCASA/GAL Assoc.). The mission of the Voices for Children Program is to speak up for the **“Best Interest”** of abused, neglected and dependent children who are involved in the court system through no fault of their own. Based on the belief that every child is entitled to a safe, permanent and nurturing home, the Voices for Children Program works in the court system through **trained volunteers** within our community in collaboration with key agencies, legal counsel and community resources to serve as the child’s advocate and represent the child’s needs and wishes before a Magistrate or Judge.

In order for a volunteer CASA/GAL to make a sound recommendation to the court on behalf of the child’s best interest, he or she must investigate the circumstances and family life of the child. In addition, he or she will review records, interview the children, parents, relatives, foster parents, teachers, neighbors, caseworkers, etc, that have direct involvement and/or knowledge of the child. Once the preliminary investigation is complete, the volunteer CASA/GAL will submit a report to the Court with his or her findings and recommendations as it pertains to the “Best Interest” of the child.

In order to become a volunteer CASA/GAL, one must submit an application with 3 non-related personal references; be interviewed by the staff; undergo a criminal background check through the Web Check System and be screened through Lorain County Children Services. The volunteer CASA/GAL must complete 30 hours of pre-service training that includes four classroom sessions (30 hours) and courtroom observation (minimum of 2 hours). At the last training session, the Judge administers an oath. At that time, all of the volunteer CASA/GAL trainees are recognized as Officers of the Court. In addition, the volunteer CASA/GAL must attend 12 hours of continuing educational training per year.

The success of the Voices for Children Program is due to the commitment of the volunteer CASA/GALs recruited from within the community, the program and support staff, private citizens, community organizations and the Voices for Children Board of Directors. The Board assists the program in fund raising, marketing, public awareness and recruiting.

2008 Funding

Court: \$141,700

County: \$10,761

VOCA (Grant): \$32,999

Total: \$185,460

Volunteers

The volunteer CASA/GALs represented a wide diversity, similar to the population of Lorain County.

- Total number of active volunteers: **160**
 - Ages: **21-29 (6) / 30-39 (22) / 40-49 (38) / 50-59 (40) / 60+ (51)**
 - Gender: **124 Females and 36 Males**
 - Education: **High School (28) / Some College (66) / College Graduate(34) / Post Graduate (32)**
 - Race: **Caucasian (123) / African American (23) / Hispanic (9) / Asian (1) / Native American (1) / Multi Racial (3)**

Children Served

- Total number of children served in 2008: **501**
 - Gender of children served: **Female (252) Male (249)**
 - Ages of children served: **Birth to 5 (237) / 6 to 11 (144) / 12 to 15 (90)/ 16 to 17 (18) / 18 and above (12)**
 - Racial Makeup of children served: **Caucasian (304) / African American (101) / Hispanic (41) / Multi Racial (55)**
 - Total number of children whose cases were closed in 2008: **241**

Reason for Court/Program Closure

- Adopted: **19**
- Case Removed from Docket: **8**
- Case Transferred to another Jurisdiction: **1**
- Child Aged out of System: **1**
- Case Transferred to Delinquency Court: **1**
- Placed with Legal Guardian: **108**
- Returned to Home of Origin: **24**
- Protective Supervision Terminated: **79**

Types of Petitions

Abuse: **1**
Abuse/Dependency: **2**
Abuse/Dependency/Neglect: **14**
Abuse Neglect: **2**
Dependency: **11**
Dependency/Neglect: **455**
Divorce/Custody: **7**
Neglect: **4**

Allegations

Abandonment: **2**
Dependency: **11**
Dependency/ Neglect: **425**
Medical Neglect: **1**
Neglect: **6**
Physical Abuse: **18**
Physical Neglect: **18**
Sexual Abuse: **2**

Department of Fiscal Management

Deborah A. Tansey, Director

Introduction

The Fiscal Department is comprised of three departments, the Financial Accounting Department (Fiscal), the Grants Department (Grants) and the Information Systems Department (Systems).

Fiscal

The Fiscal Department is responsible for financial processing and reporting, including accounting, and processing payroll, benefits and Court appointed counsel payments.

The Fiscal Department prepares and monitors the Court's annual budget, recording revenue and processing payments of more than \$13 million annually.

On a bi-weekly basis, over 200 time sheets were checked for accuracy and documented for use of sick and vacation leave. Once completed, a payroll of approximately \$317,000 was generated and disbursed each pay cycle. In addition to processing payroll payments in excess of \$8 million in 2008, benefits of approximately \$1.8 million dollars in health premiums and life insurance were processed and monitored.

In 2008, the Fiscal Department processed more than \$405,000 in payments to Court appointed counsel.

In the calendar year 2008, the Fiscal Department processed 31 new hires through their initial payroll and benefit packages, explaining court policy regarding vacation and sick leave, as well as various life and health insurance benefits. The Fiscal Department tracks accrued sick and vacation leave for the Court and uses the information to prepare the Court's Compensated Absences Report for the County's Certified Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

Fiscal also maintains the asset inventory records, including preparing the Court's Annual Fixed Asset Inventory for the County's Certified Annual Financial Report.

Grant Writing and Management

The Grants Department is responsible for researching grant opportunities available through state, federal and local agencies, writing grant proposals and monitoring grant and entitlement programs received. The Grants Department is also responsible for recording and monitoring Special Revenue funds throughout the Court. In calendar year 2008, Grants was responsible for obtaining and monitoring nearly \$5 million of revenues

and expenditures.

Systems Management

The Systems Management Unit (Systems) is responsible for the Court's computer hardware, software and related systems. The Court's key computer system is the Courtview system used to maintain the Court's docketing, case, judicial and probation management systems.

The Systems Department continues to maintain and enhance a Court website it designed and populated to better serve the citizens of Lorain County.

In 2008, the Court's Systems Department upgraded 2 servers for the case management system. Our goals for 2009 include implementing a document imaging program and continuing to improve communication using the intranet.

For the calendar year 2008, the Domestic Relations Court's General Fund Expenditures were as follows:

Judicial/Administrative/Divorce Services	\$2,813,428
Juvenile Probation	2,364,399
Juvenile Detention Home	2,232,758
Domestic Support	738,422
Pathways Group Home	293,490
Turning Point Shelter	175,896
Multi-Purpose Building	<u>14,245</u>
Total County General Fund	<u>\$8,632,638</u>

Various State and Federal Pass-through grant and reimbursement programs:

Ohio Department of Youth Services	
Program supported: Various	\$2,185,403
School-Liaison Mediation (Title II Fed pass thru)	20,914
Ohio Department of Job & Family Services	
Program supported: (Title IV-D) Domestic Support	454,434
Program supported: (Title IV-E) Various	1,015,767
Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Services	
Program supported: Drug Court	179,081
Ohio Department of Mental Health	
Program supported: Juvenile (Violent) Offender	39,120
Ohio Department of Education	
Program supported: Detention Home – Food Service	151,656
Ohio Attorney General's Office	

Program supported: Voices for Children	35,419
Local School Districts (Fees for Service)	
Educational Service Center	67,200
Elyria City School District	67,200
Lorain County Joint Vocational School	<u>33,600</u>
Program supported: Truancy Intervention	<u>168,000</u>
School Liaison Case Management	
Stocker Foundation: Success for Youth II	20,000
Scripps Howard Foundation: Success for Youth II	5,000
Miscellaneous Non-General Fund Revenues	
Fines and Fees	154,898
Stepping Stone Reimbursements	153,646
WorkForce Investment-Lorain County Commissioners	<u>16,904</u>
Total local, state and federal resources (non-county)	<u>\$4,600,242</u>
Total 2008 General Fund and Grants Programs	<u>\$13,232,880</u>

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The Domestic Relations Division of the Lorain County Court of Common Pleas is sincerely grateful to the many agencies, community leaders and providers that all work toward the common goal of providing effective and efficient services to the citizens of Lorain County.

This goal, coupled with the creative vision, energy, and passion of those involved, allows this Court to continue being a positive force in addressing the needs of the community.

We sincerely thank all those who contributed their time, energy, resources, and effort into making Lorain County a leader among Courts in the state of Ohio.

Domestic Relations Court Contact Information

Administration	440-329-5360	Fax – 440-329-5232
Assignment Commissioners	440-329-5362	Fax - 440-329-5436
Attendance Officers	440-326-4873	Fax – 440-326-4896
Community Intervention	440-326-4870	Fax – 440-326-4830
Detention Home	440-326-4040	Fax – 440-323-0188
Domestic Support	440-326-4835	Fax – 440-326-4844
Family Divorce Services	440-326-4846	Fax – 440-328-2371
Fiscal Department	440-329-5244	Fax – 440-329-5232
In-Home Detention	440-326-4017	Fax – 440-323-0188
Intake Department	440-326-4011	Fax – 440-323-0188
Investigation & Referral	440-329-5249	Fax – 440-328-2165
Juvenile Clerks	440-329-5187	Fax – 440-329-5271
Juvenile Probation	440-326-4880	Fax – 440-329-5271
Merit Program	440-329-5766	Fax – 440-326-4896
Multi-Purpose Building	440-326-4070	Fax – 440-326-4079
Pathways Group Home	440-326-4090	Fax – 440-326-4079
Payback Program	440-329-5451	Fax – 440-326-4896
Stepping Stone	440-326-4100	Fax – 440-326-4079
Systems Department	440-329-5479	Fax – 440-329-5232
Transportation	440-329-5198	Fax – 440-329-5271
Turning Point Shelter	440-326-4112	Fax – 440-326-4079
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