

Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court

Judge David A. Hejmanowski

2018 Annual Report

## Message from the Judge

As the data in the following pages will show, 2018 was a successful and exciting year for the Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court. Our staff continues to be recognized for their excellent work, we continue to adapt and learn new ways to deal with the county's ever expanding population, and most importantly, we remain focused every single day on striving to provide the best possible service to the citizens of Delaware County, in the form of efficient processes and fair outcomes.

Our Probate Court continues to see steady increases in the filing of marriage license applications, adoption petitions, guardianship matters, and estates. Of particular concern is the burgeoning number of adult guardianship matters- a trend that is expected to accelerate as Delaware County's population ages, and as 'Baby Boomers' enter the age range in which guardianship matters are more likely to be filed. Many wards in guardianship matters do not have a relative or support person who is willing to be guardian and a volunteer guardian or attorney needs to be found to fill that role.

To address that growing need, we advocated for an expansion of the guardianship board pilot project that had been tested in Franklin County. The Ohio General Assembly responded positively and adopted the legislation we requested, and we are now exploring the best ways to utilize that system in cooperation with community partners. We also continue to expand our Court Visitor Program, which assists in ensuring the well-being of wards in guardianship cases, and which has received generous grant support from Sourcepoint, and enthusiastic support from our County Commissioners.

Our Juvenile Court continues to be a statewide leader in innovative programming and efficient administration of justice. Our case reporting shows that we consistently address matters filed with us in a timely and thorough manner, and we have met or exceeded Ohio Supreme Court guidelines on every single child protection matter filed with the court in my four years as judge.

The court has received multiple awards for innovative court practices, and our many programs- treatment court, girls group, mentoring programs, family support services, the CASA program, mediation, school liaisons, truancy mediation, our restitution docket, victim awareness programming, the Parent Project, diversion, the suspension alternative program, supervised community service, and many more, are outlined in the pages that follow.

We have the same goal in every unruly and delinquency matter that comes before the court- to help parents and guardians in achieving the goal we have for every youth in our community- helping those young people become productive adults. All of our juvenile programming is focused on that result.

I am particularly pleased to see the work that has been done in the past year by Lt. Caudill of the Ohio State Highway Patrol and Jackie Bain of the Health Department in establishing a comprehensive driver safety program through our local school districts. Despite all the challenges they have, the thing that kills teens in our community is motor vehicle crashes, and the Reduce Teen Crashes initiative is the first comprehensive plan to address that issue in Delaware County. Our school districts have embraced the project, and Lt. Caudill and Ms. Bain should be commended for their work.

We work hard every day to ensure that justice is done, and that we provide the best service possible to our community. We live, work and raise our families here, and want to do everything we can to help make this a community that we are proud of.

Judge David A. Hejmanowski  
Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court

## Employees of the Probate/Juvenile Court

### Judicial

David A. Hejmanowski, Judge  
Kari Childs, Magistrate  
R. Lamont Kaiser, Magistrate  
Robert Rice, Staff Attorney/Magistrate  
Lynne Schoenling, Magistrate

Katie Stenman, Court Administrator

### CASA

Tammy Matias, CASA Coordinator  
Jonathon Klemanski, Assistant CASA  
Coordinator  
Elizabeth Neff, CASA Assistant

### Clerical Services

Renee Lovelien, Clerical Services  
Department Head  
Billie Jo Propst, Probate Office Manager  
Nicole Cox, Juvenile Clerk  
Kira Crawford, Juvenile Clerk  
Rachel Dennison, Juvenile Clerk  
Janette Haag, Juvenile Clerk  
Marilyn Kinniard, Juvenile Clerk  
Melanie Layton, Records Clerk  
Stacey Morris, Probate Clerk  
Lisa Patterson, Probate Clerk  
Karen Peaks, Probate Clerk  
Rene Ray, Receptionist  
Janet Ritter, Probate Clerk  
Ashlie Stidam, Juvenile Clerk  
Samantha Swope, Juvenile Clerk  
Debora Thomas, Juvenile Clerk

### Fiscal

Karen Wadkins, Fiscal Coordinator  
Angela Riley, Court Services  
Analyst/Training Coordinator  
Debbie Wells, Fiscal Specialist

### Intake and Treatment

Lisa Williamson, Director of Court Services  
Stacy Blair, City School Liaison/Intake  
Supervisor  
Sara Kapel, Intake Supervisor  
Kimberly Baker, Family Advocate

Alan Bryan, Intake/Diversion Officer  
Mary Cagnina, Family Advocate  
Coordinator  
Patty Cram, Mentor Coordinator  
Megan Dillman, Victim Services/Mentor  
Assistant  
Vikki Hardwick, County School Attendance  
Officer  
Lauren Hartman, Intensive Family Advocate  
Blake Kaminski, Intake/Diversion Officer  
Lisa Lemaster, County School Liaison  
Shavelle Little, Intake/Diversion Officer  
Sharon Moran, Family Support Specialist  
Adrienne Murray, Family Advocate  
Eddie Parker, Diversion Officer  
Lauren Ragland, Family Advocate  
Lauren Souza, Treatment Court Coordinator  
Dana Wisecarver, Victim Services  
Coordinator

### Mediation

Dodie Davenport, Mediator  
April Nelson, Mediator

### Probate

Donna Bukovec, Adoption Assessor  
Teresa Tackett, Court Visitor Program  
Manager/Probate Court Investigator  
Pamela Vest, Probate Court Investigator

### Probation

Kara Moore, Chief Probation Officer  
Darlene Miller, Deputy Chief Probation  
Officer  
Dave Andrews, Chief Field Officer  
Marc Camboni, Field Probation Officer  
Gia DeGirolamo, Community  
Service/Restitution Work Specialist  
Kevin Krasa, Probation Officer  
Michelle Leighty, Probation Officer  
Bobby Massie, Probation Officer  
Geovanni Ross, Community Service  
Specialist  
Bonnie Scheidt, Transport Officer  
Ken Ward, Community Service/Restitution  
Work Coordinator

**Probate Court**

<b>Type of Filing</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Estates	543	491	444	485	501	487
Guardianship of Minors	50	37	45	27	34	44
Guardianship of Incompetents	48	158	55	66	45	57
Conservatorships	1	1	3	2	1	1
Testamentary Trusts	5	18	21	14	7	11
Civil Actions	28	16	24	11	34	15
Adoptions	42	36	39	44	48	52
Mental Commitment	0	11	7	2	2	1
Minor Settlement	8	17	18	10	20	19
Wrongful Death <sup>1</sup>	0	0	42	23	16	15
Registration/Correction Birth Record	10	2	3	2	6	6
Change of Name	95	72	73	82	92	100
Marriage Applications Granted	751	758	898	879	886	856
Miscellaneous Filings <sup>2</sup>	140	80	97	77	91	92
	<b>1721</b>	<b>1697</b>	<b>1769</b>	<b>1724</b>	<b>1783</b>	<b>1756</b>

<sup>1</sup> Wrongful Death actions were not separated from Estate filings in 2013 and 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Miscellaneous filings include: Disinterment, Dispensing with Guardianship, Wills for Deposit, Administrative Orders, and other filings not specifically reported to the Ohio Supreme Court.

<b>Age of Adult Wards Under Guardianship</b>	
Age Range	
18-30	182
31-50	97
51-70	72
71-90	45
91+	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>404</b>

<b>Types of Adoptions Filed</b>	
Adult	4
Private	4
Private - Agency	10
Adoption Preplacement	1
Public Agency	9
Refinalization	4
Step-parent	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>

<b>Marriage Licenses Issued by Month</b>	
January	41
February	37
March	58
April	56
May	98
June	87
July	103
August	96
September	89
October	77
November	45
December	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>847</b>

<b>New Estates Filed by Type and Filer</b>			
<b>TYPE OF ESTATE</b>	<b>Filed by Attorney</b>	<b>by Filed by Pro Se</b>	<b>Total filed</b>
Ancillary Administration	6	0	6
Full Administration	243	5	248
Probate Will	0	0	0
Release From Administration	66	31	97
Real Estate Transfer	8	1	9
Special Administration	2	0	2
Short Form Release	2	8	10
Summary Release	29	27	56
Taxes	0	0	0
Wrongful Death	7	0	7
Will for Record Only	16	2	18
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>453</b>

<b>Types of Hearings Scheduled in 2018</b>	<b>Number of Hearings</b>
Case Review	110
Adoption Consent	3
Adult Adoption	5
Appointment of Guardian	107
Appointment of Co-Guardian	2
Appointment of Fiduciary	2
Appointment of Trustee	0
Conservatorship	0
Evidentiary	3
Hearing	173
Insolvency	7
Minor's Claim/Minor Guardianship Matter	42
Name Change - Adult	64
Name Change - Minor	59
Non-Oral Hearing	122
Pre-Placement Adoption	1
Private Agency Adoption	5
Private Placement Adoption	9
Public Agency Adoption	7
Refinalization of Foreign Adoption	5
Status Conference	24
Step-Parent Adoption	28
Pre-trial	5
Trial	23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>806</b>

<b>Results of Scheduled Hearings in 2018</b>	<b>Number</b>
Continued	111
Dismissed	6
Failure to appear	14
Informal	8
Heard	418
Non-Oral Complete	109
Vacated	140
<b>Total</b>	<b>806</b>

## Juvenile Court

### Traffic Citations

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Speed	366	335	329	345	401	312
Assured Clear Distance	139	129	128	168	163	140
Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence	7	19	11	15	13	8
Failure to Control	53	54	60	69	48	55
No License/Permit, Suspended or Restrictions	26	42	27	50	48	47
Seat Restraint violations	22	28	25	27	38	28
Failure to Yield/Right of Way	66	85	24	75	103	70
Use of Wireless Electronic Device/Texting	2	2	1	4	1	4
Traffic Control Signal Violations	53	26	36	50	40	36
Improper Driving Actions*	49	44	108	74	86	49
Miscellaneous Actions	47	62	13	35	31	74
<b>Total</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>912</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>823</b>

\*Encompasses various charges including lane violations, improper turns, and hit skips.

<b>Unruly/Delinquency Charges Filed and Adjudicated in 2018</b>		
	Number of Charges Filed	Number of Youth Adjudicated on the Charge
<b>Assault and Menacing</b>		
Assault	23	5
Menacing	17	7
<b>Sexual Offenses</b>		
Rape	16	1
Unlawful Restraint – Sexual Motivation	1	0
Sexual Imposition	17	4
Disseminating Material Harmful to Juveniles	3	1
<b>Kidnapping and Extortion</b>	0	0
<b>Property related offenses</b>		
Criminal Damaging	14	5
Criminal Mischief	2	1

<b>Robbery, Burglary, Trespass, and Safecracking</b>		
Burglary	16	3
Robbery	4	0
Criminal Trespassing	1	0
Breaking and Entering	5	2
<b>Theft and Fraud</b>		
Theft	47	25
Misuse of Credit Cards	1	0
Identify Fraud	2	0
Receiving Stolen Property	5	1
Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle	3	2
<b>Offenses Against the Public Peace</b>		
Disorderly Conduct	66	19
Telephone Harassment	3	0
Inducing Panic	5	1
Making False Alarm	1	0
Making Terroristic Threats	1	0
Violating Protection Order	1	1
<b>Offenses Against the Family</b>		
Domestic Violence	17	3
<b>Offenses Against Justice and Public Administration</b>		
Obstructing Justice	5	2
Tampering with Evidence	1	0
Resisting Arrest	3	1
<b>Conspiracy, Attempt and Complicity, Weapons Control, Corrupt Activity</b>		
Weapons. Control of	6	3
Possession of Criminal Tools	2	0
Attempt	2	0
Complicity	5	0
Possession of a Controlled Substance	56	21
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	30	11
Offenses Involving Underage Persons - Alcohol	39	17
Aggravated Trafficking	6	1
<b>Other Offenses</b>		
Unruly Child	114	47
Prohibitions Relating to Tobacco	3	0
Habitual Truant	8	3
Unruly School Truant	13	3
Violation of a Court Order	35	21

Violation of Probation	53	39
Curfew	8	3
Total	660	253

Unruly/Delinquency Offenses by Zip Code

Location	ZIP CODE	# Cases	Male	Female	>11	11 - 13	14-15	16	17	18+
Ashley	43003	14	11	3	0	1	8	2	3	0
Centerburg	43011	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Delaware	43015	169	115	54	1	34	41	48	44	1
Dublin FC	43016	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Dublin DC	43017	6	5	1	0	0	1	0	5	0
Fredricktown	43019	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Galena	43021	19	17	2	0	0	9	2	8	0
Hilliard	43026	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Johnstown	43031	4	4	0	0	0	3	1	0	0
Lewis Center	43035	45	29	16	0	1	15	12	13	4
Marysville	43040	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mount Vernon	43050	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Powell	43065	43	35	8	0	3	6	6	24	4
Radnor	43066	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Reynoldsburg	43068	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Sunbury	43074	27	22	5	0	2	4	4	17	0
Westerville FC	43081	26	18	8	0	0	12	9	4	1
Westerville DC	43082	25	16	9	0	2	11	5	6	1
Worthington	43085	6	4	2	0	0	2	2	2	0
Circleville	43113	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Galloway	43119	3	3	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Grove City	43123	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Columbus	43203	3	0	3	0	0	0	1	2	0
Columbus	43207	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
Columbus	43209	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Columbus	43211	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Columbus	43219	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Upper Arlington	43220	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Columbus	43221	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	0
Columbus	43223	3	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Columbus	43224	3	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
Columbus	43229	9	7	2	0	0	2	2	4	1
Columbus	43230	6	3	3	0	2	2	0	1	1
Columbus	43231	8	6	2	0	0	5	1	2	0
Columbus	43232	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Columbus	43235	8	2	6	0	1	1	4	2	0
Columbus	43240	4	2	2	0	0	1	1	2	0
Marion	43301	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Marion	43302	8	5	3	0	4	1	1	2	0
Cardington	43315	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
La Rue	43332	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Marengo	43334	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Richwood	43344	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Cleveland	44129	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Akron	44311	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ashland	44805	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Mansfield	44902	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Mansfield	44903	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
Springfield	45503	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Springfield	45505	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Patriot	45658	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
		476	329	147	1	54	132	110	164	15

<b>Abused Neglected Dependent Charges Filed 2018</b>		
<b>Description of Individual Charges</b>	<b>Charges filed</b>	<b>Adjudicated</b>
Abused Child - Out of Home Abuse	3	0
Abused Child - Exhibits Injury	5	0
Abused Child - No Conviction Required	21	0
Abused Child - Victim Sexual Activity	3	0
Abused Child- Acts Causing Injury	14	3
Dependent Child - Residential Status Danger	12	0
Dependent Child - Residential Status Act	11	0
Dependent Child- Environmental Condition	55	44
Dependent Child- Homeless	14	1
Dependent Child- Parental condition	35	6
Neglected Child Abandoned	9	4
Neglected Child - Injury by Omission	2	0
Neglected Child - Lack Parental Care	17	5
Neglected child - Out of Home	2	0
Neglected Child - Placement Violation	2	0
Neglected Child - Special care	3	0
Neglected Child-Parental Refusal	17	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>67</b>

<b>Motions for Permanent Custody</b>	
Carried Over from 2017	4
Filed	3
Granted	5
Dismissed	1
Carried Over into 2019	1

**Number of Juvenile Hearings Scheduled in 2018**

<b>Type of Hearing</b>	<b>Total</b>
Family Treatment Court	279
Bridges - Initial Determination	3
Case Review	746
Change of Plea	57
Child Support	26
Civil Protection Order	4
Competency Hearing	25
Compliance Review	145
Contempt	6
Detention	134
Detention Review	121
Disposition	317
Evidentiary Hearing	20
Formal Arraignment	645
In Camera Review	18
Formal Arraignment - Traffic	906
Show Cause Hearing	3
Miscellaneous	93
Motion Hearing	128
Non-Oral Hearing	27
Objection	4
Permanent Custody	3
Pre-trial	973
Probable Cause	55
Restitution	3
Sealing/Expungement	30
Specialized Case Review	118
Specialized Hearing	15
Status Hearing	63
Suppression Hearing	16
Treatment Court	162
Trial	245
Violation of a Court Order	50
Violation of Probation	79
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5519</b>

<b>2018 Hearing Results</b>	<b>Total</b>
Continued	766
Denial Entered	264
Dismissal	35
Failure to Appear	248
Heard	3640
Informal	146
Non Oral	18
Vacated	402
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5519</b>

### Clerical Services

The Clerical Services Department assigns staff to both the Probate and Juvenile Courts. Each office operates independent of the other and follows local rules created for each Court. Clerical staff are involved in all areas of the Court by processing filings from the beginning to the end of the case. One of the core functions of the Clerical Services Department is to maintain accurate and complete records of all court proceedings. The Clerical Services Department receives case filings and documents by facsimile, mail, E-filing through a client registered system, or in-person. Cross training between Probate and Juvenile clerical staff continues to be on-going, with a goal to provide services when needed without interruption to either Court.

Our clerical staff believe that it is important to continually look for ways to improve our service to the court and the public we serve. We also reinforce the need to keep up with the latest changes to the law and its effect on the Courts with training opportunities. Participation in Court-wide and departmental team meetings reinforce the importance of education for all staff. Attendance at a yearly conference for deputy clerks provides networking opportunities and education about the latest practices of other Ohio Probate and Juvenile Courts. The staff also have opportunities throughout the year to attend events developed by the Court's training coordinator and also are encouraged to attend Supreme Court trainings onsite or via their desktop computers.

One Department Head oversees both Probate and Juvenile Clerical Services staff. Probate Court clerical staff for 2018 included an Office Manager and five Deputy Clerks. Each clerk is assigned a Probate case type for efficient processing for the duration of the Probate case. Juvenile Court clerical staff for 2018 included 10 Deputy Clerks. Areas of assignment include: traffic court, records, courtroom services, treatment court, probation, jury services, docketing and processing, assignment commissioners, and client services. In 2018, Juvenile clerical staff processed 38,524 docket entries in 6,816 cases and Probate clerical staff processed 44,200 docket entries in 3,347 cases. The Clerical Services Department also issued 473 summons in 458 cases, processed 88 warrants which were either executed or recalled, processed 557 public defender appointments and 216 Guardian ad Litem appointments.

Phone Calls Handled		
	Probate	Juvenile
Incoming	7,746	10,333
Outbound	2,275	3,348
Total Hours	382	254
Documents Served		
	Probate	Juvenile
Subpoenas	35	403
Certified Mail	396	513
Personal Service by Sheriff	3	131
By Court staff	0	128
By Electronic	0	10
Notice by Publication	114	13

In addition to creating the record of the Court's cases, the Clerical Services Department also maintains the Court's records. The Court's Records Office audits, reviews and processes the Court's filed documents for preservation. Scanned documents save time and increase efficiencies, by allowing the image to be electronically accessed versus the previous requirement of physically locating each case file and the required document. The Probate and Juvenile Clerks Office has scanned a total of 33,438 documents and 23,788 documents, respectively, in 2018.

The Probate/Juvenile Court follows the Supreme Court of Ohio's guidelines for language interpreters by using in-person certified interpreters for the majority of the Court's matters. Use of a telephonic interpreter is used if the Court is unable to secure an interpreter to serve in-person. The Probate/Juvenile court accessed the telephonic interpreter service 3 times in 2018. In 2018, the Court set 18 in-person interpretation events for a cost of \$ 1,499.45. Of the interpreters requested 55% of requests for an interpreter were for the Spanish language, others included ASL, Arabic, Tygrina and Somali.

The Court's website is actively utilized by the public. In 2018, the Probate Court website was visited 176,295 times, with the self-service probate forms being the most utilized feature by both the public and court staff. The Juvenile Court website was visited 35,402 times with the hearing schedules receiving the most traffic. The E-services feature of both websites were accessed over 26K times for record searches, marriage license applications and E-payments and review of the hearing calendar.

## **Court Visitor Program**

The Court Visitor Program is a guardianship monitoring program through the Probate Court. The program utilizes volunteers and student interns from local colleges to visit with wards and guardians involved with the Court. These visitors serve as the court's eyes and ears, by visiting persons under guardianship to see if they are receiving appropriate care, to ensure that the guardian is current with reporting requirements and to assist the guardian and/or ward with linkage to community resources. The visits are usually conducted at the ward's home to allow the Court Visitor to observe the ward in the natural environment. The program allows the Court to ensure the ward's needs are being met, the ward is safe and being cared for, and the ward is in the least restrictive alternative for guardianship. The Court Visitor program also provides the Probate Court with an additional mechanism for following up on any complaints and/or concerns noted with existing guardianships. The Court Visitor program assists the Court in its responsibilities as the Statutory Guardian.

In 2018, the program had eight trained volunteers conducting visits. One of the eight was a social work student from Bowling Green State University, who was completing his internship with the program. The other volunteers were community residents contributing their time to give back to their communities by assisting others. These volunteers provided 357.75 hours to the program in 2018. The Court Visitors conducted 124 court visits in 2018. Of these cases, 56 wards were 55 years of age or older and 73 guardians were 55 years of age or older. Sixty-six individuals visited in 2018 were receiving services from their local board of developmental disabilities.

## **Juvenile Court – Intake Department**

### **Diversion**

Diversion is an opportunity offered to a juvenile offender charged with a status or misdemeanor offense, usually a first-time offender. Diversion is a voluntary program in which a case is sealed and dismissed upon successful completion. The Diversion Program has been enhanced with a strong evidenced-based approach to better assess youth and to not unnecessarily keep them involved with the Court. Redesigned in 2017, Diversion now has three levels: Fast Track, General, and Intensive. Group Diversion has been added and found effective for alleged juvenile co-defendants to allow for increased accountability for their involvement and to reduce blame on others. The Diversion program has a customer satisfaction survey that is completed after the diversion conference is held, which boasts a customer satisfaction rate of 99%. This past year, the Diversion Coordinator implemented an additional customer satisfaction feedback survey to be completed after the case has been successfully closed. The post-diversion survey of the parents and youth also reports a 99% satisfaction of services rendered. Comments from parents from customer satisfaction surveys:

“Great program. Provides awareness and gives the opportunity to correct the mistake.”

“This is a great program...Thank you for helping my daughter grow, learn and develop.”

“Diversion Officer was extremely respectful and took time to discuss my daughter’s violation and ways to better herself and deter future negative choices. He took the time to discuss the consequences of negative actions and the impact that can occur. This process has made a positive impact.”

The Diversion Coordinator represents the Court in the Ohio Juvenile Diversion Association. This year the Diversion Coordinator successfully lobbied to create a diversion roundtable discussion open to all eighty-eight counties in Ohio at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Intercourt Conference. The roundtable discussion allowed for counties to network with other county courts and to share information about current diversion programs. The Diversion Coordinator has been asked to speak at a local middle school career day for the past three years. He exposes the youth to a career in juvenile justice and gives them the opportunity to create a diversion agreement on a mock case. The student feedback is positive and the session is well attended. In 2018, the Court conducted 276 diversion cases.

### Intake

The Intake Department is a youth and family’s first contact in the court system. The Intake team handles all juvenile court referrals and complaints. All cases are handled in accordance with Rule 9 of the Ohio Rules of Juvenile Procedure, which states “[i]n all appropriate cases formal court action should be avoided and other community resources utilized to ameliorate situations brought to the attention of the court.” In July of 2017, the Intake department created three separate program areas to serve youth who are not placed on probation due to a low risk level on the OYAS screening tool. The three program areas are: intervention in lieu, general intake and progressive intake. Youth are placed into the program area based upon their offense type and risk score. Depending on the program area the youth are placed, the placement determines the program service hours received. The programs identify the criminogenic need areas for the youth, provide or refer to appropriate interventions to address those needs while keeping low risk youth from further penetrating the juvenile justice system.

### Fight Against Hunger Games

For the fourth year, the Court collaborated with Delaware Hayes High School and the Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities for the Fight Against the Hunger Game, a canned food drive. This year the food drive focus was twofold; stocking

the shelves of the Pacer Pantry, a local pantry accessible to youth attending Delaware City Schools, with toiletry and personal care items as well as collecting specific food items needed for Thanksgiving meal kits. The drive was able to fill over 200 Thanksgiving meal kits, a dramatic 160% increase from its inaugural year. Families lined up in front of Hayes High School the Tuesday before Thanksgiving and were given a meal kit complete with turkey/ham, corn, green beans, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing and dinner rolls.

#### PREP (Personal Responsibility Education Program)

The Court continued its partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital to run the PREP, a statewide initiative to reduce teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection rates in Ohio's high risk youth ages 14-19. The program is a sixteen hour curriculum that provides health promotion education regarding teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infection rates of Ohio's high risk youth ages 14-19 placed in foster care settings and/or in juvenile justice facilities. Nationwide Children's Hospital trained court staff to competently teach an adapted evidence-based Reducing the Risk curriculum along with transition to adulthood topics of healthy relationships, financial literacy, and educational and career success. Two sessions of PREP were completed in 2018 serving 11 youth.

#### Addressing Truancy

The Court has a dedicated docket to manage the case load regarding truant and unruly behavior at local schools throughout Delaware County. The purpose and goal of the dedicated docket is to centralize the hearing schedules of the City and County School Liaisons, as well as to ensure quick resolutions to cases. The dedicated docket hears cases regarding truancy, unruly activity at school, failure to send children to school as well as adult contributing charges.

Cases can only be formalized once alternative efforts are attempted to divert the cases from the Court. In that effort, the School Liaisons meet with the children at issue and attempt to address barriers to attendance. If that is unsuccessful in curbing the truant/unruly behavior, a mediation is scheduled with the Court's Mediator. During the mediation, a Student Attendance Intervention Plan (SAIP) is created in effort to prevent charges from being filed. Parents and students are provided a copy of the mediation agreement/SAIP immediately following mediation. If there is not an improvement in attendance over the next sixty days, the school can choose to file a charge on the child and/or the parent, depending on the issues at hand in each case. Every effort is made to prevent charges from being filed. It is the collaboration with the school staff, court staff, and the student's family that helps to encourage and improve school attendance.

On April 6, 2017, HB 410 was enacted as law. That Bill has changed a number of particular requirements regarding truancy and how the schools and the Court handle those issues. Of note is that through the School Liaisons and the Court Mediator, this Court was already nearly in full compliance of the Bill before it was even drafted, signed and enacted. Much of the Bill regards the counting of time absent from school, the implementation of diversionary programming prior to formalizing charges as well as reporting requirements on the Court and schools.

Attendance Officer

The Court partners with the Educational Service Center of Central Ohio to provide an attendance officer which serves three of the four school districts within Delaware County: Olentangy Local School District (Olentangy), Big Walnut Local School District (Big Walnut), and Buckeye Valley Local Schools (Buckeye Valley). The attendance officer’s responsibility is to inform/educate students and parents of Ohio’s laws in relation to school attendance. The goal is to keep juveniles in compliance with the school’s attendance policy and out of the juvenile justice system. The attendance officer oversees attendance issues at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. The attendance officer meets with students and parents as needed to discuss attendance concerns.

School Liaisons

The school liaisons serve Big Walnut, Buckeye Valley, Delaware City Schools (Delaware), Olentangy and the Delaware Area Career Center (Career Center). School liaisons work with at-risk juveniles in the school systems to prevent formal court involvement by advocating for the juveniles, addressing attendance concerns, attending school meetings, assisting in behavior plans, participating in mediations, and giving referrals to community resources.

**Delaware County Schools 2018/2019**

<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>Delaware</b>	<b>Buckeye Valley</b>	<b>Big Walnut</b>	<b>Olentangy</b>	<b>Career Center</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Phone Calls</b>	1285	280	449	1094	118	<b>3226</b>
<b>Emails</b>	2207	1023	722	1602	311	<b>5865</b>
<b>Letters</b>	363	183	173	351	56	<b>1126</b>
<b>Informal Meeting</b>	422	362	205	711	89	<b>1789</b>
<b>Mediations</b>	160	58	38	109	11	<b>376</b>

<b>Truancy Charges Filed</b>	12	3	4	10	0	<b>29</b>
<b>Diversion Offered</b>	12	3	4	10	0	<b>29</b>
<b>Successful</b>	4	1	1	5	0	<b>11</b>
<b>Adjudicated</b>	2	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>Pending</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>

### Victim Services Program

The Victim Services Program was established for Juvenile Court in 1987 to provide information and support for victims of juvenile crime and to ensure that case related decisions include greater consideration for the victim. The program is committed to protecting victims by informing them of their rights, providing information regarding the Court’s legal process, arranging support for personal and emotional needs and attempting to help recover any financial losses. Keeping sight of a balanced approach ensures that offenders are held accountable to their victims and that victims regain some degree of wholeness after an offense has been committed against them. During fiscal year 2018, the Victim Services Program provided services to 344 victims of juvenile crime. The Victim Services Program also assists victims in applying for compensation through the Ohio Victim of Crime Compensation Program. This program is available to victims of violent crime in which physical or emotional harm to the victim results in a financial loss.

The Victim Services Program is part of the Delaware County Coalition of Victim Services, which is involved with raising community awareness of victim-related crimes in Delaware County. The coalition has helped organize “Walk a Mile in her Shoes” to support awareness of domestic violence. The Program also actively promotes National Crime Victims’ Rights Week in April.

Started in 2008, the Victim Awareness Program helps juvenile offenders understand how their actions have affected their victims. Through a series of classes, these juveniles must analyze their actions and participate in exercises geared to help them more fully understand the consequences of those actions. The goal of the program is to keep these juveniles from re-offending by helping them understand the impact that their actions will have on others and themselves. The program emphasizes the process of making good choices by giving juveniles tools that can help them be more successful in their daily lives. In 2018, of the 31 juveniles who successfully completed the program, only 3 have committed a subsequent offense. Since its inception, the recidivism rate for juveniles who have successfully completed the Victim Awareness Program is 9.3%.

In January of 2016, the Victim Services program initiated a restitution tracking program to provide oversight of the restitution process from initial contact with the victim through the final collection process. In 2018, a Restitution Docket was established. This docket holds juveniles accountable for making regular payments toward the restitution

owed by requiring them to attend a monthly hearing if a monthly payment is not made according to terms agreed upon by the juvenile at the time of disposition. In fiscal year 2018, the Court received and distributed \$10,016.67 in restitution to victims of juvenile crime.

In 2018, Delaware County Juvenile Court partnered with Maryhaven to offer a new treatment program for child victims of juvenile sex offenses and their families. This program, Providing Assistance to Sexual Survivors (PASS), is offered free of charge to children who have been victimized by a juvenile sibling or step sibling. The program includes family treatment and can be combined with the Court's Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Program to provide a holistic approach for family healing. The PASS program is funded through a grant provided by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).

### Mentoring Programs

T.E.A.M. Mentoring (Together Everyone Achieves More) is a program which currently involves 20 adult mentor volunteers and 22 youth mentees that are 10-14 years of age. The program is a one-on-one mentoring program that teaches alternatives to drug and alcohol use. The mentees for the program are determined to be at-risk for making poor choices with respect to substance use and live in Delaware County. The mentees and their parent/guardians will meet with the Mentoring Coordinator and sign all paperwork prior to being matched with their mentor. The mentors are interviewed, given a FBI background check, drug screened, trained, and then matched with their mentees.

*"We instantly clicked, we spent an hour together and it's like she's been my best friend for years. It's so nice having someone to talk to and be there for me."*

*Mentee Comment*

The mentors are required to meet with their mentees every week for at least two hours and let the Mentoring Coordinator know what they did and how long they met. Mentors and mentees meet once-a-month for a monthly meeting as a group. In the past they have attended OWU Basketball games, participated in our Mentee vs. Mentor basketball game, had a picnic with mentor and mentee's families, had special guest speakers, and went to Magic Mountain.

M.O.M.S. (Moms Offering Mentoring Support) is a mentoring program for young moms and moms-to-be. The program aims to help prevent repeated unplanned pregnancies, reduce the number of hospital visits for infants; teach young mothers the importance of breastfeeding, reduce child abuse, and provide young moms with community resources. The young mothers are matched as soon as possible with a "seasoned" mom mentor. In December, we had Santa Claus visit for pictures and handed out Christmas gifts that were donated by the Women's Leadership Network. In April, we celebrated our Annual Baby Shower given by Gina Grote for all babies born in the previous year.

*"I love being a part of the M.O.M.S. Program, I always have a mentor who I can reach out to, my mentor was there for my son's birth." Mentee Comment*

The mentors help with providing support to the young mothers and to make sure they are attending their prenatal and well-baby checks. We currently have 19 young moms and 14 mentors, with the Mentoring Coordinator providing direct service to five of the young moms.

**CASA of Delaware and Union Counties**

CASA Volunteers continued their strong advocacy for children in 2018 as demonstrated in the following important program statistics:

<b>Volunteer CASA Advocates</b>	44 (Delaware and Union)	
<b>Volunteer Total Case Hours</b>	Approximately 5,000	
<b>Miles Driven by Volunteers for Casework</b>	Over 20,000	
<b>Children Served</b>	174	
<b>Of Children served: Female</b>	78	
<b>Male</b>	96	
<b>Child Age Range</b>	0-5	82
	6-11	49
	12-15	30
	16-17	8
	18+	5

In 2018, 73 children’s cases were closed with a CASA Volunteer involved with the following outcomes:

<b>Reunification achieved</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Adopted</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Kinship Placement (long term relative care)</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Child turned 18/21</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>2</b>

Volunteer interest in the CASA Program remained steady throughout 2018. Ten new CASA Volunteers were sworn in and began serving in both counties to advocate for children’s best interests in abuse, neglect and dependency cases. Additionally, four current CASA Volunteers were further trained to become Fostering Futures Mentors, a program within the organization that advocates/mentors teens who will age out of the foster care system and helps them plan/achieve goals for their future.

The expansion project of the CASA Program into Union County continued to grow in 2018. While retaining the original volunteers sworn-in in 2016, the CASA Program

added several new volunteers who began advocating for abused/neglected/dependent children. The CASA Program of Delaware and Union Counties offers its volunteers the ability to serve in one, or both counties. In 2018, 10 CASA Volunteers served children in both Delaware and Union Counties.

2018 ended on a very positive note for the CASA Program and one of its volunteers. Christine Bisesi was awarded *The Rising Star of the Year Award* through the Ohio CASA Organization in September at the annual conference. Christine was selected from numerous individuals nominated for this award across Ohio. She was chosen due to her work with a drug addicted, aging out teen who had no relatives to assist her in emancipating from the child welfare system. Christine worked tirelessly to advocate for this child and assisted her in securing housing, employment, and college entrance along with grants to financially assist her. Without Christine's selfless advocacy, this child may have easily ended up homeless with no future plans in place.

The CASA Program of Delaware and Union Counties had a very successful year in terms of assigning every abuse/neglect/dependent child with a CASA Volunteer to advocate for them in the child welfare and court systems. It is the goal of the program to continue its advocacy for every child who enters the system through no fault of their own.

### **Mediation**

In 2018, the Court mediation program served 351 youth and families in school attendances matters, 21 youth and families in delinquency, 5 families in custody matters, 5 families in the child abuse/neglect/dependancy docket, and another 9 families, agencies, or parties through other routes to the Court, including cases from the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division, by request.

Court mediators serve as neutral facilitators to assist parties in reaching mutual agreements and often resolution of the issues facing them. In the school setting, under the provisions of House Bill 410, which was in its first full implementation year for the 2017-2018 school year, mediation means looking for ways to eliminate barriers to regular school attendance and strengthen the dialogue between the school and the family. The mediation program stayed strong with its two longtime mediators, April Nelson and Dodie Davenport, on board. Throughout 2018, Dodie Davenport was in charge of continuing to develop the mediation program for abuse, neglect, dependency (AND) cases to make mediation an integral part of the child protection cases.

In 2018, mediator April Nelson made three presentations at state conferences. She presented twice, each time with a co-facilitator, at the Dispute Resolution '18 conference put on by the Ohio Supreme Court in March. Those two sessions were "Building Effective Dispute Resolution Processes in Juvenile Court" with Judge David A. Hejmanowski of this Court, and "What Do You See? What Do You Think?" (a session on implicit bias) with Shelisa Johnson, mediator, Erie County Common Pleas Court, Juvenile Division. In November, 2018, she co-presented on "Dealing With Employee Disputes" with labor lawyer Kimberly Vanover Riley at the Winter conference of the Ohio Association of

Juvenile Court Judges. With the exception of Judge Hejmanowski, April has made more presentations at state and international conferences than any other Court employee in the last three years.

Looking ahead to 2019, Dodie Davenport will continue to build the AND mediation program. After watching the pilot results in 2017, the Judge determined that the Bench will directly assign cases to the mediation department rather than wait for a party agency to request it. Dodie excels at difficult family mediations, of which AND mediations are the most challenging. This Court is fortunate to have her on staff. The school attendance mediation program is expected to continue at full speed, keeping both mediators heavily scheduled during the peak months of November through April of the school year.

### **2018 Mediation Statistics**

Type of Mediation	Referred	Mediated	Outcomes*	Hours
Attendance**	351	343	287F/38N/15O	197.25
Delinquency	21	18	16F/3N/20	15.5
Child Protection	5	5	2F/3 N	10.5
Probate	3	3	1P/2N	9.5
Parenting/Custody	5	5	1F/2P/2N	9.0
Miscellaneous	6	6	5F/1N	5.5
TOTALS	391			

\*Outcomes are full, partial, no, or other resolutions.

\*\*In attendance mediations, all cases are scheduled and “referred” is defined as number of cases scheduled. Also, “no” resolution in an attendance mediation typically means the family (and the student, where appropriate) did not attend the mediation.

### Family Advocate Programs

The Family Advocate Program began at the Court in 1983 and is a community based, family-directed intervention that is designed to deal with at-risk, multi-need youth and their families. This unique service provides a valuable perspective through direct observation of the family in the natural environment which quickly brings into focus the interpersonal dynamics that can help guide goal focus. Advocates provide a home-based family systems orientation using Functional Family Therapy. FFT is designed to broaden families’ abilities to conceptualize problems, reduce blame and develop shared ownership in resolving problems, teach necessary skills for families to improve functioning, and reduce recidivism and placements. Families participate in an assessment tool, the Family Environmental Scale (FES), to measure the environmental and social characteristics of the families. The ten FES subscales assess three sets of dimension: relationship dimensions, personal growth dimensions and systems maintenance dimensions.

Advocates meet with each family an average of twice a week to establish goals and provide interventions. Length of stay in the program ranges from 3 to 12 months depending on whether families are receiving services as part of the general program, the Family Support Services Program or the Intensive Family Advocate Program. The Delaware County Juvenile Court’s Family Advocate Program represents an innovative effort to blend treatment and accountability elements into a community based alternative intervention. In 2018, the general family advocate program served 23 youth and families, the Family Support Service Program served 27 families, and the Intensive Family Advocate Program served 13 families in Delaware County.

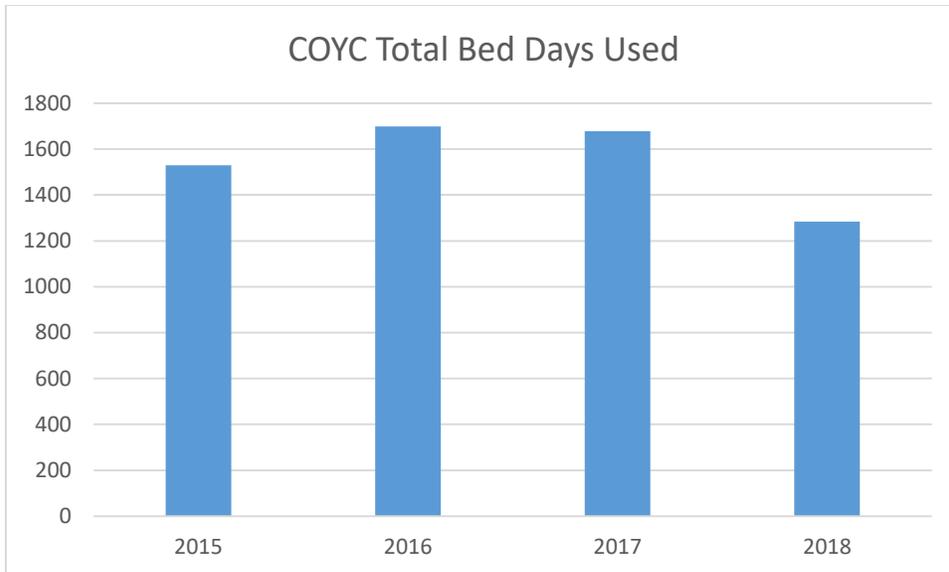
**Probation**

The Probation Department is charged with supervising youth who have been recognized as being moderate to high risk by validated assessment tools. Probation officers use evidence based practices such as EPICS, Carey Guides and Motivational Interviewing techniques to change behavior and reduce risk of recidivism. Support services for the probation department consist of a transport officer and an afternoon field officer who monitors compliance. The department is involved in two specialized dockets, Juvenile Treatment Court and the Juvenile Sex Offender docket. In 2018, the probation department served 70 youth of which 56 identified as white, 11 as black, 1 as Hispanic, and 2 as bi-racial. In 2018, the probation department also served 40 sex offenders.

The Court’s use of GPS monitoring as an alternative to detention continued to grow in 2018.

GPS Monitoring Usage		
Year	Number of Youth	Total Days
2016	134	4645
2017	167	3847
2018	282	9911

In 2018, zero youth were placed into programming at Perry County. One Delaware County youth was carried over from 2017 and released in 2018. Central Ohio Youth Center bed days in 2018 totaled 1,284.



### The Suspension Alternative Program/Community Service

The Juvenile Court also runs a Suspension Alternative Program (SAP), which provides daily activities for youth suspended from school. SAP is six hours a day and consists of community service projects for non-profit agencies and government entities. In 2018, 105 youth participated in SAP working 6 hours a day for a total of 630 hours of supervised service. SAP is funded through the Juvenile Court, schools, and a grant from SourcePoint. In addition to SAP, the Juvenile Court also runs a Community Service Program that allows the youth to work through the Court to meet their community service requirements and earn money to pay their owed restitution. In 2018, 251 youth worked in the community service program on various projects. Through the partnership with SourcePoint, the Court served 208 elderly residents of Delaware County in 2018. The service requests, also known as referrals, are collected by SourcePoint and forwarded to the Juvenile Court for the community service or SAP crew to complete and are supervised by a Court employee. These referrals included shoveling snow, planting plants/bulbs, weeding, mulching, raking leaves, cleaning out garages, picking up sticks, leveling yards, trimming bushes, removing and setting up patio furniture, picking up walnuts and sweet gums. In 2018, the crews provided 1210 service hours, with a bulk of the referrals being completed within seven business days. The programs also delivered 7,500 issues of The Communicator, SourcePoint's bimonthly newspaper.

In 2018, the SAP and Community Service programs also served the Delaware County Health Department by picking up 144 bags of litter and disposing of 42 large and/or very large items. In 2018, the programs were also recognized by the Delaware County Health Department for their outstanding efforts to keep Delaware litter free.

### Treatment Court

Delaware County Juvenile Court operates two treatment court dockets for people whose involvement with the Court is a result of drug or alcohol misuse, or mental health concerns. The Supreme Court of Ohio has awarded its Specialized Docket Certification to the court's Juvenile Treatment Court designed for juveniles whose delinquency is related to behavioral health concerns and/or alcohol and drug concerns, and to the court's Family Treatment Court designed for parents whose involvement with Job and Family Services stems from a mother's or father's use of alcohol or inadequately treated mental health concerns. Specialized dockets are cost-effective ways to protect the community, ensure the safety of children, and rehabilitate defendants who could stay out of trouble if they receive proper community based services.

Both of the Delaware County Juvenile Court's Specialized Dockets serve the purpose of helping participants find treatment, motivating them to take treatment seriously and then applying it to their daily lives. That motivation comes through regular and frequent hearings where the participants give updates to the Court, regularly attend treatment appointments with community based providers, supervision by probation officers or JFS caseworkers, and frequent and random drug screening. Treatment Court staff also help participants find additional support when needed, such as linking participants with employment or vocational services, a parenting class, or tutoring services. Both specialized dockets have the goal of graduating participants once they have learned the skills to manage their mental health, live a drug free lifestyle and live as law abiding citizens without the supervision of the Court. With the Family Treatment Court, an additional goal is to return children to their parents to be raised by healthy adults who possess appropriate parenting skills.

In 2018, there were 26 participants involved in the two respective dockets. Two juveniles successfully completed Juvenile Treatment Court and three were neutrally terminated, one from aging out of the system and two who moved out of the county. The two juveniles who completed Treatment Court both graduated from high school early and had employment at the time of graduation. One Juvenile Treatment Court graduate, when asked to reflect on her time in Treatment Court stated that "Treatment Court changed the direction of my life. It made me change my selfish ways and helped me to appreciate what I have. My probation officer taught me how important it is to be honest. Treatment Court helped keep me accountable for my actions, now I am sober and happy as ever. I have so much more to life now."

Four adults also successfully completed the Family Treatment Court Docket in 2018. Those four graduates had six children between them. One baby was born drug free while his mother was involved in the program. All six children were reunited with their parents prior to their graduation from treatment court. Treatment Court assisted in one participant finding stable housing while she was involved in the docket and another, who had not worked in years became employed part-time, in order to support her son upon reunification. Sixteen participants who were involved in the docket in 2018, and had not

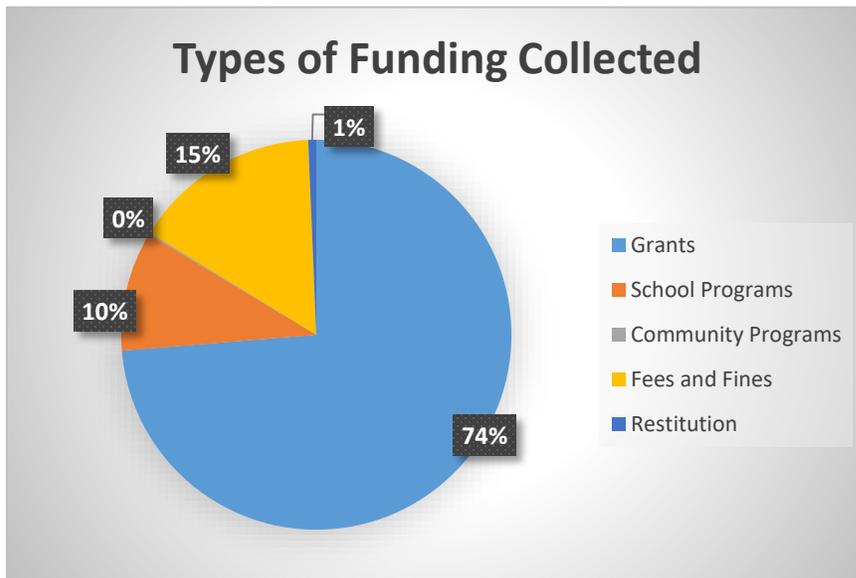
yet graduated, were carried over to participate in the Juvenile or Family Treatment Court Docket in 2019.

## Fiscal

### **Funding**

Funding for the Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court is received from a variety of sponsors and sources. While the core administrative structure of the court is funded from county funds, the court has been able to supplement many of its programs with grants and contracts, as well as the fees and fines collected. In the calendar year 2018, \$1.263 million was received from outside sources, an additional \$234,354.19 was collected in fees and fines, and Juvenile Court also collected \$10,016.67 in restitution.

A large portion of funding received from outside sources comes from the Department of Youth Services RECLAIM grant. The award to Delaware County for

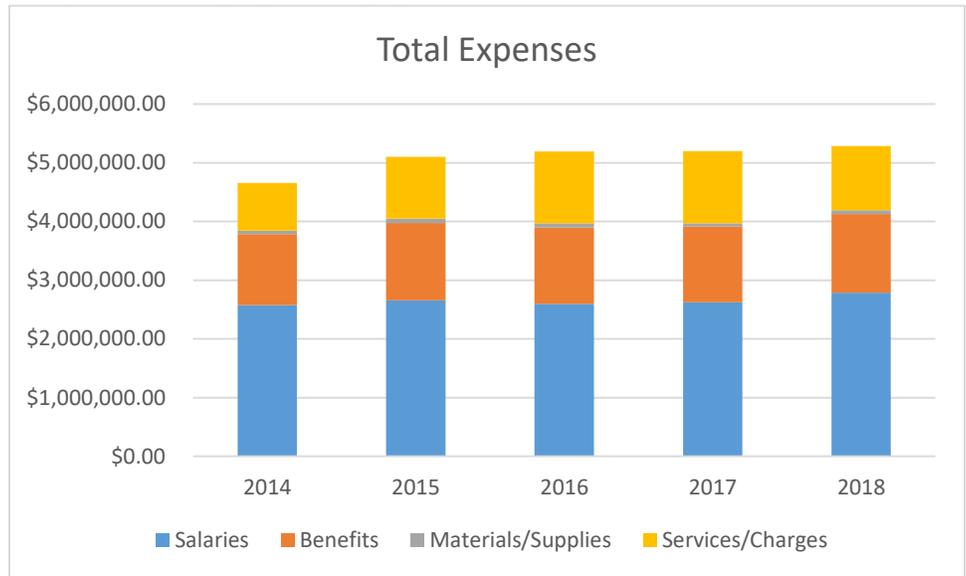


SFY2018 (covering the timeframe of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018) was \$550,332.08, or approximately 43.5% of our supplemental funding. In addition to the RECLAIM funding, Delaware County proposed, and received \$94,220 in Competitive RECLAIM funding for the Intensive Family Advocate position and several behavioral change training opportunities for the probation and intake staff.

Since 2015, funds have been received from the Attorney General’s Office for Victim Services and for the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program to provide expanded services to Union County. This project supports staffing of four full-time positions serving both Delaware and Union County, and expenses related to this program. This project has a funding match requirement of 25% of in-kind, or 20% of cash match. In past years, the county has provided a portion of the cash match required. Due to the increased volunteer hours provided, the proposal for 2019 submitted in May 2018, requested no cash match from the county. There are approximately 30 volunteers providing in-kind service hours to the program; for the 2018 project period the volunteers provided \$92,492.00, only \$63,171.84 were required by the funding agency. By providing these matching funds, \$222,539.84 were released for use from the Victims of Crime Act grant.

**Expenses**

Expenses for Delaware County Probate/Juvenile Court are primarily salaries and benefits. The court currently has 63 employees on payroll and numerous volunteers. The largest non-payroll item is the agreement with Central Ohio Youth Center (COYC), costing \$556,910.63 in fiscal year 2018, and an estimated cost of \$493,833.80 for fiscal year 2019. While total expenses have increased, they have only increased by 1.66% from fiscal year 2017 to fiscal year 2018.



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Salaries	\$2,578,086.09	\$2,655,010.62	\$2,599,973.72	\$2,622,894.00	\$2,786,601.87
Benefits	\$1,206,868.19	\$1,317,156.86	\$1,299,366.10	\$1,291,172.68	\$1,337,123.78
Materials/Supplies	\$60,676.03	\$79,238.79	\$70,244.03	\$55,246.21	\$68,112.78
Services/Charges	\$812,455.96	\$1,052,665.20	\$1,223,865.71	\$1,231,915.02	\$1,095,986.41
Total	\$4,658,086.27	\$5,104,071.47	\$5,193,449.56	\$5,201,227.91	\$5,287,824.84