

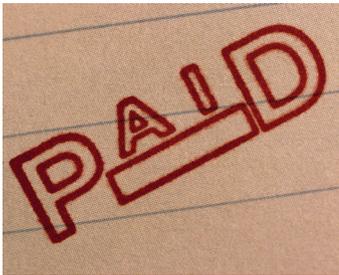


Fayette County Juvenile Probation

Juvenile Justice Journal

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Collections are up at the Juvenile Probation Office in 2006

Inside this issue:

Lending a Hand	2
From the Chief	2
New Faces	3
Santa Visits	3
Youth Commission	4
Contact Information	4

Victims Getting Their Share by Laurie Mertz, Account Clerk

As with all Juvenile Courts one of the regular tasks associated with all cases involves the assessment and collection of restitution.

It became very apparent in the early part of 2006 that our collections for fines, costs, and in particular restitution were on a steady increase.

In order to look at this objectively, we decided to review two specific categories of collections and payments with those categories being the payments made directly to victims and the amounts paid to the Crime Victims' Fund for 2005 and 2006. The Crime Victims' Fund is a State maintained collection that is used to help in defraying the costs of the operation of the Crime Victims' Center in Uniontown as well as a means to reimburse victims who have claimed a personal loss or injury as a result of a crime.

In 2005, \$27,450 in restitution was paid out to

victims of juvenile crime. In 2006, that amount jumped to \$62,502. In 2005, \$3,310 was paid into the Crime Victims' Fund as compared to \$4,370 in 2006.

As you can see, the increase in collections to the Crime Victims' Fund increase by \$1,600 or 50% from 2005 to 2006, while the increase in collections for restitution paid directly to victims increased by just over \$43,000 which represents a nearly 170% increase in payments to victims. In addition to the \$60,504.13 paid to victims for the Juvenile Probation Office checking account, there was an additional \$5,387.48 paid to victims directly from the Juvenile Court Restitution Fund over an eight month period during 2006.

We are not exactly sure why these figures have increased so dramatically, however; it could be a combination of several factors. The first factor is that in all cases where

restitution is ordered by the probation officer or the Court, there is a specific payment plan based upon the projected number of months that a child may be under the supervision of the Juvenile Court. The second factor may be that the Juvenile Probation Office routinely files judgments against parents and children who are delinquent in their restitution payments. The third factor may be that the probation staff is becoming more diligent in pursuing restitution payments from parents and children alike as an effort to hold all parties accountable.

Regardless of the reasons, the victims served by our Agency are the major benefactors.

Students help out the Community written by Janine King



Students working at Leslie's House in Connellsville

Students of the Adelphoi Village Fayette Day Treatment Program have been lending a helping hand in the renovation of Leslie's Home, a project being undertaken by the Connellsville Adopt a Block Program. Leslie's Home is designed to be a preventative program to help Connellsville's youth stay off of the streets during those hours they are not in school. The program, which has been in existence for three to four months, has numerous goals that they hope to achieve. The most important of that being helping at risk youths

stay out of trouble within the community. They also hope to be able to provide assistance to those youths already in a bit of trouble by providing alcoholics anonymous and narcotics anonymous classes to those who are in need.

The Day Treatment students have been aiding them in achieving these goals by helping provide manual labor and construction help while also completing the community service requirement of their probation.

The students with the help of Adelphoi Village Fayette Day

Treatment Supervisor, Leslie Strader are lending a hand to make the program a success. For more information on the program please contact Leslie Strader Director of the Adelphoi Village Fayette Day Treatment (724) 626-9579.

In addition to the Leslie House, the students spent some time at the local senior citizen homes, spreading cheer for the holiday season. They presented the seniors with Christmas cards and spent time with them to help ease their lonely holiday blues.

From the Desk of the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer



Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Jerome M. Andria

It's the beginning of a new year and I am very pleased to announce that we are at a full complement of employees. Our most recent additions are James Warrick and Tessa Dusi. Both Jim and Tessa come to us with a wide range of experience and they will no doubt become valuable members of our staff during the months and years to come. Jim will be responsible for the area known as the Outer Banks which includes the Belle Vernon, Frazier, other school district that border Westmoreland County while Tessa will be responsible for those students who attend the Brownsville School District.

On another very positive note, our office has been chosen to become one of the first three counties in Pennsylvania to have their

state wide dispositional reporting system (JCMS) go web based. Beginning on or about February 1, 2007 Fayette along with Greene and Washington counties will be submitting all of our dispositional reports to Shippensburg University real time via the internet. The staff from CJJT&R were in Fayette County for several days where we hosted a regional training at Penn State the Eberly Campus for the three counties involved in this process. Additionally, we are updating our Juvenile Court Restitution Program which we are hoping will make life easier in the area of collecting and distribution of monies received at this office. This is pretty cool stuff – as long as it works.

On my final positive note, our Juvenile Court Restitu-

tion Fund (JCR) is doing quite well. Since beginning the program in April 2006 we have taken in just over \$13,000.00 in revenue. All funds received from this program go directly to pay victims of delinquent behavior and the distribution of the funds is based upon the offenders overall behavior and progress while on probation.

More New Faces at the JPO

Two not-so-new faces will be gracing the halls of the Juvenile Probation Office.

Jim Warrick had been working closely with the JPO as a caseworker for Adelphoi Village’s Alliance and Anchor Houses for the past six years. He started with the JPO on October 30, 2006 replacing Greg Martray. He is a graduate of Connellsville High School and has a degree in Criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Jim will work primarily in

the Frazier, Belle Vernon, and Southmoreland School Districts.

Jim and Sherry, his wife of one and a half years reside in White, PA.

Tessa Dusi is also no stranger to the JPO as she did her college internship here in the Spring of 2001.

Tessa is a 1997 graduate of Albert Gallatin High School and got her degree in Administration of Justice from Penn State in 2002.

She has also worked for

A.S.I. (methadone clinic) in Uniontown as well as with Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services, Inc. (SPHS) and most recently at the Stern Center. She started at the JPO on January 2, 2007.

She will primarily be working in the Brownsville School District.

Tessa and her twenty-month old son Gavin reside in the Fairchance area.



New JPO Officers
Jim Warrick and
Tessa Dusi

Santa Claus Visits the JPO

No one was naughty and everyone was very nice as the biggest (figuratively and literally) Probation Officer of them all came to visit the staff and families of the Juvenile Probation Office.

Santa Claus made face to face contact with numerous children of the JPO staff and went over their supervision plans with their parents twice to make sure no one

was in violation of probation.

Santa was proud to report that all the children received good marks and rewarded them with gifts. Santa however did have some concerns, “I’ll have to double-check about a couple of the adults. Some of them may be getting a lump of coal for Christmas. Ho, ho, ho!”

It was the second year that

Santa has made a special trip from the North Pole to visit the JPO staff and their families, “I love visiting these wonderful people and Mr. Andria (Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Jerome Andria) puts out a fine spread,” says St. Nick.

“I’ll have to double-check about a couple of the adults. Some of them may be getting a lump of coal for Christmas. Ho, ho, ho!”
--Santa Claus



Santa with Wyatt Eicher, Maria Bittner, and Sarah Williams

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The primary mission of the Fayette County Juvenile Probation Office is to protect the community through assessment, treatment, and control of juvenile offenders by providing a range of effective services based on legal requirements and recognized professional standards.

If you have any questions or comments about any material in this newsletter, please contact Michael Lukac at the Fayette County Juvenile Probation Office at (724) 430-1223 ext. 423 or e-mail at mlukac@fayettepa.org.

Send us your comments!

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e-mail at mlukac@fayettepa.org



Vicki Clower of the Crime Victims' Center in Uniontown, PA



Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Jerome Andria addresses the audience at the annual Youth Commission banquet

Fayette County Youth Commission

Despite the very busy holiday season, the volunteers of the Fayette County Youth Commission kept up with the great work that they do year 'round for the Juvenile Probation Office and the children of Fayette County. In addition to supervising first time juvenile offenders, the Youth Commission volunteers participated in two training seminars in November and December.

In the November seminar, Vicki Clower of the Crime Victims' Center in Uniontown made a presentation on Bullying Prevention. The seminar included ways to spot if a child is a victim of a bully; how to prevent a child from being bullied; tips to keep a child from being a bully as well as other information and advice.

Vicki was pinch-hitting for Pat Mowen, the usual facilitator of this seminar, while she was recovering

from an automobile accident. Our best wishes go out to Pat for a speedy recovery.

In Early December, another training seminar was held for the volunteers. Charlie Wortman, a Treatment Program Manager for the Fayette County Drug & Alcohol Commission, Inc., gave a presentation of the Commission's new UCAN or Underage Curriculum for Adolescent Needs Program. UCAN is a five day program that will assist adolescents in re-evaluating their decision to turn to drugs, alcohol, and/or tobacco at an early or illegal age.

Both presentations will be very useful in the Youth Commission's work with first time juvenile offenders.

Also speaking at the December training was Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Jerome Andria. Chief Andria presented some

preliminary outcome measures for juveniles supervised by the Youth Commission in 2006.

Of 14 cases closed in 2006 by the Youth Commission, 100 percent completed the community service hours that were assigned to them. The median school attendance for those juvenile was 87.7 percent and all successfully completed a competency development activity during their period of supervision.

Although the results were preliminary, it is a testament to the great work that the Youth Commission does for their community.

More volunteers are needed particularly in the Albert Gallatin and Brownsville areas. If you are interested or know of someone who may be, please contact Mike Lukac at (724) 430-1223 ext. 423.