

DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

2008 HIGHLIGHTS

Community Based Treatment Centers (CBTC)

- ◆ The goal of developing CBTCs is to allow appropriate juvenile offenders to receive services in small community-based treatment centers where they live with a heavy emphasis on family involvement and effective re-entry and transition services
- ◆ During the past year, the University of Cincinnati (UC) has developed a 120-day cognitive behavioral treatment model to be used at the treatment centers
- ◆ To ensure fidelity to the treatment model, UC will provide ongoing quality assurance and has developed, and will provide, training and coaching for community-based treatment providers that will operate the programs
- ◆ It is anticipated the community-based treatment providers will be selected through a request for proposal process in early 2009, with the first facility being opened later in the year

Population Reduction

- ◆ The DYS population has reduced from an average of 1765 in January 2008 to an average of 1496 in December 2008
- ◆ A 24 bed unit, specific to revocators, opened October 1st, 2008 at SJCF

Family Advocacy Project

- ◆ DYS has received a grant from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (DJFS), in collaboration with the Governor's Office of Faith-Based Initiatives (GOFBI), to create an advocacy program to address parental concerns of youth in DYS institutions and on aftercare
- ◆ Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Programs (UMADAOP) of Cincinnati and the Federation of Ohio UMADAOPs won the award in a competitive process
- ◆ Advocates provided by UMADAOP will establish relationships with families, youth in the custody of DYS, and faith-based, secular and other community organizations to:
 - ◆ Assess youth and families needs
 - ◆ Help families identify strengths and resiliencies to promote more positive interaction
 - ◆ Engage families and DYS youth in pro-social activities
 - ◆ Help families problem solve and identify/access services to address their problems
 - ◆ Assist with juvenile justice, health and human services, housing and educational issues
 - ◆ Empower families and assist them with taking an active role in re-entry planning
- ◆ Over 100 youth/families have received services through this initiative so far

Reentry Jobs Program

- ◆ Using Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds, DYS partnered with DJFS to provide a reentry initiative that focuses on employment readiness, job placement and mentoring for DYS youth
- ◆ To date, the WIA Jobs Program has served over 500 juvenile offenders returning to Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Stark, Summit and Medina Counties
- ◆ Youth involved in this initiative has seen a 51% employment rate and 40% of the participants have received their high school diploma, GED or vocational certificate while enrolled in the program

Parole Process Reform

- ◆ Collaboration continued with UC to review and modify the DYS release process
- ◆ In April, a stakeholder forum was held and input was given on the DYS release process
- ◆ A taskforce was formed and met throughout the summer to create a draft Release Authority plan that was submitted and is under review
- ◆ Work with UC has begun to determine "best practices" as they pertain to supervision and aftercare

DYS 2008 Highlights

- ◆ Special release review panels were conducted in Feb/May 2008 to identify youth at, or past, their minimum sentence expiration date (MSED), who could receive appropriate services from the community

Behavioral Health

- ◆ J-SOAP II has been moved from Reception to the receiving facilities (CJCF and CHJCF) in order to support the incorporation of the results into treatment rather than classification
- ◆ The three tier Sex Offender Treatment program has been integrated into a Standard Curriculum and a Low Need Curriculum where more emphasis on individualized needs is available
- ◆ Mental Health Units (MHU) are following a system of care model related to intensity of behavior manifested by the mental health disorder of the youth
- ◆ The Trauma Affect Regulation: Guide for Education and Therapy (TARGET) curriculum has been incorporated into treatment on the Intensive Mental Health Units and is being expanded for all of the female general population units and outcome data is being collected on the impact of this program
- ◆ Comfort Rooms are available on the Mental Health Units and on the female general population units per Policy 403.36 Trauma-Informed Care Services

Certification of State-wide Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Programs

- ◆ Since the enactment of Senate Bill 10, all community based sex offender programs for juveniles can receive certification of program operations from DYS
- ◆ DYS has established a Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment Program Certification Advisory Board to administer juvenile sex offender program certification in Ohio
- ◆ Twelve applications for certification have been received to date and eight certifications have been issued

Education

- ◆ The overall GED passage rate for the Buckeye United School District was 83%; the state average of 79%
- ◆ The Customized Student Learning System's roll-out was completed at every DYS school
- ◆ Over 700 computers were installed and a system for work orders has been developed to provide ongoing technical assistance
- ◆ A middle school curriculum was developed and is housed at Indian River High School and Ralph C. Starkey High School (Circleville)
- ◆ Many policies and procedures were submitted to the education consultant for review and feedback
- ◆ The Ohio Department of Education conducted a full audit of special education services in four DYS schools, and will continue evaluating the remaining four schools in 2009
- ◆ During 2008, 53 diplomas were distributed and 315 GEDs were awarded *

	High School Diplomas	GED
Luther Ball (CHJCF)	13	64 (82% passage rate)
Ralph Starkey (CJCF)	16	13 (76% passage rate)
Louis Bromfield (MOJCF)	3	34 (88% passage rate)
Hickory Grove (MAJCF)	3	44 (84% passage rate)
Tecumseh (ORV)	10	43 (65% passage rate)
Indian River (IRJCF)	7	83 (89% passage rate)
William K Willis (SJCF & FC)	1	34 (85% passage rate)

*as of 1/7/08, numbers may not include all tests taken in December 2008

DYS 2008 Highlights

Community Facilities & Education

- ◆ DYS has begun a partnership with the Department of Education to improve the delivery of educational services to youth in Ohio's juvenile justice continuum
- ◆ By enhancing both agencies' administrative rules, a framework was established for local school districts' to partner more effectively with juvenile justice residential programs in delivering each youth's education
- ◆ The new rules will allow greater access to the State's existing school funding process and bring additional resources to youth in juvenile justice facilities

Medical

- ◆ All medical policies have been submitted to the monitoring team and are being updated by DYS medical staff
- ◆ Benchmarking for a peer review process has begun for nurses and physicians
- ◆ The contract physician hours at SJCF have increased allowing the Medical Director to perform additional oversight for the Department
- ◆ DYS Medical and OSU Psychiatry Services are currently working on an 'Agreement for Medication' form that can be easily understood and used by youth
- ◆ Chronic care clinics are being provided at all facilities and recommendations for policy revisions of monitoring team member Dr. Shansky have been completed

Staffing

- ◆ A staffing post analysis was completed for all facilities
- ◆ Nearly 100 JCOs were hired from a large pool of applicants, consistent with the Stipulation Agreement requirements
- ◆ Mandating overtime has decreased significantly
- ◆ In April 2008, an extra week, called KIDS week, was added to pre-service
- ◆ KIDS Week program consists of the 3-day Advanced Verbal Strategies session, followed by planned intervention, positive reinforcement, and scenario-based training

Unit Management

- ◆ A "Pocket Guide to Unit Management" was created to provide an overview of the concept and underscore the importance of teamwork
- ◆ The theme, "DYSynergy at Work!" reinforces the need for adherence to the Unit Management model throughout the Department
- ◆ The Unit Management module at Pre-Service training has been revamped to include an interactive exercise entitled, "Unit Management Pursuit: There's Nothing *Trivial* About It" to emphasize that from the beginning of an employee's DYS career, the Unit Management concepts direct how DYS facilities operate
- ◆ A team of three facilitators trained the Marion Juvenile Correctional Facility Unit Management Team (including Unit Managers, Unit Manager Administrator and the Direct Deputy) on November 5th and 6th 2008
- ◆ The remaining facilities will be trained on-site over the next few months

Role of JCO

- ◆ Beginning in August 2008, Deputy Director of Facility Programs and Operations, or a member of this division's staff began briefing each Pre-Service class, primarily made up of JCOs, on how the role of the JCO will be changing from a sideline supervisor to a supervisor who is more engaged and who is involved with the youth in meaningful activities and programs
- ◆ A joint Labor / Management committee was formed with the purpose of defining and redefining JCO roles as part of providing continuous treatment to youth

DYS 2008 Highlights

Investigations

- ◆ The backlog of investigations that existed when the Stipulation Agreement was signed in May, has been caught up
- ◆ Additional investigators have been hired to enable the Chief Inspector Office to investigate critical incidents in a timely manner
- ◆ A weekly case management review was developed to ensure investigations remain timely

Grievances

- ◆ A youth forum was held to get feedback regarding improvements to the grievance process
- ◆ The grievance policy is being drafted for review with the subject matter expert

Conflict Management

- ◆ A 'Conflict Management for Youth' curriculum was developed for DYS by the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution
- ◆ Staff have been trained on administering conflict resolution training for youth
- ◆ In June 2008, the youth training program was piloted and over 200 youth were enrolled in the program
- ◆ In October 2008, the program was rolled out at all facilities and an additional 850 youth were enrolled in the program

Management of Youth Resistance

- ◆ Management of Youth Resistance national consultant, Steve Martin, conducted two workshops for DYS Administrators
- ◆ Mr. Martin worked with the DYS Chief Inspector and other DYS inspectors to discuss ways to improve management of youth resistance investigations
- ◆ Mr. Martin also conducted a workshop with OCSEA/AFSCME Union Presidents from each facility, Labor Relations officers, DYS Central Office personnel and Union Headquarters officials to provide a review of the law and how it applies to Management of Youth Resistance
- ◆ An action plan was developed that encompasses policy revision, management of youth resistance program evaluation and training, pre-service training update, annual in-service training update, planned intervention training for supervisors, specialized training and labor management support training
- ◆ The DYS Management of Youth Resistance policies, along with a summary of the training proposal, were approved by Mr. Martin

Youth Classification

- ◆ A security classification process has been developed to determine the risk a youth poses to the safety of the institution
- ◆ In late September, national consultant Jim Austin reviewed and approved the classification instruments and current draft policy
- ◆ UC provided MIS with the new reclassification tool to be developed into an electronic instrument
- ◆ All institutional staff will be trained on the new Classification policy and process by July 9, 2009

American Correctional Association (ACA) Accreditation

- ◆ All 12 Community Corrections Facilities have achieved accreditation through the ACA
- ◆ CJCF, IRJCF, and MaJCF all received ACA reaccredited

DYS Master Plan

- ◆ A Master Plan has been created to track the progress of implementing initiatives and provisions of the *S.H. v. Stickrath* Stipulation Agreement

DYS 2008 Highlights

Other areas

- ◆ A recent PbS survey indicates that the youth feel safer in our institutions than they did six months ago
- ◆ The agency is on track to reduce the cost of youth phone calls to families per the recommendations of the Youth Call Out Phone System task force
- ◆ Parole days were held at the facilities to allow the youth, the parole staff, Release Authority and social workers to meet and plan the youth's reentry together
- ◆ Talks were held with the Marion County Prosecutor's Office regarding shortening the bind-over and criminal charge process, both operationally and with long-term legislative changes
- ◆ DYS facilitated a grant through the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention to fund an additional Marion County Assistant Prosecutor to help address the backlog of youth awaiting prosecution
- ◆ A labor / management committee has submitted recommendations on managing STG activity, some of which will be included in the Master Plan
- ◆ The length of stay at reception reduced from 40+ days to an average of 25 days
- ◆ Bob Evans partnered with SJCF to develop a youth training program where youth will be trained on food service principals (Serve-Safe, etc) and then participate in this project to learn to cook "Bob Evans' Way"
- ◆ The Bob Evans project will be housed at the DYS Training Academy and will open for lunch in early 2009
- ◆ DYS, in collaboration with DRC, DMH, DJFS, worked on an agreement to expedite Medicaid coverage for eligible youth upon release from DYS or other public facilities

Cuyahoga Hills JCF (CHJCF):

- ◆ Several special events were held including a 'Fun Day', a track and field day, youth scrapbooking project, JCO sponsored level movie night, and a 2nd shift "So you think you have talent?" contest for the entire youth population
- ◆ CHJCF youth with positive behavior went to Scioto (SJCF) to swim in the indoor pool
- ◆ A Teen Dad's Group has begun as well as an Honor/Merit Roll Board Game Day (after school)
- ◆ Several behavioral incentives are up and running including lunch with the Superintendent, and 'The Apple Competition' between units
- ◆ The CHJCF Executive Staff adopted a unit to play corn hole with on late nights
- ◆ Opening Doors program came to the facility on October 16th and 17th
- ◆ The recreation department sponsored a Hoop it Up for Hurricane Relief fund where staff sponsored youth teams and raised \$280
- ◆ The CHJCF youth Flag Football Team won the DYS Pumpkin Bowl at Circleville and received a party which included food from McDonalds
- ◆ Social Workers continued to use the unit reward jugs to reward youth who they see are doing a good job and showing effort
- ◆ Youth tended a garden and were taught how to use items they grew and make them into a meal
- ◆ Education sponsored a 'Straight A' luncheon where each student invited the staff member who has had the biggest impact on them while at CHJCF
- ◆ Education sponsored a "Whale Done" for students and staff who have done something positive, hands out Character Counts certificates for progress made in the classroom and hallways, and sponsors Honor roll and Merit Roll movie and treat events
- ◆ A CHJCF JCO arranged for several guest speakers to come to the facility to speak about life skills

Circleville JCF (CJCF)

- ◆ Special events for the youth included a Youth Fair Day, Fall Festival, Master Gardener Program, Harry Potter Reading Program, Facility Beautification Project
- ◆ The youth participated in intramurals including flag football games, hosting the CJCF Pumpkin Bowl, and DYS facility vs. volunteer basketball games
- ◆ CJCF JCOs have worked with the youth Drill Team, held a Poetry Corner, assisted the youth in developing an inspirational play, and served as the institution's assistant football coach

DYS 2008 Highlights

- ◆ A CJCF JCO held a Health & Fitness Class as well as assisted with Victim Awareness
- ◆ JCOs lead a mentorship program on the unit, and assist with AA/NA activities/group
- ◆ A CJCF Unit Manager (UM) put together a youth Mime Team
- ◆ A Kairos Torch Weekend for the youth was held
- ◆ A Non-Intensive Mental Health Unit Reflection Room was established for youth
- ◆ CJCF Honor Guard presented Colors at an event for Youngstown State University
- ◆ Ralph C. Starkey High School had 27 youth graduate with a diploma/GED
- ◆ Youth were involved with several community service opportunities including the Pickaway County Food Bank, Adopt a Highway, Red Cross 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament set up, and Crafts with Convictio Production Crayons to Computers program
- ◆ Many volunteer-led events happened including Kairos Torch & Volunteer Mentoring (March & November), Mission Youth faith based band outdoor concert, Sons of God Motorcycle Ministry, and UMADOAP Violence Prevention Program

Freedom Center (FC)

- ◆ Youth helped to deliver crocheted blankets to Columbus Nursing Home residents and the Church of the Resurrection
- ◆ JCOs coordinated the FC Girl's Improvisational Dance Troupe, and supervised all the girls' fund-raising activities, as well as an off grounds fishing and horseback riding event and the crochet community service project
- ◆ A Partnership was established for a Women in Recovery volunteer program which will begin in 2009
- ◆ The girls at FC choose staff that have been particularly helpful to attend their level lunches
- ◆ Social Workers have individually coordinated an Intersession Meal cooked with the girls on their caseloads during Intersession
- ◆ FC girls participated in a community service program with Children's Hospital
- ◆ A Youth Council was developed
- ◆ The Church of Resurrection Women's Group worked with the girls on a gardening project and taught them how to crochet blankets for needy families
- ◆ The Annual Camp Mary Orton Retreat for all staff and girls was held
- ◆ A panel of FC girls presented at the Juvenile Judges Annual Conference, the Women's Wellness Forum Annual Conference, Parks and Recreation, the Church of the Resurrection Women's Group, and the OC-CSA Conference
- ◆ A Family Day was held involving 47 family members
- ◆ Youth who were eligible voted in the presidential election
- ◆ The Improvisational FC Dance Troupe performed at the Karl Road Christian Center in Columbus

Mohican JCF (MoJCF)

- ◆ Six MoJCF youth attended an Ashland University football game and performed community service following the game
- ◆ Youth traveled to Malabar Farm two times per week to provide community service by assisting at Heritage Days, feeding animals, splitting wood and helping the Farm prepare for winter
- ◆ Youth worked with the Bill Harris car dealership to learn job skills
- ◆ Three youth assisted with setting up for the local Loudonville Street Fair
- ◆ MoJCF had 24 youth in the WIA Jobs Reentry program
- ◆ Recreation Staff and JCOs supervised several youth projects including making 250 Halloween-themed bookmarkers for the Loudonville Library, making pictures and cards for the Jack-Lin Manor Nursing Home residents, and decorations for the Perrysville 4-H club
- ◆ Fifty MoJCF youth attended the on grounds Halloween Party
- ◆ Recreation staff and community volunteers have been leading a group of 8-10 youth in crocheting hats, scarves and sweaters for children each Thursday evening

DYS 2008 Highlights

- ◆ Recreation staff and JCOs accompanied 12 MoJCF youth to CJCF and had a great day participating in flag football
- ◆ Mohican hosted 3 off grounds youth shopping trips for youths that were about to be released to help in transitioning them back into the community
- ◆ Four youth went to “Toy Time” in Mansfield two times a week to clean, repair, assemble, and distribute bikes for under-privileged families
- ◆ Two Epiphany weekends were held with nearly 50 youth attending
- ◆ Hocking Community, Cincinnati State, Columbus State, and Dayton Barber College have accepted several MoJCF youth to college
- ◆ WIA Jobs Reentry program was held twice a month for 20 youth, many who have been released are now working full time in the community
- ◆ A Youth Council was established consisting of a youth Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator from each unit

Indian River JCF (IRJCF)

- ◆ A Fun Day was held that included several “carnival-like” games, special food for the youth and music
- ◆ A Youth Talent Contest was held in the gym and several youth participated by displaying their rapping, dancing, poetic and vocal talents
- ◆ An IRJCF youth designed the winning logo to represent the Buckeye Local School District
- ◆ An IRJCF youth participated in an Art Show hosted by Central Office and was able to sell several paintings
- ◆ IRJCF hosted the annual DYS Softball Tournament
- ◆ IRJCF hosted an Epiphany Weekend with very positive comments reported from the youth
- ◆ IRJCF conducted its first annual Olympics during intercession with a medal ceremony held during the first week of October to celebrate the youth’s accomplishments
- ◆ A Family Day for the Reentry Program was held with many families in attendance
- ◆ A ‘Bill Glass Day of Champions’ program was held with 30 volunteers participating
- ◆ Representatives from the Stark County Board of Elections were at Indian River to assist approximately 60 youth register to vote
- ◆ Several youth from the Cincinnati area who have not received a visit from their families in over a year were transported to the Cincinnati Region for a visit
- ◆ IRJCF had 25 graduates in May with approximately 150 guests in attendance at the ceremony
- ◆ A Christmas Cantata holiday performance was held by the youth including a youth choir and the IRJCF Step Team

Marion JCF (MaJCF)

- ◆ Youth and staff provided community service to the Marion Red Cross, Marion Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and “Crayons to Computers.”
- ◆ Youth actively assisted in preparation for the ACA Audit and attended the closeout as well
- ◆ Youth participated in voting registration and absentee ballots for the presidential election
- ◆ Staff participated in events like Correctional Employees Appreciation Week cookout and service awards, an Employee Recognition Cookout, and two ‘All-Staff’ Town Hall Meetings for all 3 shifts to share information and solicit staff feedback
- ◆ 10 living units and 4 building entrances were painted
- ◆ New laundry procedures were developed which allocated one set of clothing to each youth each day, and as a result, reduced theft, destruction, and costs
- ◆ 30 volunteers from UMADAOP worked with 30 youth to acquire Phase 1 Rites of Passage certification, and youth completed their orientation
- ◆ Monthly Youth Council Meetings began to ensure youth have a voice regarding quality of life issues and institutional changes
- ◆ The Youth Level System was implemented to provide incentives and positive reinforcement of pro-social

DYS 2008 Highlights

youth behaviors

- ◆ 60 youth completed Intensive 3-day Ohio Violence Prevention Process, which addresses the roots of violence and trauma-related issues

Scioto JCF (SJCF)

- ◆ A multi-disciplinary team consisting of Juvenile Correctional Officers, Unit Managers, Social Worker, General Activity Therapist, Psychologist, Program Administrator, Social Worker Supervisor, Program Deputy Superintendent and two female youth developed PROOF, a strength based positive behavior management system
- ◆ Girls Circle Facilitator Training was conducted by national trainers in July 2008 for social workers, psychology staff, unit managers and selected juvenile correctional officers
- ◆ Comfort rooms were established on each of the girl's units to have available a space for the girls to practice self regulation of their emotions to better control their anti-social behaviors
- ◆ There has been a dramatic drop in the number of youth on suicide watch
- ◆ The University of Life is offering their life skills programming for graduates 2-3 times each week
- ◆ SJCF has made many improvements to the physical plant of the recreation areas
- ◆ SJCF staff are planning and participating in activities like a cereal party for the youth, unit incentive pizza parties, game nights, "stay up late" night, and "Cleanest Room of the Week" contest with the winner eating a meal from Wendy's with the UM
- ◆ SJCF girls who participated on the panel for Woman's Advocacy were invited by State Representative Joyce Beatty to her dress shop in Columbus where she gave them each an outfit for when they return home
- ◆ An Occupational Therapist and a member of the Recreation Staff have worked together to develop and facilitate a selection of recreational activities for the girls mental health unit
- ◆ On Sycamore Unit, a daily morning fitness group is facilitated which includes weight lifting, cardio, and fitness tips
- ◆ The Cognitive Based Therapy pilot program "New Directions" began Oct. 1, 2008 on Cedar unit for high-risk revocation male youth

Ohio River Valley JCF (ORVJCF)

- ◆ A JCO coordinated a partnership with the Concord Township Fire Department where youth paint, wash fire trucks, and do general maintenance
- ◆ Unit Managers and Social Workers coordinated incentive parties for youth demonstrating positive behavior
- ◆ A teacher worked with students to create a lobby mural
- ◆ A Human Resource employee coordinated a youth choir
- ◆ Recreation staff and JCOs have coordinated and participated in youth intramural sporting activities with other sites
- ◆ Recreation staff and JCOs worked with youth to complete community service at area parks
- ◆ Educational field trips were taken including to the Portsmouth Library, the Portsmouth Murals, the Tri-State Worship Center by the electrical students, and to a Boy Scout camp with masonry students utilizing skills to help the camp
- ◆ Youth were involved in several community service projects including putting shoe boxes together for Operation Christmas Child, and assisting with the setting up of horse stalls for the Scioto County Fair
- ◆ A youth received first place in the Art Show at the Scioto County Fair
- ◆ The youth and staff softball game took place
- ◆ Recreation sponsored a youth flag football game with Unit Morgan crowned as the new champs
- ◆ 14 Youth participated in the Expression Event
- ◆ Over 30 volunteers from 'Bikers for Christ' rode motorcycles to the facility and conducted a program
- ◆ The Cedarville University Men's Basketball Team held a one day clinic for youth

DYS 2008 Highlights

- ◆ Daddy and Me Event was held where youth who are fathers had a special visit with their children
- ◆ Youth in electrical vocational program renovating an community building

Akron Regional Office

- ◆ The Youth Engagement team sponsored an appreciation luncheon for the Akron Region volunteers
- ◆ Akron Region youth provided a helping hand to the Mahoning County Potential Development Program as they moved into their new building
- ◆ The Akron Regional staff participated in the annual Healthy Ohio fitness walk
- ◆ The Mahoning County Reentry team that includes a JPO, Juvenile Court Magistrate, Reclaim Coordinator, and the court officer of Faith Based Initiatives, made quarterly visits to DYS institutions
- ◆ The Akron Region, in collaboration with the Summit County Juvenile Court, developed a Parole evening accountability check and warrant execution program with the Akron Police Department and the Summit County Sheriff's Department
- ◆ The Summit County Reentry Court continued to review paroled youth on a weekly or bi-monthly basis and have seen a reduction in the number of revocations and recommitments and an increase in compliance with community-based programming
- ◆ True North Ministries, a Faith-based organization which provides services to youth at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility and Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility, expanded their services to include a community service project for Summit County youth on parole

Cincinnati Regional Office

- ◆ Victim Awareness Groups were held quarterly including presentations with victims of crime who were able to express their experience with the youth
- ◆ Youth were able to complete community service hours assisting with the set up and break-down of the Black Family Reunion program held annually in downtown Cincinnati
- ◆ Youth participated in the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission (CHRC) project management program, and one youth was hired by CHRC to be a youth mentor with the program
- ◆ Staff participated in Ceasefire Cincinnati, a community policing partnership that involves entities from the police force, courts, probation and parole, the schools, local churches and community leadership to help reduce crime in high crime areas
- ◆ Staff took youth to register to vote
- ◆ Volunteer-led activities included attending a University of Cincinnati (UC) basketball game, visits to the institutions, transporting a parent to see a youth who had not had any visits from his mother, and home and treatment facility visits with youth
- ◆ The staff gave out a holiday food basket to a paroled youth and his family

Cleveland Regional Office

- ◆ 16 females transitioned from the institution to a therapeutic residential setting for 90 days as a part of the Girl's Step-down Project; 13 were successfully discharged from Parole
- ◆ Working with the Attorney General's Comprehensive Anti-gang Initiative in Cuyahoga County, youth in DYS from 7 pre-determined high gang activity zip codes were targeted for specific reentry planning
- ◆ The Cuyahoga County Reentry Court began operation and to date over 30 youth have been accepted for participation under the Specialized Docket Court, transitioning through supervision and compliance phases that required either weekly, biweekly or monthly appearances
- ◆ A recent graduate of the Reentry Court has been accepted to college
- ◆ The region participated in the City of Cleveland Project Focus, a collaboration of the City with law enforcement, the schools, the Juvenile Court, Parole, and community providers to invite youth and families to attend neighborhood meetings to reduce incidents of gang violence
- ◆ Regional staff donated food products and a basket was given to one family in each of the three Parole units

DYS 2008 Highlights

- ◆ A female youth was accepted into the Job Corps program and is currently living on-site in the dormitories of the newly built, state of the art, Job Corps Center in Cleveland
- ◆ Two female youth were recognized for participating in a community service project where 90 fleece lap blankets were made and distributed to homebound seniors in the Marysville area

Columbus Regional Office

- ◆ Columbus Region partnered with Goodwill Columbus to develop a Culinary Apprenticeship and Retail Program to help youth develop employment skills and training
- ◆ Collaboration began with Ohio State University's (OSU) Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) staff to offer additional services for our parolees and develop a screening tool to use for referrals into the program
- ◆ A Volunteer/Mentor recruitment Kick-off was hosted where over 50 people attended to meet with youth and staff
- ◆ The region participated in the OSU Non-Profit Career Fair to solicit Volunteers/Mentors and Student Interns
- ◆ Region staff provided food baskets to 4 paroled youth and their families of youth during the holidays
- ◆ Partnership began with the City of Columbus police department to apprehend youth who were Absent from Parole (AFP) and return them to active parole status
- ◆ The ArtSafe Program started working with youth on parole in Franklin County
- ◆ The Athens, Hocking, and Vinton Reentry Team has been consistently able to maintain monthly visits with institutional youth, which has helped with our successful reentry of these youth into the community

Dayton Regional Office

- ◆ In October, eight youth participated in an all day mentoring and educational day at Wilberforce University
- ◆ Several youth performed community service at the House of Bread
- ◆ Intensive Family Re-Unification Therapy was initiated and completed with five youth and their families by the Regional Psychologist
- ◆ Reentry Court in Montgomery County celebrated their 3 year anniversary in December and continues to show positive results through the leadership of Judge Kuntz and Judge Capizzi
- ◆ Judicial Release Court in Montgomery County reviewed all youth who committed a F-3, F-4, and F-5 crime, both at the midpoint and prior to the MSED, and has continued to show both positive recidivism results as well as reducing the institutional population

Toledo Region

- ◆ The Toledo Region partnered with the Toledo Police Department in the Violence Intervention Project (VIP) to curb gang related activities and involvement in the Toledo area
- ◆ Along with other government entities and other service providers, the Toledo Region worked to offer free monthly service events to give youth and their families access to the Ohio Benefits Bank, Bureau of Motor vehicles, employment and education services, mentoring, family engagement and more
- ◆ A regional database of all youth that are parents has been created to give these youth special attention to parenting, family services, and reunification
- ◆ Toledo partnered with Parents Helping Parents to encourage youth to be actively involved with their children
- ◆ Weekly mentoring groups, led by several community volunteers, meet to discuss job application completion, community services options, college applications, and financial aid
- ◆ The Toledo Region has partnered with the University of Toledo, Lourdes College and Bowling Green State University to offer non-paid internships in the regional office to the college's students
- ◆ Youth provided community service at Camp Miakonda at the DeVilbiss Scout Reservation and have the opportunity for employment with the Camp upon their completion of community service
- ◆ The Toledo region partnered with Harbor Behavioral Healthcare and the Lucas County Juvenile Court to maintain a solid continuum of care for sex offenders that are returning to the community