

# Mahoning Kids Matter



Mahoning County  
Children Services

SPRING 2018



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**Child Abuse & Neglect Report Line**  
**330.941.8888**

If you suspect child abuse or neglect, report to Mahoning County Children Services 24/7, evenings, weekends, holidays.

**COVER PHOTO:** An East High School Junior Army ROTC Student helps "plant" pinwheels for a "Pinwheel Garden Display" at Boardman Park. For complete story see page 3.

**National Child Abuse Prevention Month  
Prompts Community Awareness Events in April**

## Human Trafficking Trainings Held for Child Welfare Case Workers

It's been reported that millions of people are enslaved around the world today. Half are believed to be children. In the United States, 100,000 -300,000 U.S. born children are commercially and sexually exploited victims of domestic trafficking.

Officer Ken Lawson (pictured) with the Columbus Division of Police, Columbus, Ohio, presented **"Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery"** at Mahoning County Children Services.



PHOTO BY: JENNIFER T. KOLLAR/MCCS

## Mahoning County Children Services & WYTV Partner to "Keep Kids Safe"

Kicking off National Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month in April, Mahoning County Children Services joined WYTV's "Keeping Kids Safe Campaign." Keeping kids safe is a constant topic on every parent and caregiver's mind. As technology evolves, topics such as human trafficking, cyberbullying, mental health and safety in schools have become the focus in communities across the nation.

This growing concern has prompted a new partnership with to provide important information. 33 WYTV News has teamed up with Mahoning County Children Services and local law enforcement to launch a new initiative aimed at keeping children safe while also educating caregivers on the dangers that kids, teens and even young adults can fall victim to.

Every Monday night for the next year, 33 WYTV News will bring you stories that give a better insight into the dangers our kids are facing today and what experts say we can do about it.

## Child Abuse & Neglect Awareness is Pinwheel Event's Goal

**P**inwheels for Prevention, an annual community event, aims to recognize and increase awareness of National Child Abuse Prevention In April.

Now in it's 13th year, the event is co-sponsored by Mahoning County Children Services and Akron Children's Hospital's Advocacy Center. This year's event was held on April 13th at the Holiday Inn Boardman. The event featured keynote speaker, David Kohout, author of *Standing in the Presence of Greatness*, and founder of "Talk is Cheap," a national program focusing on instilling hope in the lives of young people. Also featured, remarks from "Bull," President, Erie Shores Ohio Bikers Against Child Abuse. Also participating were: East High School Junior ROTC, and Boardman High School Jazz Ensemble.



**Dave Kohout**  
Author and National Motivational Speaker served as the 2018 Pinwheels Event Keynote Presenter



Each year a Community Spotlight Award is presented to individuals or organizations who demonstrate continued generosity, commitment and community service to Mahoning County

Children. This year's award was presented to members of the East High School Junior Army ROTC students under the direction of Army Master Sergeant Douglas Moon.

A new "Blue Award" made its debut as the signature award—which starting at this event will be given

to every Spotlight Award recipient. The Blue glass award was chosen not only because of its brilliant blue hue which is the national symbol and color for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention but because of unique shape which can be interpreted as symbolizing a flame or even a pinnacle. The blue flame serves as a tangible reminder that each one of us has the ability to ignite change through advocacy, good works and helping others achieve their highest or best.



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*All Photos by Patty Amendolea*

1. "Bull," President, Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA) Erie Shores Ohio Chapter explains BACA's Mission.
2. Master Sergeant Douglas Moon and East High School's Army Junior ROTC student members are the recipients of the 2018 Community Spotlight Award
3. Andrea Mistovich, Coordinator, Child Advocacy Center at Akron Children's Hospital and Pinwheels for Prevention Co-Event Director
4. Rev. Lewis Macklin, Mahoning Co. Children Services' Advisory Committee Member and past Chairman of MCCS Board, delivered the Invocation.
5. Jennifer Kollar, Public Information Officer, Mahoning County Children Services and Pinwheels for Prevention Event Co-Director introduces the Community Spotlight Recipients.
6. East High School Junior ROTC Color Guard
7. Boardman High School Jazz Ensemble, directed by Mr. Tom Ruggeri. The band will perform a tribute to The Beatles.
8. Members of the Boardman High School Jazz Ensemble performed several Beatles hits including closing the event with an amazing rendition of "With A Little Help from My Friends."

## No Matter the Weather, Annual Pinwheel Garden is ‘Planted’



**It takes an Army to Plant a Pinwheel Garden:** The East High School Junior Army ROTC students helped plant over 2,000 pinwheels in Boardman Park to raise awareness of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.



**Rainy Day Pinwheel Planters:** A little rain cannot keep us away!



**Pinwheel Event Co-Directors**



**Pinwheels Spin in the Wind at Boardman Park to raise awareness of Child Abuse Prevention.**

Each April pinwheels no matter the weather—sun, rain, sleet or snow are “planted” in communities across the nation to raise awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month. The pinwheel is the national symbol for child abuse and neglect prevention. The pinwheels represent individuals who advocated and took action on behalf of a child.

Mahoning County Children Services and Akron Children’s Hospital partner with students from East High School’s Junior Army ROTC Program to ‘plant’ a Pinwheel Garden. Over the years, the pinwheels have been on display at various locations throughout the county including Akron Children’s Hospital, Boardman Campus, Downtown Youngstown. For the last three years, the Pinwheel Garden has been displayed on the front lawn of Boardman Park facing U.S. Route 224, one the busiest commercial traffic corridors in the county. The pinwheels were on display the whole month of April.

### FAST FACTS:

The pinwheel and the color blue are the national symbols and color for Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention.

## Competition Heats Up On The Hardwood Youngstown Fire Department Snags Win from Sheriff's 27 –25

For a friendly back-yard rivalry, the competition was fierce at the now Annual Above the Rim Basketball Event. The Youngstown Fire Department snared the win 27 to 25 from the Mahoning County Sheriff's. This is YPD's second consecutive win for the Championship.

With a new event venue at Cardinal Mooney High School, the 2018 event, now in its 4th year, has expanded from a 2-team competition to a 4- team tournament. Teams included: Youngstown Fire, Youngstown Police, Youngstown Water Department and the Mahoning County Sheriff's Office.

After two semifinal games, the Fire Department and the Sheriff's Department advanced to face off in the "Battle of the Blue Championship Game"



**Why Blue:** "Battle of the Blue Championship Game" is named in honor of National Child Abuse and Neglect Month as blue is the national and official color.

**Background:** The Above the Rim Basketball Event is planned, hosted and sponsored by the Mahoning County Children Services' Citizens Committee and aims to accomplish three goals:

- Raise awareness about Mahoning County Children Services.
- Raise funds and fun in order to continue a stable base of funding for Children Services.
- The event is held in April to also raise awareness of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Celebration: Team YFD: 2018 "Battle of the Blue" Championship Game Winners.



Teri & Marisa 50/50 Raffle Team



Boy Scout Troop #115



Game Officials



Lynette Brown performs the National Anthem



Jones Dance Academy Half Time Activities



The Scrappy & Pete Show



Bobby Litch—Event MC & DJ

# BATTLE OF THE BLUE



**Mahoning County Sheriff's Office**



**Youngtown Police Department**



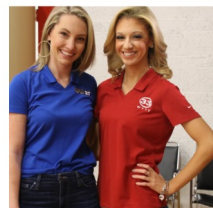
**Youngtown Water Department**



**Cutest Cheerleader**



**High Fives with Scrappy**



**WYTV News Anchors**



**Half Court Contest Contestants**

## Event Thank You

### Opening Ceremonies

**Presentation of National Colors**  
Boy Scout Troop #115, Canfield, Ohio

**National Anthem**  
Lynette Brown, First Lady of Youngstown

### Game Officials

David Hight, Certified Referee  
Anthony Spano, Certified Referee  
Charles Williams, Certified Referee

**Scoreboard Officials**  
Cardinal Mooney Staff

**Event Photographer**  
Sixty 2 Photography

**Half Time Activities**  
Jones Dance Academy Dancers

## Many, Many Thanks to Our Event Sponsors

### Main Event Sponsors

Barry Dyngles Restaurant  
Buckeye Health Plan  
Cardinal Mooney High School  
Lamar Outdoor  
Paramount Advantage  
Mahoning County Children Services  
Citizens Committee

### Center Court Sponsors

Denise DeBartolo York  
RL Smith Graphics  
Soup City Designs

### Court Side Sponsors

Bobby DJ  
Rona Curtis  
Sixty 2 Photography  
Thomas H. Kollar

### Sideline Sponsors

Joe Paloski  
Pepsi Beverages Company  
Things Remembered

## 2018 Above the Rim Event Planning Team

**Jennifer T. Kollar, Event Director**

Susan Babinec	Robert Gessler
Magaret Baker	Kristy Gustovich
Josh Cayson	Bobby Litch
Teri Cercone	Marisa Litch
Theresa Cramer	Nikki Posterli
Rona Curtis	Rachel Schiele
Debbie DeCecco	Brittany Snyder
Natalie Finamore	

*All Photos by Sixty 2 Photography/Catherine Miller*



**Our Fans are Little but Mighty**

## Annual Dinner Expresses Deep Appreciation to Mahoning County Foster Parents



our County's most vulnerable and at-risk children.

This year's event was held May 4th at The Holiday Inn Boardman. "Having Someone To Love is Family" was the theme. Special keynote speaker, Karen Vadino kept the audience laughing with her presentation on the importance of finding humor in difficult and everyday situations.



A long-time Mahoning County Children Services tradition is to support and honor National Foster Care Month with an annual *Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner*. The event is designed to provide a night out and to celebrate, thank and recognize the agency's current licensed Foster Parents for providing unconditional love, support, stability and security to

## Thank You Easter Bunnies!

Thank You Easter Bunnies! We are so thankful and blessed for each of our donors. Your kindness and generosity will help make the Easter Holiday a little Happier and Brighter for Mahoning County Kids!

- **Shepherd of the Valley Boardman Residents & Staff**
- **Linda Romisher and Friends at Inner Circle Poland**
- **The Coitsville**
- **Saddle-ites 4-H Club**



Thank You Shepherd of the Valley Boardman!



Thank You Linda & Inner Circle Poland!!

## Local Woman's Blanket Ministry Comforts Children



Wanda Marland's mission is all about blanketing individuals and children in need with comfort. In 2005, Wanda created "The Comfort Blanket Ministry" to comfort individuals and children experiencing difficult life situations by giving them a comfort blanket. Many of the blankets donated are beautiful hand-sewn quilts (like the one pictured).

Wanda has literally "blanketed" the Valley with comfort. Her Comfort Blanket Ministry has reached many local agencies such as The Rescue Mission, Protestant Family Services, Akron Children's Hospital, Sojourner House. Her blanket ministry has also gone international with comfort blankets sent to Russian orphans and to missionaries in Spain and India!

Three years ago, Wanda expanded her blanket ministries to include more local children. She is now working with Mahoning County Children Services to provide special "Birthday Bags" for children in foster care. Each month and throughout the year, Wanda will ensure that each child in foster care will receive a Birthday Bag on their birthday filled with a special comfort blanket and other age-appropriate items or toys.

**MISSION:** Mahoning County Children Services, in partnership with the community, is committed to being the leader in protecting children while helping preserve families.

# About Us

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## • NEW ROLES • NEW FACES •



MCCS | Ohio Wears Blue Day 2018

**Get the Blue Out:** MCCS staffers wear blue for "Ohio Wears Blue Day" in support of National Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month in April.

### Davis Earns Master's Degree

Nicole Davis, a Mahoning County Children Services Case Worker, has recently been awarded a Master of Science Degree in Social Work from Youngstown State University. Congratulations Nicole!



## Welcome!

**Judy Stevens** transfers laterally to the Unit Aide (Parenting) in the Kinship Department.

**Kayla Viney** has been promoted to Account Clerk (IV-E) in the Fiscal Department.

**Glenna Ress** was rehired as a part-time Child Welfare Case Worker Floater.

**Shanice Hodge**, a former University Partnership Program Student, has been hired as a Child Welfare Case Worker (CWCW) In Training in the Training Unit.

**Laquita Clark** has been hired as a Child Welfare Case Worker (CWCW) In Training in the Training Unit.

**Angela Montecalvo** has been hired as a CWCW In Training in the Training Unit.

**Arnay Burney** has been rehired into the position of Account Clerk in the Fiscal Department.

**Stephanie Lenzo** has been hired as a Technical Typist in the Clerical Unit.

**Susan Wilson** has been hired as a Technical Typist in the Clerical Unit.

**Monique Arocho** was rehired into the position of Child Welfare Caseworker (CWCW) in the Intake Unit.

**Jolisa Sims** has been hired as a CWCW In Training in the Training Unit.

**Renee Mayberry** has been hired as a CWCW In Training in the Training Unit.

**Aracelis Sarisky** has been hired as a CWCW In Training in the Training Unit.



## EVENTS

**June 8** **High School Graduation Party** for Agency Involved youth who are graduating.

**23** **Mahoning County Foster Parent Association** Annual Golf Scramble Event

**August 29** **Canfield Fair** is our biggest Community Outreach Event of the year. Aug 30 thru Labor Day

**October** **Halloween Treats** at the Agency with Eagle's Christian Preschool

**November** **National Adoption Awareness Month** "Adoption Day Celebration Event"

**December** **Gifts For Kids Holiday Campaign**

\* Stay Tuned for Dates/Times/Locations \*

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## New Support Group for Parents Seeks Members

 Mahoning County  
Children Services



### Succeed

Providing Hope, Support and  
Empowerment for Primary Parents

Finding Community  
Resources

Working with  
Foster parents

Working with  
Caseworkers

Parenting  
Issues

Visitation

## Come to the Succeed Support Group

Parents with current case involvement with Children Services provide each other with hope, support, and empowerment. These groups are run by parents who have been through the child welfare system. In Succeed groups, parents discuss useful topics, help each other with community resources, and have social time to support each other.

### Where Parents are Helping Parents

#### DAYTIME MEETINGS:

June 6 & 20 11am-1pm @ Michael Kusalaba Library  
2815 Mahoning Ave, Youngstown, OH 44509  
*Snacks provided*

If you have any questions, you can contact: Elizabeth Schmid or Theresa Pancoe at 330-941-8888  
[Elizabeth.schmid@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.schmid@jfs.ohio.gov) [Theresa.pancoe@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Theresa.pancoe@jfs.ohio.gov)

#### EVENING MEETINGS:

June 21 & 28 4-6pm @ Trinity UMC 30 W. Front St Youngstown, OH  
*Snacks provided*

A new support group called **SUCCEED** is forming in our County for parents who have a **current or past case involvement** with Mahoning County Children Services.

SUCCEED is a support group comprised of primary parents supporting other primary parents and providing each other with hope, support, and empowerment. Primary parents are defined as "parents who have or have had an open case with Mahoning County Children Services."

**SUCCEED Philosophy:** believes that primary parents can receive the best support from other parents who have gone through similar experiences. They can provide each other understanding and support, and those who successfully work through the child welfare system can serve as role models.

The SUCCEED groups will provide time for parents to discuss important topics including but not limited to:

- visitation
- working with foster parents and caseworkers
- finding community resources
- dealing with personal emotional issues along with those of their children
- supporting parents who are working to have their children returned and those who feel they can provide best for their children by letting others care for them.
- socialization with other parents

#### Questions? Contact:

Elizabeth Schmid or Theresa Pancoe

**Phone:** 330.941.8888

**Email:**

[Elizabeth.Schmid@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Elizabeth.Schmid@jfs.ohio.gov)

[Theresa.Pancoe@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Theresa.Pancoe@jfs.ohio.gov)

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## LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Seeking Members for Mahoning County Children Services Advisory Committee

#### Advisory Committee purpose:

1. Inform the citizens, community leaders and stakeholders of issues affecting Mahoning County's children in general, and, specifically, the issues affecting its children who are abused and neglected or at risk of being abused and neglected;
2. To advocate and support services, laws and sound public policy to protect and benefit the children of Mahoning County;
3. To advocate for the recruitment of foster and adoptive parents and support and celebrate the advantages of fostering and adopting children;
4. To provide the Children Services Board with the perspective of local business and citizens relative to the Board's issues, policies, levies, legislation and services;
5. To provide an orientation of the Children Services Agency to the citizens and business leaders in Mahoning County.

**For Consideration:** Please contact Jennifer Kollar, Public Information Officer via email: [Jennifer.Kollar@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Kollar@jfs.ohio.gov) or phone: 330.941.8810.



## Connect With Us!



**Website:** [mahoningkids.com](http://mahoningkids.com)



**Facebook:** Mahoning County Children Services



**Twitter:** MC Children Services @MahoningKids

**Mahoning Kids Matter** is the official publication of Mahoning County Children Services. For questions or to submit news or information pertaining to Children Services, contact:



**Mahoning County Children Services**

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**Editor: & Designer:** Jennifer T. Kollar  
Public Information Officer

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## 2018 Board, Advisory Executive Staff & Commissioners

### Mahoning County Children Services Board

Dr. Joseph Mosca, Chair  
Dr. Benjamin McGee  
Delphine Baldwin-Casey  
Marilyn Montes  
Pastor Joann Pangio  
Anthony Spano, Secretary  
Daniel Wakefield

### Mahoning County Children Services Advisory Committee

DJ Depp, Child Advocacy Center, Akron Children's Hospital  
Denise Dick, Youngstown City Schools  
Megan Ellashek, Armstrong One Wire  
Greg Floyd, Vibra Hospital of Mahoning Valley  
Katrina Harris, Mahoning Co. Dept. Jobs & Family Services  
Calvin Jones, Mahoning County Education Service Center  
Rev. Lewis Macklin, Holy Trinity Missionary Baptist Church  
Andrea L. Mahone, Just In Time Staffing Agency  
Pete Milliken, The Vindicator (Retired)  
Mary Alice Noble, Youngstown State University  
Officer Shawnacie Ott, Youngstown Police Department  
Dr. Matthew J. Paylo, Youngstown State University  
Crystal Shells, U.S. Oncology  
Mary Jo Truman, Mahoning County Children Services (Retired)  
Yvonne Wilson, Struthers City Schools

### Administrative Executive Staff

**Executive Director**  
Randall B. Muth, J.D.

**Assistant Director**  
Rona Curtis, BA, MS-ED

**Intake Services Department**  
Bradley Smith, MSW, LISW-S, Program Administrator

**Family Services Department**  
Julie Rudolph, MPA, LSW, Program Administrator

**Placement Services Department**  
Anthony Paris, Program Administrator

**Business Operations Department**  
Melinda Posterli, Program Administrator

**Human Resources Department**  
Susan Babinec, Manager

**Information Technology Department**  
Joshua Cayson, Manager

**Public Information Department**  
Jennifer T. Kollar, Public Information Officer