

# MahoningKidsMatter



Mahoning County  
Children Services

The Exclusive Publication for Staff, Stakeholders, Donors and Friends

FALL 2018



## November is National Adoption Month!

Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent

Call 330.941.8888 | [mahoningkids.com](http://mahoningkids.com)

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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.

**Protecting Children. Preserving Families.**

## Agency Launches New Website

Mahoning County Children Services recently launched its new and completely redesigned website: [mahoningkids.com](http://mahoningkids.com).

“Child safety is our Agency’s number one priority. The new website is designed to share valuable child welfare information that is easy to find, read and is visually appealing and interactive. The new design will greatly enhance our ability to communicate more efficiently and effectively as well as engage all visitors to the site,” states Jennifer Kollar, Public Information Officer, Mahoning County Children Services.



The new home page of [mahoningkids.com](http://mahoningkids.com)

The website provides parents, caregivers, clients, and all visitors easier access to essential and comprehensive information about the Agency’s programs and services. The website also features staff and department directories so visitors may directly contact agency staff or departments quickly. How to report child abuse and neglect along with the Agency’s 24-hour Child Abuse/Neglect Report Line is also highlighted and highly visible for anyone who needs to report suspected child abuse or neglect quickly 24 hours/7 days a week.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## Two Youth 'Field a Dream' Opportunity at Cleveland Indian Pitcher Korey Kluber's All- Star Youth

This summer fielded an all-star and homerun experience for two local youth. Syncere (left) and Anthony (right) traveled to Mentor, Ohio for a baseball camp with Cleveland Indians All Star Pitcher, Corey Kluber.

Throughout the one-day camp, Cleveland Indian's Pitcher Corey Kluber and coaches provided professional tips



and hands-on instruction, including teaching fundamental baseball skills in a high-energy, fun, and positive environment. Campers were placed in small groups by age to ensure that each child received maximum instruction. The camp was staffed by some of the Cleveland and surrounding area's top high school and collegiate baseball coaches.



Syncere and Anthony

### NEW WEBSITE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The new website is a vital extension to the Agency as it provides a wealth of information including Frequently Asked Questions on how to report child abuse and neglect. Visitors will also find details about the many important programs and service 24 hours and 7 days a week. I am confident it will serve our community well," states Anthony Spano, Board Member and Secretary, Mahoning County Children Services Board.

Designed and built by PALO Creative, an advertising and digital media agency,

mahoningkids.com features a fresh, clean design, compelling photography that promotes a positive, uplifting message as well as intuitive navigation and an overall improved user experience. In addition, cutting-edge responsive design automatically resizes text and imagery and adjusts navigation for better usability on different sized screens, including desktop monitors and smart phones and tablets.



"There are many public agencies and municipalities that seek this type of web development in order to meet Google standards and browser expectations in terms of content availability to users," said Rob Palowitz, President and CEO, PALO Creative. "The work of the Mahoning County Children Services is inconceivable and we couldn't be more appreciative to help build a website that supports their mission and initiatives."

Mahoning County Children Services' new website will be updated regularly and provide timely agency-related news, announcements and events.

Visit the new website at:  
[www.mahoningkids.com](http://www.mahoningkids.com).



## Open Your Heart & Home

Become a  
**Foster / Adoptive Parent**



Mahoning County  
**Children Services**

330-941-8888 [www.mahoningkids.com](http://www.mahoningkids.com)



# AROUND THE COUNTY

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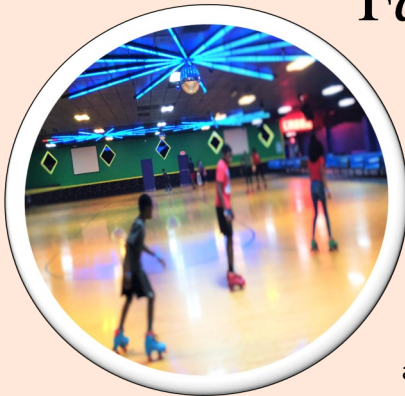


## 'Event-Full' Summer

It's been an eventful summer for Mahoning County Children Services. From a *Family Fun Night* at the Skate Zone for all of our Foster, Adoptive and Kinship families to community-wide wellness walks and runs, family night in Boardman Park, a Back-to-School Luau, the YMCA's Annual Community Cup and the Grand-Daddy of all community outreach—the Canfield Fair—Agency staff have been very visible out and about in the community all summer long sharing important information about our services

### Fam·i·LY fun night

The Agency hosted *Family Fun Night* at the Skate Zone. Activities included a catered dinner buffet, unlimited roller skating, laser tag, bumper cars, video arcade games and putt-putt golf along with the opportunity for family fellowship.



**Walkie Talkie:**  
We were walking and talking up our programs & services at the "2018 African American Male Community Wellness Walk" at the Covelli Centre in August.



**Armadillo Sighting:**  
Our Staffers made a New Friend at Boardman Park Family Night in August



**Headstart on Awareness:**  
Alta Headstart's "Children In Motion" event at the Covelli Centre in July.



**Fair Daze:** It's always summer at our Canfield Fair Booth. This year's theme: "Endless Summer." It was wonderful to see everyone who stopped by to say Hello. See you next year!

**Supporting Back to School Fun:** Mahoning County Child Support Enforcement Agency's "Back to School Luau Event."



ALL PHOTOS BY MAHONING COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES



# OUR COMMUNITY

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## YSU Nursing Students Tour Children Services



Youngstown State Nursing students were special guests at Mahoning County Children Services in June. As part of their Community Health course, the students learned more about the Agency's role and its child protective programs and services. The group also took a tour of the Agency.

## "Birthday Gift Bag Program" Brightens Birthdays for Kids in Care

Wanda Marland's "Birthday Gift Bag Program" aims to brighten birthdays for children in foster care. She along with her small but mighty team of volunteers, create child specific gift bags that are filled with items that match the child's age and interests. The gift bags are then delivered by each child's caseworker on their birthday.



Wanda Marland (pictured right) with Jennifer Kollar (left) Mahoning County Children Services.

## YSU Students in Dietetics Donate Food Gift Cards



Margaret Oblinger, President  
YSU Students in Dietetics Program

The YSU Students in Dietetics Program sponsored a special fundraising event. Proceeds raised were used to purchase a variety of gift cards for local restaurants and grocery stores. The gift cards for food and groceries will enable Agency Foster Care Placement Team to purchase food/snacks for children before they are placed with a foster family.

## Agency's Community Cup Team Has Banner Year

### Planning Committee

Marisa Litch, Chairperson

Kayla Babos

Erica Canacci

Natalie Finamore

Bridget Howells

Sarah Jilg

Lisa Kaneshi

Bobby Litch

Nicole Mrofchak

Alex Pancoe

Liz Schmid

Brittany Snyder



Run Team



Bocce Team



Walk Team



Pep Team

# About Us

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## Mahoning County Waiting Children Seek Families

### Introducing.... Logan

Logan is a seven-year old who loves attention and positive affirmations. He is very smart, active, and enjoys playing outside. This little guy has high hopes of getting a power wheel for his birthday. His favorite T. V. programs are the Power Rangers, TMNT, and Pokémon. Logan likes to build with Legos and is very inquisitive and curious. He would do best in a home where he is the youngest or an only child.



**Logan**

Birthday: 2010

To learn more about Logan contact Mahoning County Children Services:

**Sarah Pinciario, Caseworker**

Phone: 330.941.8888

Fax: 330.941.8787

Email:

Sarah.Pinciario@jfs.ohio.gov

**To Meet More Waiting Children Seeking Adoptive Families**

**Visit our website:**

[www.mahoningkids.com/waiting-children/](http://www.mahoningkids.com/waiting-children/)

## SUCCEED PARENTING GROUP SEEKS MEMBERS

**Parents who have experienced the child welfare system lead the group.**

*\*\* Parents must have current case involvement with Children Services to join\*\**

**We Believe in:** Mutual Respect • Self-Healing • Compassion • Authentic Sharing  
Remorse & Acceptance of Mistakes • Parental Leadership of Families • Confidentiality

**INFO: 330.941.8888 | Elizabeth.Schmid@jfs.ohio.gov**



**HOPE • SUPPORT • EMPOWERMENT**



## Adoption Day Celebration!

**Nov. 1st 11am-1pm**

**Mahoning County Courthouse Rotunda**



**Mahoning County Children Services**

330-941-8888 [www.mahoningkids.com](http://www.mahoningkids.com)



[www.mahoningkids.com/waiting-children/](http://www.mahoningkids.com/waiting-children/)





## • NEW ROLES • NEW FACES • HONORS

### Tarantino Receives State-wide Recognition

The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services' Office of Families and Children (OFC) recently recognized and awarded Meghan Tarantino when she served as Supervisor, Foster Care Unit with the OFC's *Bright Spot Award* for her role in a collaborative project. Meghan was featured in the OFC's state-wide publication, *First Friday* (July 2018 edition).



**Meghan Tarantino**

The OFC staff nominate a peer or team for the OFC's *Bright Spot Award*. Nominees must exhibit one or more of the six principles of partnership. In the past, the *Bright Spot Award* has been awarded to OFC employees only – until the recent partnership between OFC Licensing Specialist Kelly Weaver and Meghan Tarantino. Together, Meghan and Kelly teamed up to submit and review more than 40 criminal record checks within two days!

### New Roles & Faces

**Diane Stahl** has been chosen as a Casework Supervisor for Ongoing Unit # 1 in the Family Services Department. She transferred from the Agency's Kinship Unit.

**Brittney Duley** was hired as a Clerical Specialist in Clerical Unit.

**Mercia Stevens** has been selected as the new Foster Care Unit Supervisor. Mercia previously served as a Casework Supervisor in the Agency's Family Services Department for Ongoing Unit #1.

**Meghan Tarantino** has been named as the Agency's new Training Officer. Meghan most recently served as the Foster Care Unit Supervisor in the Placement Services Department.

**Laquita Clark** laterally transferred to Ongoing Unit #4 in the Family Services Department.

**Angelica Polito** was hired in the Caseworker in Training Unit.

**Stephanie Lenzo** was promoted as Compliance Specialist in the Fiscal Department for the State Wide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS).

*Welcome New Staff & Congratulations to Current Staff on their New Roles!*

### Austintown Girl Wins Children Services' Lionel Trainset Drawing

Congratulations to eight-year-old **Reghan Koch** of Austintown, Ohio. Reghan beat out hundreds of entrants to win a "Pennsylvania Keystone Special" collector's edition Lionel Train set. Each year, at the Canfield Fair, fair-goers of all ages delight in watching the "CSB Lionel Train" make it's endless loop around the Agency's fair booth and having a chance to register for the annual trainset drawing!



**Reghan Koch**

**Special thanks to True Value Crouse Mills Hardware Store, North Lima, Ohio for keeping the CSB Train Running and this year's Trainset.**

### Keep Connected @



**Website:**  
Mahoningkids.com



Mahoning County  
Children Services  
@MahoningKids



MC Children Services  
@MahoningKids

**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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## Newest Member Appointed to Children Services Board

Loisjean Haynes-Paige, is the newest appointment to the Children Services Board. She will serve a three-year term. Mahoning County Children Services Board is comprised of a total of nine members all appointed by the Mahoning County Commissioners.



**Loisjean Haynes-Paige**

Haynes-Paige, now a retired educator, has worked in numerous school systems and technical colleges in Mahoning County. For 21 years she served in a variety of roles within the Youngstown City Schools and Choffin Career and Technical Center. Up until her recent retirement in May 2018, Haynes-Paige served as Program Director for the Workforce Readiness Program, and as a Choffin Career Center Instructor teaching Business Technology, Computer Applications, Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy. She also served as the District Internship Job Program Director for The Youngstown Business and Education Community Connections Program (YBECC) for Youngstown City Schools, a pilot program started by Ohio Governor John Kasich. During her time at Choffin, she also served as an Adjunct Professor in the Business Department at Eastern Gateway Community College, Youngstown, Ohio. She holds a Bachelor of

Science Degree in Education, as well as two Associate's Degrees in Applied Business and Fashion and Retail Marketing from Youngstown State University. She earned a Master of Education from Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ. She is a certified career development professional with Global Career Development Facilitator (GCDF), a member of Delta Kappa Gamma MU, National Association of Professional Women and National Career Development Association (NCDA). She was named "Teacher of the Year 2011-2012." She was nominated 2016-2017 for the National Association of Workforce Development Professional Sar Levitan Advancing the Research Agenda Award, and the Thomas Ahlers System Building Award. She also holds an Ohio Real Estate License for 26 years.

**Mahoning Kids Matter** is the official publication of Mahoning County Children Services.

222 W. Federal Street, 4th Floor | Youngstown, Ohio 44503  
330.941.8888 | Fax: 330.941.8787 | mahoningkids.com

**Editor/Designer:** Jennifer T. Kollar, Public Information Officer  
Public Information Department

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## 2018 Executive Staff, Board, Advisory & Commissioners

### Administrative Executive Staff

#### Executive Director

Randall B. Muth, J.D.

#### Assistant Director

Rona Curtis

#### Intake Services Department

Brad Smith, Program Administrator

#### Family Services Department

Julie Rudolph, 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

### Mahoning County Children Services Board

Dr. Joseph Mosca, *Chairman*

Dr. Benjamin McGee, *Vice Chairman*

Delphine Baldwin-Casey

Marilyn Montes

Loisjean Haynes-Paige

Pastor Joann Pangio

Anthony Spano, *Secretary*

Daniel Wakefield

### Mahoning County Children Services Advisory Committee

DJ Depp

Denise Dick

Megan Ellashek

Katrina Harris

Calvin Jones

Rev. Lewis Macklin

Andrea L. Mahone

Pete Milliken

Mary Alice Noble

Officer Shawnacie Ott

Dr. Matthew J. Paylo

Mary Jo Truman

Yvonne Wilson

### Mahoning County Commissioners

David C. Ditzler

Carol Rimedio Righetti

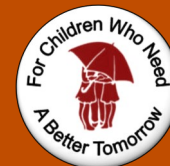
Anthony Traficanti



**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

Mahoning Kids Matter | FALL 2018



## Help Mahoning County Kids for the Holidays



## Gifts for Kids!

Help Make *this*  
Holiday Season an *Especially*  
*memorable and magical one*  
for Mahoning County Kids!



Gifts for Kids!



**Mahoning County  
Children Services**

Protecting Children. Preserving Families.

### KIDS WE HELP:

Mahoning County Children Services has been able to make the Holidays a little brighter and joyous for hundreds of Mahoning County children thanks to the generous spirit of individual community donors, organizations, businesses and corporations.

### WHY WE HELP:

The gifts collected will be given to children (ages infants to 18 years ) who are receiving case management services from Mahoning County Children Services. Often, the gifts contributed by our generous donors are the **ONLY** gifts the children receive for the Holidays.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. **Child-Specific Gifts:** Sponsor one or more children. Child's age, gender along with their gift wishes/ideas will be shared with sponsors.
2. **Monetary Donations:** make a donation in any amount to sponsor one or more children (donations may be tax deductible).
3. **Donate** new toys of any kind (unwrapped) or gift cards of any amount for children infants to 18 years of age.

### CONTACT:

Jennifer Kollar, Public Information Officer

Email: [Jennifer.Kollar@jfs.ohio.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Kollar@jfs.ohio.gov)

Phone: 330.941.8888

Mahoning County Children Services

222 West Federal Street | 4th Floor

Youngstown, Ohio 44503

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



## Agency EVENTS

**November 1, 2018**

National Adoption Awareness Month  
"Adoption Day Celebration Event"

**Time:** 11 AM

**Venue:** Rotunda, Mahoning County  
Courthouse

**November—December 2018**

*Christmas Gifts For Kids Holiday  
Campaign*

**April 1-30, 2019**

*National Child Abuse & Neglect  
Prevention Month*

**April 26, 2019**

*Above the Rim Basketball Event  
Cardinal Mooney High School*

**May**

*National Foster Care Awareness  
Month*

**June**

*High School Graduation Party  
for Agency-involved youth who are  
graduating*

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

## November is: National Adoption Month



*Become a*  
**Foster / Adoptive Parent**



**Mahoning County  
Children Services**

330-941-8888 [www.mahoningkids.com](http://www.mahoningkids.com)





**JUDGE ROBERT N. RUSU, JR.,**  
Mahoning County Probate Court  
&

**MAHONING COUNTY CHILDREN SERVICES**  
Invites You to the Fifth Annual



# ADOPTION DAY Celebration!

**November 1, 2018**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Mahoning County Courthouse Rotunda**

Learn more about Mahoning County  
Waiting Children Seeking Adoptive Families  
[www.mahoningkids.com/waiting-children/](http://www.mahoningkids.com/waiting-children/)



**Mahoning County  
Children Services**



## The Many Faces of Adoption!

November marks **National Adoption Awareness Month**. Each year courts, children services agencies, and community partners join together to do something Great – create forever families!

\*

National Adoption Day is a collective effort to raise awareness of the more than **117,000** children waiting in foster care for a permanent family.

\*

It's a time when communities across the nation finalize adoptions, and celebrate adoptive families!

\*

### 2018 Adoption Day Celebration Features:

- ♥ Witness two Child Adoption Finalizations
- ♥ East High School's Junior ROTC Color Guard
- ♥ Featuring a few "furry and adoptable friends" from Angels for Animals

