



# 2019 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Mahoning County  
Children Services

Protecting Children. Preserving Families.



# 2019 EXECUTIVE STAFF, BOARD, ADVISORY & COMMISSIONERS

## 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

**Fiscal Department**  
Denise Barnes-Carper, Fiscal Officer

**Human Resources Department**  
Susan Babinec, Manager

**Information Technology Department**  
Joshua Cayson, Manager

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

## 2019 Mahoning County Children Services Board

Delphine Baldwin-Casey  
Lois Jean Haynes-Paige  
Brigid Kennedy  
Dr. Benjamin McGee  
Marilyn Montes  
Dr. Joseph Mosca  
Pastor Joann Pangio  
Anthony Spano  
Daniel Wakefield  
Kris Wolford

## 2019 Mahoning County Children Services Advisory Committee

DJ Depp  
Denise Dick  
Megan Ellashek  
Katrina Harris  
Calvin Jones  
Brigid Kennedy  
Michele Kuhar  
Tracy Lamb  
Andrea L. Mahone  
Lisa Manente  
Pete Milliken  
Mary Alice Noble  
Officer Shawnacie Ott  
Dr. Matthew J. Paylo  
Johanna Slivinske  
Mary Jo Truman  
Philip Volpe-Monrean  
Yvonne Wilson

## Mahoning County Commissioners

David C. Ditzler  
Carol Rimedio Righetti  
Anthony Traficanti



# OUR MISSION

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

## STAFF COMPOSITION

SUSAN BABINEC, HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

At the conclusion of 2019, Mahoning County Children Services employed 120 employees to serve and support the services of children and families in Mahoning County.

5 Administrative Staff

15 Management/Supervisors

70 Caseworkers

6 Social Service Aides

24 Support Staff

Qualifications: All caseworkers possess bachelor's degrees in Social Work, Sociology, Psychology or a related social services field. All Supervisors possess a master's degree.



**Mahoning County Children Services**



Mahoning County Children Services is Accredited by the Council on Accreditation

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### WE ARE CHILD WELFARE LEADERS.

We take pride in working with families and our community with care and compassion.

We provide quality services that respect each family's culture.

We are fiscally responsible, effectively utilizing resources to benefit the families we serve.

We educate the community on recognizing and preventing child abuse and neglect.

### WE RESPECT AND VALUE FAMILIES AND THEIR CHILDREN.

We respect families' strengths and provide individualized services.

We empower parents and partner with families to ensure child safety, permanency and well-being.

We recognize children are best served within their family and community.

### WE VALUE OUR PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE COMMUNITY.

We recognize the need to work in collaboration with the community to protect children and preserve families.

We support the well-being of children and families; it is a shared agency and community responsibility.



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

RANDALL B. MUTH, J.D.

Dear Community Members:

The Mission of the Mahoning County Children Services Board is, of course, to protect children and strengthen families. To accomplish this mission, we must constantly strive to develop and implement the most effective, evidenced-based strategies to provide children with safe, nurturing and permanent families. However, we must also preserve our fiscal resources to ensure that we are never precluded from applying those strategies in the future due to financial constraints. This is even more important given the grave economic situation our state and country has faced over the last decade and will likely face as result of the novel coronavirus.

Calendar year 2019 presented both opportunity and challenges for the Mahoning County Children Services Board. Some of those opportunities came via the new state budget which became effective on July 17, 2019.

Ohio is one of only nine states in the country who have chosen to deliver child protection services at the county level. The other 41 states deliver it at the state level. Based upon this structure, the state of Ohio has always held the perspective that as long as the counties have the right to determine how child welfare looks in their individual communities, the counties themselves should bear the bulk of the financial support of those services. As such, Ohio has historically ranked last in the nation in state dollars allocated for child protective services.

However, through Ohio's State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020-2021 Biennial Budget Bill (HB 166), the state accomplished the single biggest enhancement in child and family services in modern state history. This new investment nearly doubled the state's previous child welfare allocations. Remember, however, because of the way Ohio is structured, historically the state had contributed, on average, only nine percent of an individual county's total child welfare budget. So, while doubling that amount is a significant and welcome occurrence, it was not a doubling of the total dollars available. And, even with that doubling, Ohio still ranks 50th in the nation in state dollars devoted to child welfare.

This new state funding includes targeted dollars for promising efforts like the Governor DeWine's signature children services-led opioid-response program called Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma). In September of 2019, Mahoning County joined Ohio START Cohort 3 to implement this exciting new practice. House Bill 166 also included a Child Welfare Best Practice grant which allowed the Agency to purchase the equipment necessary to become 100 percent remote capable thereby reducing administrative barriers and giving caseworkers more time to interact with the families they serve. These financial opportunities will serve to improve outcomes for children and families at risk of being separated as we continue to look for new and innovative ways to serve our community.

One of our primary challenges for 2019 was the dramatic rise in the number of children placed in our custody. At any given point between January of 2014 and October of 2018, we averaged about 161 children in the custody of the Agency. And that number was always consistent—never more than 180 and never less than 150 children. However, in October of 2018, we started to see those numbers climb. By November of 2019, the Agency had 344 children in our custody which more than doubled our historical average.

Because the child welfare field operates in the complex realm of human relationships, trends in the field are rarely established in months. Sometimes, not even in years. However, this dramatic rise in custody episodes did seem to be a sustained development. As such, it was incumbent upon the Agency to conduct a thorough examination into the root causes of this increase.

Therefore, in addition to our mandate to protect children and strengthen families, over the course of 2019 and continuing into 2020, we made a concerted effort to discover factors driving this trend. I am happy to report that we did see a reduction in our custody numbers in the last two months of 2019. The goal for 2020 will be to remain vigilant to ensure that children are not removed unnecessarily from their families of origin and, when safety concerns do require removal, children

are placed in the most appropriate and least restrictive placements as is possible.

In those circumstances in which children must be removed from the home, research on the national level and actual data from Ohio shows that children who are cared for in the homes of relatives typically do much better compared to those who must be placed in foster care. This is because placement with kin caregivers can minimize the trauma of removal and improve children's well-being. Research also demonstrates that children reunified with parents after temporarily residing with kin are less likely to re-enter state care than those who were placed in foster care. And, when reunification is not possible, relatives are more likely to provide a permanent home through guardianship, custody or adoption.

Therefore, our continued focus over 2019 was to continue to utilize our Kinship Department and to remove the barriers to kinship placements. This has resulted in more children maintaining important family connections while their parents work on the issues needed to make it safe for children to return to their homes. Over the course of 2019, we saw a steady increase in the number of children in kinship placement and the benefits that come with that. Our hope is to continue the great work we have been doing in this area in 2020.

I am firmly convinced that child protection truly takes a community. So, as you read this, please take a moment to reflect on how you may help build a community where all children can thrive, develop character, and learn to be responsible citizens in an environment of security and love. By honoring our obligation to support and protect our young people, we all have an opportunity to make a positive difference in the life of a child and build a brighter future for our community. I encourage all citizens of Mahoning County to recognize that child abuse prevention starts with each one of us.

Sincerely,

Randall B. Muth, JD  
Executive Director



# INTAKE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

BRADLEY SMITH, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

5435

REPORTS RECEIVED

2542

CASES INVESTIGATED

565

INFORMATION/REFERRAL

The Intake Services Department consists of: 1 Program Administrator, 3 Casework Supervisors, 3 Screeners, 17 Caseworkers, 1 Case Aid

IF YOU SUSPECT  
CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

**REPORT IT!**  
**330.941.8888**

24 HOURS  
7 DAYS A WEEK

2018  
TO  
2019

**35%  
INCREASE**

in removals of  
children from  
their home

**59%  
INCREASE**

in removals of children from  
their home with opiates  
identified as a risk contributor

## REPORT TYPE / NUMBER OF CASES

PHYSICAL ABUSE - 1005

NEGLECT - 892

SEXUAL ABUSE - 229

FAMILIES IN NEED OF SERVICES - 513

MEDICAL NEGLECT - 87

DEPENDENCY - 86

EMOTIONAL ABUSE - 64

## 2019 REPORTS BY SOURCE



# PLACEMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

ANTHONY PARIS, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

The Placement Services Department (PSD) includes a Program Administrator, 3 Unit Supervisors, 18 Casework Staff, and 2 transportation aides. The department houses and administers our Foster Care, Adoption, Kinship and Independent Living programs. One of the primary responsibilities of the PSD is to ensure that there are enough placement resources available to meet the needs of children who have been exposed to abuse and neglect, as well as children who have been determined to be dependent by the Court. During calendar year 2019, a total of 278 children entered care and a total of 452 placements were made during the calendar year. This includes the initial placement, as well as all placement moves for each child.

## MCCS uses 4 primary resources for placement of children:

**Kinship care,**

**Public Foster Care**

**Private Foster Care aka:  
Out of Network Foster  
Care**

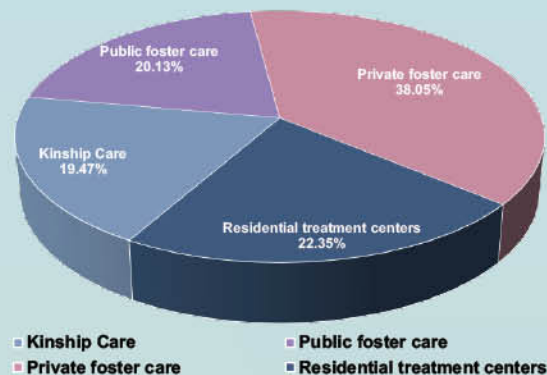
**Residential Treatment  
Centers**

The Agency saw a dramatic increase in the use of Private Foster Care. In fact, Private Foster Care (PFC) made up 38% of the total placements during the year while placements in Public Foster Homes made up only 20%.

The Adoption Unit was hard at work during the year. On January 1, 2019, there were 33 children in permanent custody and in need of a forever family. Through the efforts of our Adoption Workers, MCCS achieved permanency for 19 children who had their adoption finalized through Mahoning County Probate Court. Also, five children emancipated. During the past year, 15 youth were court-ordered into the permanent custody of MCCS with the power of adoption. As of December 31, 2019, recruitment continues for 24 children needing permanency.

The Kinship Unit was successful in locating and recommending approval of 88 placements. The home study process is not the only service our Kinship Program provides. Our Kinship Workers complete an Assessment of Needs for each family which helps identify areas of support needed. MCCS utilizes funding from the State's Kinship Caregiver Program, as well as local levy dollar to provide needed assistance to numerous kinship families. Kinship caregivers are relatives and non-relatives who are known to the child and have a former relationship with the child. Kinship care is the least restrictive out of home placement setting. Various studies indicate that children are less traumatized and outcomes are better when kinship care is utilized. The Independent Living Caseworkers provided services to 85 teens. This included preparation for emancipation out of foster care through education

**2019 Placements by percentage**



and various supportive services. There were 5 youth who reached adulthood and emancipated. They received support in preparation for college entrance exams, links to skills training and locating safe housing. These efforts are all provided with the goal of successful transition to adulthood.

## 2019

**277** new placements

**91** children placed in Agency licensed foster care homes (public foster care)

**19** adoptions finalized

**85** teens prepared for emancipation out of foster care and provided support and education

**117** kinship families were identified for placement of child relatives

**49** number of Agency licensed network of Foster Homes







# FAMILY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JULIE RUDOLPH, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

## Family Services Department Program Statement

*The primary role of Ongoing Services is to assist at-risk families to keep their children safe from abuse and neglect in their own homes.*

The primary role of Ongoing Services is to assist at-risk families to keep their children safe from abuse and neglect in their own homes. This is best accomplished with the family through partnership and protective services provided by the Agency and community. Services provided to families in this Department include: engaging the family in the decision-making process, shared case plan development, ongoing assessment of child safety and risk, as well as casework and case management activities which allow professional staff to effectively respond to the changing conditions or needs of the family. Continual contact, assessment, and evaluation of family progress are pivotal to child safety and to family stability.



### Family Services

casework staff must possess a unique combination of knowledge and skills to assess risk and safety to intervene in situations that place children at risk of abuse and neglect, and to assist families in becoming healthy, nurturing and safe.

Family Services staff are in the challenging position of maintaining children's safety while working to preserve families and to provide permanency. At times, it may be necessary to separate children from their family until the family is able to meet the needs of the children in a safe environment.

**It is the belief of the Agency that parents are the most appropriate caretakers for children unless the parents are unable or unwilling to ensure their children's safety.** We further believe that when children cannot safely remain with their parents, relatives/kin are the best alternative. In cases where placement is needed to prevent harm to children, it is the goal of the Agency to return the child to their parents. If reunification is not possible the Agency is committed to identifying a permanent home for the child as quickly as possible.



# FAMILY SERVICE DEPARTMENT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Family Services Department:

**Piloted the use of mobile Surface Pro laptops to access the Agency's new electronic records database.**

The new technology enables casework staff to complete tasks and access Agency records in real-time while working in the field that would have otherwise have to be completed in an office setting at a later time.

**Implemented the Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma) Program in Mahoning County.**

START is a promising practice to support families who are struggling with a substance use disorder. A Peer Mentor assists in the early stages of treatment. This program will be implemented in Spring of 2020.

## Points of Interest:

In 2019 the composition of the Family Services Department included:

**1 Program Administrator**

**4 Unit Supervisors**

**24 full-time Casework Staff**

**4 Family Services Aides**

**10.5 average number of cases on a Family Services' Ongoing Caseworker's workload**



**Family Services Department participated in the following specialized programs to preserve families and protect children:**

**Mahoning County Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC):** The goal of the FDTC collaboration is to provide immediate and comprehensive treatment to the substance-abusing parent so the family can remain intact or achieve reunification.

**Succeed Parent Program:** Succeed is designed for primary parents who have been successful in working with their Children Services Agency to lead support groups for other primary parents who are currently working on a case plan.

**Mahoning County Crossover Youth:** Mahoning County Children Services and Mahoning County Juvenile Court have collaborated since 2012 to implement the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM). The program is designed to address the unique issues presented by children and youth who are known to both the Child Welfare system and Juvenile Justice System. With goals of reducing the number of youth placed in out-of-home care, a reduction in the use of congregate care, a reduction in the disproportionate representation of children of color, and a reduction in the number of youth becoming dually-adjudicated.

IF YOU SUSPECT  
CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

**REPORT IT!**  
**330.941.8888**

**24 HOURS  
7 DAYS A WEEK**



# FINANCIAL REPORT

DENISE BARNES-CARPER, FISCAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019

## 2019 RECEIPTS

<b>Levy</b>	<b>\$9,734,973.58</b>
<b>53%</b>	
<b>Federal</b>	<b>\$5,254,528.81</b>
<b>29%</b>	
<b>State</b>	<b>\$3,353,884.34</b>
<b>18%</b>	
<b>All Other</b>	<b>\$32,865.19</b>
<b>0%</b>	
<b>Total \$18,376,251.92</b>	

## 2019 RECEIPTS

Real Estate Taxes	\$9,356,252.83
Manufactured Home Taxes	\$10,260.32
Personal Property Taxes	\$0.00
Homestead Credit	\$1,522.94
Rollback Credit	\$366,937.49
Title IV-B - Child Welfare Subsidy	\$139,600.00
Title IV-B - ESAA	\$92,758.00
Independent Living Allocation - Federal Chaffee	\$44,171.00
State Reimbursements	\$183,557.27
PASSS (Post Adoption)	\$41,068.74
Title IV-E	\$2,206,872.97
U.S. Treasury	\$7,576.00
Foster Care Maintenance	\$2,763,550.84
Bureau of Support	\$16,139.99
BWC True Up Charges	\$16,665.20
State Child Protective Allocation	\$2,347,176.25
ODNR - State	\$694.81
Reimbursements	\$781,387.27
Donations	\$60.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$18,376,251.92</b>

## 2019 EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$5,233,442.14
PERS	\$1,194,726.43
Medicare	\$76,786.16
BWC Premium Expense	\$52,385.86
Unemployment	\$0.00
Hospitalization	\$1,734,906.83
Hospitalization Opt-Out	\$6,277.76
Life Insurance	\$9,996.84
Tuition Reimbursement	\$53,559.38
BWC Claims Expense	\$30,978.67
Food Supplies	\$25,369.01
Medical Supplies	\$299.98
Postage	\$15,638.72
Materials and Supplies	\$6,736.53
Office Supplies	\$35,805.97
Gasoline	\$784.25
Vehicle Parts	\$157.10
Seminars/Conferences/Training	\$27,026.88
Travel	\$264,617.80
Organization Dues	\$1,898.00
Contractual Agreement	\$716,078.43
Professional Services	\$81,219.64
Telephone	\$12,148.46
Medical Assistance	\$6,048.95
Advertising	\$64,425.73
Printing	\$5,776.50
Maintenance Agreement	\$226,317.88
Audit Fees	\$4,592.00
Data Board Agreement	\$780.00
Insurance Liability Casualty	\$26,099.99
Equipment/Auto Lease	\$13,363.44
Board Care & Clothing	\$92,818.75
Public Assistance	\$11,258.85
Daycare	\$199,134.22
Public Foster Care	\$714,339.30
ESAA Preservation	\$146,372.32
ESAA Reunification	\$76,294.80
Residential Placements	\$2,682,140.93
Subsidized Adoption	\$280,093.17
PASSS	\$142,120.20
Independent Living	\$54,377.16
Youth Advisory Board	\$2,342.04
Therapeutic Foster Care	\$2,587,050.74
Nonrecurring Adoption	\$7,700.00
Kinship	\$188,031.12
Repairs and Maintenance	\$1,826.25
Recruitment	\$875.60
Equipment	\$2,236.00
Data Equipment	\$124,379.84
Software	\$2,064.00
Furniture and Fixtures	\$3,997.89
Taxes Aud/Treas Collection Fees	\$153,368.76
Non-Reimbursement Expense	\$88,344.78
County Cost Allocation	\$29.34
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$17,489,441.39</b>



# CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT DEPARTMENT

RONA CURTIS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Mahoning County Children Services' Continuous Quality Improvement Department is comprised of the Agency's Assistant Director, and a Continuous Quality Improvement Specialist.

The Continuous Quality Improvement Department conducts reviews to analyze the practices and outcomes, ensures rule compliance with Federal, State and Agency requirements. Ongoing reviews and assessments are completed to provide the community with quality services, and to make procedural changes to benefit those served when necessary.

In 2019, 15 disposition appeals were files and processed, in addition to 7 formal complaints and 11 dispositions remained unchanged.

The Quality Improvement Department provides "Mandated Reporter Trainings" for daycare providers in Mahoning County. In 2019, there were 8 Mandated Reporter Trainings presented to the community. The classes are held at Mahoning County Children Services. Current schedules can be located on the Agency website: [www.mahoningkids.com](http://www.mahoningkids.com)

Mahoning County Children Services was granted our national accreditation renewal, through the Council on Accreditation (COA). The COA's mission is to partner with human service organizations worldwide to improve service delivery outcomes by developing, applying, and promoting accreditation standards. The re-accreditation process requires agencies to complete an extensive self-study. This process includes submitting information to COA about the Agency policies and procedures. In August 2019, COA sent three peer review volunteers, with specialized training, to Mahoning County Children Services. The peer reviewers spent several days at the Agency, conducting in-depth interviews with employees, community members, and providers. In addition, the COA volunteers conducted an onsite review of the Agency policies and procedures.

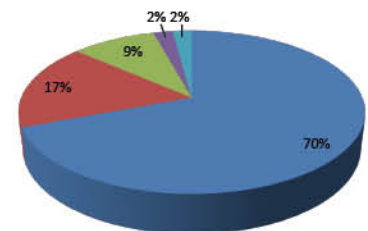
The accreditation is valid through August 31, 2023. Mahoning County Children Services sends out satisfaction surveys to families, who have received services from the Agency. The CQI Department compiles and reviews the client satisfaction survey responses. It is important that the families served are satisfied with the quality of services provided.



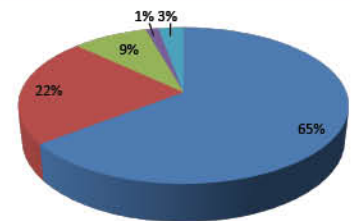
## The 2019 Satisfaction survey results:

■ Very Satisfied  
■ Satisfied  
■ Neutral  
■ Dissatisfied  
■ Very Dissatisfied

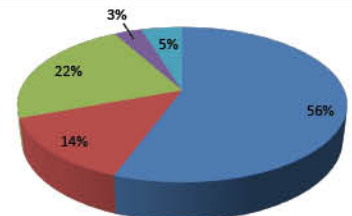
How satisfied are you with the casework services received from our agency?



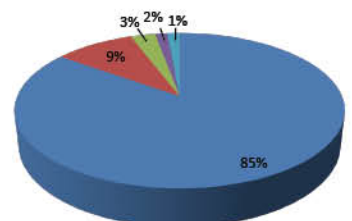
How satisfied are you that your situation improved because of CSB being involved?



How satisfied are you of the caseworker or supervisor's availability to you when needed?



Were you treated with courtesy and respect by your caseworker or other agency staff?





# LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Mahoning County Children Services is represented in Mahoning County Juvenile Court by three Assistant Mahoning County Prosecutors: Attorneys Lori Shells Simmons, Kerry Limbian and Kristy Weibling.



## 2019 LEGAL STATISTICS

1621	Number of Court Hearings Attended
121	Children Placed in Care Under Juvenile Rule 6
96	Agreements for Voluntary Care
239	Ex Parte Orders
54	Commitments to Custody of a Relative
12	Commitments to Custody of a Non-Relative
252	Temporary Commitments to CSB
2	Permanent Surrenders
11	Permanent Commitments to CSB
9	Orders for Planned Permanent Living Arrangement
128	Court-Ordered Protective Supervision Granted
1	Cases in the Court of Appeals
28	Initial Voluntary Agreement of Care (VAC)
68	All VAC Extensions

## AGENCY STAFF SPECIAL RECOGNITION, ACHIEVEMENTS & EVENTS



Independent Youth Living Services Program staff, **Jeff Phillips**, Manager and **Karey Karr**, Caseworker were presented the Purple Project Organization's *Leaf Award*: "In Recognition of "Immeasurable Contributions to The Purple Project and the Foster Care & Adoption Communities."

The Agency received State-Wide Recognition for our Nominations for *Employee of the Year* and *Journalist of the Year* Awards. **Kathy Thomas** was named Child Protection Support Staff Person of the Year and **Jennifer Brindisi**, WFMJ News Anchor, named *Journalist of the Year* for her continued partnership on our Kids Matter Segments.



The Agency's Peer Recognition Committee (PRC) sponsored and hosted the first-ever Holiday Pop-Up Shopping Event to raise funds for the Children Services Peer Recognition Committee's Programs and Services that identify, recognize, and reward exemplary agency staffers' professional work performance. The event also encouraged community-wide participation. The PRC also planned a Staff Health Fair Event to remind staff the importance of self-care.

Over 50 Children Services' staff members participated in the annual **YMCA Community Cup** event Children Services placed in these events:

- 6th place Overall
- 3rd place Weight Loss
- 2nd place Scavenger Hunt
- 3rd place Walking
- 2nd place Tug of War Event
- 3rd place Volunteer points







## OUR COMMUNITY

JENNIFER T. KOLLAR, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

**PROVIDED** special presentations to local civic, social organizations and clubs focusing on the great need for new foster homes in Mahoning County.



**HEIGHTENED AWARENESS** with a multi-media advertising campaign "Open Your Heart & Home," via outdoor billboard, TV, print, radio, cinema, event sponsorships, and social media to recruit new foster and adoptive homes.

**REINFORCED PUBLIC AWARENESS** of National Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention month in April via the 14th Annual Pinwheels for Prevention community luncheon and a "Pinwheel Garden Exhibit" on display in Boardman Park. Pinwheels represent individuals who advocated on behalf of a child. Mahoning County's Top Law Officer Sheriff Jerry Greene was the Keynote Speaker.



**PARTNERED WITH ST. CHARLES CHURCH BOARDMAN** to sponsor and host a Foster/Adoptive *Informational Community Open House* event February 27th to recruit new foster/adoptive parents to help address the critical shortage of Agency licensed foster homes needed in Mahoning County.



**OUTREACHED** and provided Agency programs and services information at community events including but not limited to: African American Male Wellness Walk (Aug), Boardman Park's Family Night Out (Aug), Foster Parent Association Golf Event (June), Mahoning County Child Support Enforcement Agency's Back to School Fair (Aug), Alta Behavioral Health's "Children in Motion Event" (July) The Canfield Fair—our biggest outreach event of the year (Aug/Sep)



**VOLUNTEERED** time, talent and labor at Lowe's Community Bed Build Project benefitting local "Sleep In Heavenly Peace" Chapter.



**CELEBRATED AND CO-HOSTED** National Adoption Month with two adoption finalizations with Judge Robert N. Rusu, Jr. The Event Theme: "Family Is Everything," raised awareness of foster care adoption and agency waiting children seeking an adoptive families at the 6th Annual *Adoption Celebration* event.





# OUR COMMUNITY

## HONORED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION MILESTONES

with an Agency sponsored Graduation Event to celebrate Agency-involved youth.



**PARTNERED** with Northeast Ohio Adoption Services (NOAS) to provide funding to create post Adoption and Kinship Support Groups.

**AWARDED** the “2019 Community Spotlight Award” to Kaylor White and Choffin Career & Technical Center Students from the Early Child Childhood Education Department. For 18 continuous years, students collected winter apparel demonstrating continued service/commitment to Mahoning County children.



## CELEBRATED CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS:

A partnership with local ministry “Comfort & Hope” brightened birthdays all year long for over 250 children in foster and kinship care ensuring each child received a child-specific and age-appropriate Birthday Bag.



**FULFILLED** over 500 Mahoning County Childrens' Christmas Wishes. Individuals, businesses and organizations helped make kids' wishes come true through the Agency's *Gifts for Kids Holiday Campaign*.



**PROVIDED** over 300 Easter Baskets and Back To School Back Packs with supplies all generously donated by individuals, organizations and service clubs.



**RAISED FUNDS AND FUN** at the Agency's Signature event—Sixth Annual *Above the Rim Basketball*. The annual event features a charity *Battle of the Blue* basketball game pairing local organizations with friendly rivalries. The Youngstown Fire Department clinched the 2019 win against the Adult Parole Board (first-time contenders)



## Mahoning County Children Services



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222 West Federal Street, 4th Floor  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503

330.941.8888 • MAHONINGKIDS.COM

