



Futures Now!

The Quarterly Newsletter of Reclaiming Futures-Montgomery County, OH

Reclaiming Futures — Montgomery County, OH Welcomes New Natural Helper Coordinators

Judge Kuntz, Judge Capizzi, and Project Director Michelle White welcome Natural Helper Coordinators Brittini Long and Kelly Smith to the Reclaiming Futures Team!

Brittini and Kelly bring a combined total of over 25 years of experience in working with youth and families in the juvenile justice system.

Brittini began her career with Montgomery County Juvenile Court in 2000 as a Work Therapy Supervisor in the Community Based Services Program. After completing her Bachelors Degree at Wright State University, Brittini was promoted into the role of Intensive Probation Officer working with female offenders. Brittini was instrumental in creating the HAALO Program, which is a program that exposes at-risk youth to art opportunities in the community. Because of her hard work and commitment to the youth and families that she served, she was honored as Montgomery County Juvenile Court’s Employee of the Year in 2011. She is happily married and has two children.

Kelly began her career with Montgomery County Juvenile Court twelve years ago as a Probation Officer. Shortly after, Kelly was promoted into the role of Intensive Probation Officer and was responsible for supervising and monitoring felony offenders. Kelly has demonstrated a lasting commitment to working with families and volunteers within the community, as she has been actively involved with Reclaiming Futures-Montgomery County, OH since the inception of the Natural Helper Program in 2003. Kelly earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Oral Roberts University, is happily married to her husband of seven years, and the proud mother of a two-year-old daughter.

Brittini and Kelly will be responsible for connecting youth with Natural Helpers, planning fun events for the youth and volunteers, and recruiting and training Natural Helpers. Their passion for service is contagious. Watch out here they come!



Shown left to right—Kelly Smith, Natural Helper Coordinator; Michelle White, Project Director; and Brittini Long, Natural Helper Coordinator

RECLAIMING FUTURES MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Communities helping teens overcome drugs, alcohol and crime.

Nick Kuntz, Administrative Judge
Anthony Capizzi, Judge

Michelle White
Project Director
(937) 496-6737



Montgomery County Juvenile Court

380 W. Second Street

Dayton, OH 45422

reclaimingfutures@mcjcoho.org

<http://www.mcjcoho.org/reclaimingfutures>

In This Issue

- Be My Valentine.....2
- Parent Advisory Board.....2
- T.I.P.S.3
- Outstanding Mentor Award.....3
- Match Spotlight4
- Community Clean Up5
- Special Feature..... 6

Reclaiming Futures is a new approach to help teenagers caught in the cycle of drugs, alcohol and crime.

Montgomery County, Ohio is one of only 37 communities to champion a national movement of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation along with the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention (OJJDP) and Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), Kate B. Reynolds Trust and the Montgomery County Human Services Levy.

Spring 2013

We need your help with recruiting Natural Helpers to work with our youth.

If you know of anyone who maybe interested in becoming a Natural Helper, please call us at

(937) 496-6877.

“Creating positive futures with court-involved youth and families by building community solutions.”

♥ BE MY VALENTINE ♥



Donna Peck, Americops Member, teaching children to make valentines cards.



Kelly Smith, Michelle White, and Natural Helper Raymond Birdsong

On Wednesday, February 13, 2013, Reclaiming Futures co-sponsored a Valentine's Party at the Dakota Center in Dayton, Ohio with the Probation Department's Community Based Services Unit. Over 60 youth, staff, volunteers, and Natural Helpers participated in an evening of fun, food, and fellowship. Reclaiming Futures served pizza, which is always a crowd pleaser with the teens. Kelly Lance, volunteer from Southbrook Church, enlisted the help of many generous friends to provide veggie trays, snacks and desserts.

The kids used their creative skills to make Valentine's Day cards for their loved ones. Youth were also able to enjoy board games, basketball, music, and dancing! Kelly Smith, our Natural Helper Coordinator was showing the crowd her excellent DJ skills and the kids had a blast teaching everyone some of the newest dances. This was another wonderful event for all of those who participated.



Brittini Long and Lynn Olowoniyi having fun with kids



Luigi Dodieu, Community Based Services Supervisor having fun with kids

PARENT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY

The Reclaiming Futures Parent Advisory Board has been very busy over the last few months. The group's main goal is to be a sounding board for other parents who have found themselves involved with the Court system. Through their own experiences, the Parent Advisory Board wants to pay it forward and offer support and encouragement to fellow parents. One of their recent accomplishments was re-creating the Detention brochure. They wanted this brochure to be more specific to the parent's needs, questions, and concerns. The Parent Advisory Board also developed a welcome letter for all new Drug Court parents to let them know they are there to offer support. To further increase participation, many of the Parent Advisory Board members have volunteered to regularly attend Drug Court, in an effort to extend a friendly handshake or offer an understanding smile as the parents enter Drug Court. The Parent Advisory Board recognizes some parents are appearing in Drug Court with their child for the first time, and several members have been able to invite new parents to attend Parent Advisory Board meetings.

Currently, the Parent Advisory Board is creating their mission statement so that there is a clear understanding of their common purpose and future goals moving forward. These dedicated individuals are committed to helping others. Additionally, their commitment to the Parent Advisory Board has made their intent very clear. Reclaiming Futures would like to applaud these members for all of their dedication and efforts over the last few months. **JOB WELL DONE !**

***Being a Natural Helper is easy. You don't have to be a professional with a degree...You don't have to be perfect.
You don't have to be anything but yourself.***

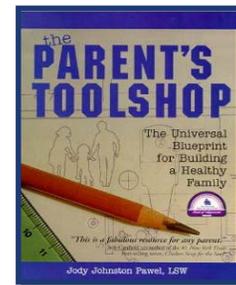
RECLAIMING FUTURES OFFERS T.I.P.S (TOOLS FOR IMPROVING PARENTING SUCCESS) TO PARENTS INVOLVED WITH JUVENILE COURT

Being an effective parent is a challenge for some of our Court involved parents. There are many things that come with manuals these days, but unfortunately, children are not among them. Empowering parents with communication skills can strengthen their families, and hopefully result in no further Court involvement.

Reclaiming Futures, along with Probation and Start Right Staff has successfully completed the certification program in order to facilitate *Parent's Toolshop*. *Parent's Toolshop Consulting, Ltd.* Provides family life education services and products based on Jody Johnston Pawel's book, *The Parent's Toolshop: The Universal Blueprint for Building a Healthy Family*. For more than 30 years, Jody has been a leader in the parent education field. She has trained thousands of parents, parent educators, family-service professionals, foster parents, protective service case workers, and child care professionals throughout North America, through her uniquely entertaining and highly informative

workshops. The benefit of training staff to be facilitators is that the Court can continue to provide parents with parenting skills for years to come. Moving forward, we will empower parents by teaching them a unique, reliable problem-solving method that helps them find individualized solutions to their parenting challenges. Parents will also learn how to apply these steps and skills to any relationship—including non-parenting adult relationships. Congratulations to Rebekkah Brewer, Start Right Manager, Kelly Smith, Natural Helper Coordinator, James Trevino, Drug Court Case Specialist, and Cassandra Drew, Probation Officer for becoming certified facilitators.

These staff members will present T.I.P.S. and information from the Parent's Toolshop quarterly during 4 week sessions, consisting of various topics, including The Universal Blueprint, Parenting Styles, F-A-X Listening, Clear Communication, Discipline, and Maintenance of skills learned. Our first session was held on Tuesday, April 30, 2013, with ten eager parents in attendance!



Jody Johnston Pawel, President of Parent's Toolshop Consulting.

T.I.P.S. Facilitators and Participants



MONTGOMERY COUNTY MENTORING COLLABORATIVE HONORS NATURAL HELPER



Judge Kuntz (left) with Natural Helper and Outstanding Mentor Award Recipient Julius Lattimore

On January 31, 2013, the Mentoring Collaborative of Montgomery County hosted a luncheon at the Miami Valley Golf Club to honor several outstanding mentors within the community.

One of the honorees, Julius Lattimore, is an active Natural Helper with Reclaiming Futures-Montgomery County, OH. Julius received a 2012 Outstanding Mentor Award in recognition of commitment in mentoring young men involved with Juvenile Court. Julius has been a Natural Helper since 2010 and a wonderful advocate for our youth, as he has remained consistent and steadfast in his mission to help young people. Mr. Lattimore always makes himself available to spend time with his mentees and lets them know he is there to support them if and when they need him. He has frequently taken the time to assist youth with enrolling into appropriate schools,

finding jobs, and following through with their Court obligations. Mr. Lattimore is also known to take on more than one mentee at a time, and regularly engages his mentees in positive activities, such as taking them to football games, including them in family gatherings, and just spending quality time with them. When Julius is matched with a youth who may be hesitant to work with a Natural Helper, he never gives up on them and works effortlessly toward building a relationship. With unyielding dedication to helping young people and remarkable service as a Natural Helper with Reclaiming Futures, Mr. Lattimore has truly demonstrated he is an outstanding mentor.



Natural Helper Megan Gerding

WELCOME NEW NATURAL HELPERS!

Reclaiming Futures recently held the first Natural Helper Training for 2013. We welcomed six new Natural Helpers:

Michael Renshaw
Megan Gerding
Jaquetta Sanders
Rachelle Noval
Michael Newsom
Marrisa Newsom



Natural Helper Rachelle Noval



Natural Helper Michael Renshaw

We are extremely excited to have you as the newest members of Reclaiming Futures Team. Congratulations!



Natural Helper Michael Newsom



Natural Helper Marrisa Newsom



Natural Helper Jaquetta Sanders

MATCH SPOTLIGHT



Brad is an 18 year old young man who entered Drug Court in October of 2012, due to experimenting with drugs and failing to follow household rules. The following month, Brad was connected with Natural Helper Christa Davies, and they instantly hit it off. Brad and Christa began building their relationship through phone calls and text messages, which gave Christa an opportunity to see Brad as a teenager experiencing many of the same struggles all teenagers experience – such as obtaining a driver's license, going out on dates, and passing exams. Christa describes Brad as a pleasant young man with wonderful manners, and she takes

pride in the fact that Brad has developed enough trust to confide in her about things that are bothering him. Surprisingly enough, Brad and Christa have exposed each other to new things, in addition to the common interests they share. Brad and Christa attended the Probation Department's Holiday Party in December of 2012, and enjoyed lunch, crafts, and simply spending time together.

Over the last 7 months, Christa has been a consistent presence in Brad's life, regularly checking on Brad and communicating with him by phone, in addition to inviting him on outings and supporting Brad and his family by attending Drug Court hearings. Brad has truly opened up and now freely reaches out to Christa, who provides encouragement when Brad may be having a hard day, or helps Brad celebrate when he has good news to share. This relationship has offered Brad a positive alternative to hanging out with negative peers or giving in to temptations to use drugs. Brad likes the way Christa always seems

to know the right thing to say when he is discouraged or upset, and he appreciates the way Christa helps keep him calm and focused on the positive goals he wants to achieve. Brad states "Christa helped me realize I have to do this for me, and it may not always be easy, but I am the only one who can make it happen." Christa admits she may not always say what Brad wants to hear, but she tries to be someone he can count on to be straightforward and have his best interests at heart.

Christa has been a great cheerleader for Brad and is thrilled that he has been maintaining sobriety, recently obtained employment, and is preparing for his high school graduation this month. Christa does not take any credit for Brad's recent success, instead, she is honored to celebrate his achievements with him and be a part of his life. Brad and Christa are looking forward to maintaining this relationship, even after he closes this chapter of his life and keeps working toward achieving new levels of success.

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

Montgomery County Juvenile Court was selected as a winner of the Kin Killing Kin Community Impact Contest through the submission of student art work. The Kin Killin Kin Community Impact Project challenged youth among local schools and agencies to create a piece of artwork that depicted a message of anti-violence. In addition to the art, the youth were challenged complete a community service project. To continue to spread the anti-violence message, the youth participated with staff and volunteers in a community clean-up activity.

Montgomery County Juvenile Court Reclaiming Futures, Probation, Solid Waste, United Way and CIRGV (Community Initiative to Reduce Gun Violence) conducted a neighborhood clean-up on Friday April 5, 2013 in the Twin Towers neighborhood of East Dayton. Approximately 60 youth and 20 staff participated in this service project.

The Juvenile Court working in conjunction with Solid Waste Services targeted this location as an area in need of clean-up. In addition, our youth and Staff handed out pamphlets of information for the citizens in this neighborhood. The pamphlets contained a variety of community resources (police, alcohol and drug services, mental health services, educational services, food assistance services, medical services, etc.) that can be utilized for families in need of services.

We believe that by cleaning up the neighborhoods, we can send a message that *“We care about our neighbors, our community, and violence is not tolerated here.”* By the end of the afternoon, we removed **5.77 tons** of garbage from this neighborhood. It is amazing what a small group of people can accomplish when they come together for a common goal.



Community Clean Up message of anti-violence



Natural Helpers Margaret Smith and Rachele Noval with RF Staff



Youth participants from Nicholas Residential Treatment Center

“Cleaning up this neighborhood was much more fun than getting in trouble or going to Detention.”
 ~ Quote from Youth Participant



Before photo



After photo



Staff Participants



Natural Helper Jerry Deisher and his mentee with Judge Capizzi (Center)

QUICK FACTS

- Over 6,710 young people were referred to Montgomery County Juvenile Court for criminal and unruly acts in 2011.
- Of these more than half were in need of substance abuse and/or mental health treatment.
- Over 2,069 were girls.
- 40% were under age 15.
- For the cost of incarcerating one person for one year, we can provide treatment for between 3 and 13 teens every year.
- Allowing one youth to leave high school for a life of crime and drug abuse costs society up to \$2.3 million.

SPECIAL FEATURE...DEBBIE BEINHART, PARENT ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER



Debbie Beinhart with her son, daughter, and husband.

Debbie Beinhart is a former Drug Court parent and one of our Parent Advisory Board Members. This married mother of two could not believe her daughter had become involved with the Court system. At the onset of the Court process, she found herself overwhelmed, confused, and hopeless. This frustration led her to get involved with the Reclaiming Future's Parent Advisory Board, a support group for parents. Debbie admits it was not easy managing all of her daughter's hearings, appointments, and treatment, but she says it was well worth it in the long run.

In May of 2011, Debbie's daughter successfully completed the Drug Court program. Since that time Debbie has been paying it forward to help other parents who have found themselves in this same situation. Today, she has grown into a valuable asset for Montgomery County Juvenile Court and the Reclaiming Future's Parent Advisory Board.

Recently, Debbie was invited to attend a meeting in Columbus with Judge Capizzi and Project Director, Michelle White, to encourage other Judges from across the state of Ohio to adopt the Reclaiming Futures model. Debbie was selected as a parent spokesperson to speak about her family's experience with Reclaiming Futures and the Drug Court program.

Debbie stressed the importance of youth receiving appropriate assessments and receiving treatment. Debbie was most inspirational when she said, "I can't imagine what could have happened to Amy if she wasn't involved with the Court's Reclaiming Futures program. If the court didn't get her assessed and connected with the right care, Amy would have slipped through the cracks and could have spiraled further into addiction. I am grateful for the caring Probation Officer, Natural Helper, and the Judge for their time and commitment to my family."

We are so proud and grateful for Debbie's accomplishments and her willingness to give back to the community. Thank you Debbie for your courage, perseverance, and for being a part of the Reclaiming Futures Team!



Montgomery County Juvenile Court
380 West Second Street
Dayton, OH 45422