



# Futures NOW!

The Quarterly Newsletter of Montgomery County Juvenile Court and Reclaiming Futures

## Montgomery County Emerges As A Leader Among Ten Communities Piloting Reclaiming Futures

Montgomery County has emerged as a leader in systems change among the ten communities piloting Reclaiming Futures over the past five years, according to research conducted by the Urban Institute and the University of Chicago's Chapin Hall Center for Children.

Survey respondents—including local treatment providers, community leaders, program partners and court staff—measured the effectiveness of the Reclaiming Futures initiative in thirteen specific areas divided into three key categories: Administration (access to services, data sharing, systems integration, and resource management; Collaboration (client information, partner involvement and agency collaboration), and Quality (AOD assessments, treatment effectiveness, targeted treatment, cultural integration, family involvement and pro-social activities).

***"The strongest system change appears to have occurred in Dayton, Ohio. Every one of the evaluation's 13 indices of systemic change increased significantly in Dayton between the first and last survey."***

—Jeffrey A. Butts  
Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago

According to the final report, local improvements were especially dramatic in the areas of access to services, data sharing, AOD assessment, treatment effectiveness and targeted treatment. "In the past five years, Montgomery County Juvenile Court's Reclaiming

Futures has significantly improved the screening, treatment, care and community support for young people entering our juvenile justice system," said Charlotte McGuire, Project Director for Reclaiming Futures—Montgomery County. "And the need is very real—of the 8,412 young people referred to Montgomery County Juvenile Court in 2005, more than half were in need of substance abuse and/or mental health treatment."

## RWJ Foundation Will Continue To Fund Local Reclaiming Futures Efforts

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has approved funding to support Reclaiming Futures—Montgomery County for two more years, citing the program's success in getting more services to teens in the justice system who struggle with drugs and alcohol.

Overall, the RWJF board approved \$6.5 million to support 10 pilot sites for two more years, including Reclaiming Futures—Montgomery County, and to help additional new sites implement the Reclaiming

Futures model over the next four years. The expanded effort also will create a national resource center to provide data, case studies and other information to even more communities seeking to improve drug and alcohol services for justice-involved youth.

"By spreading Reclaiming Futures across the country, we are creating a national movement that can make a vital difference in the health of youth and their families," said Kristin Schubert, RWJF program officer for Reclaiming Futures.

### RECLAIMING FUTURES—MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Communities helping teens overcome drugs, alcohol and crime.

Charlotte D. McGuire  
Project Director  
937-496-6737  
mcguirec@mcoho.org



Nick Kuntz, Administrative Judge  
Anthony Capizzi, Judge

Montgomery County Juvenile Court  
303 West Second Street  
Dayton, OH 45422  
Phone: 937-496-6884  
www.mcjc.mcoho.org/departments/RF

*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 ten communities nationwide selected to participate in this national project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.*

**SPRING/SUMMER 2007**



Natural Helper Teresa Beasley

## Spotlight: Teresa Beasley, Natural Helper

Each edition of "Futures NOW!" focuses on real-life experiences of Natural Helpers, the volunteer corps of local citizens who mentor at-risk children with Juvenile Court histories. To learn more about how you can reclaim a child's life by becoming a Natural Helper, please call 496-6884.

I was matched as a Natural Helper with 17-year-old Geneva Weaver a few days before I graduated from Natural Helper training last summer. She lives with her mom, sisters and brother, and I've had the opportunity

**My hope is that more women will find it in their hearts to get involved in mentoring. Our young girls need us ... and a small investment of time and love can bring a big payoff for a young lady.**

—Teresa Beasley

to establish a family-like relationship with all of them. Each relationship is unique in itself.

Geneva and I have shared serious talks about life, attended youth church and bible study, participated in a Christmas holiday worship

concert, and been bowling with other Natural Helpers and their youth. I have enjoyed beauty shop moments with Geneva and her sisters, lots of school discussions, fun moments with Geneva and her siblings at Dave and Busters, and many discussions about how to be a godly young lady.

This summer Geneva and I will attend a Sisters conference for teen age girls hosted by Cece Winans in Atlanta. Although Geneva is a little nervous because she has never traveled without

her family, I know this will be a blessed and memorable time for us both.

This summer, Geneva and I plan to spend time at the library together, researching post-high school education opportunities.

It is my desire that Geneva has the same

**I really appreciate this mentor program and everything Miss Teresa has done for me. I really want to stay in this program and I hope it continues.**

—Geneva, age 17

opportunities in life that I have had because the older women in my life gave me time and love.

Montgomery County was well-represented at the **Reclaiming Futures Annual Leadership Institute** in Waikiki, where representatives from all ten Reclaiming Futures sites met for a series of hands-on workshops and presentations in February.

Representing Montgomery County at the conference were (below, left to right) Faith Champion Arthur L. McGuire, Sr.; Project Director Charlotte McGuire; Administrative Judge Nick Kuntz; Community Fellow Roma Stevens; Judge Anthony



Capizzi; Treatment Fellow Beverly Jones-Arthur; and Justice Fellow Eric Shafer.



The **South Metro Regional Chamber of Commerce**—which serves Centerville, Miami Township, Miamisburg, West Carrollton, Springboro and Washington Township—hosted a breakfast meeting on April 24 to raise awareness in the business community about issues related to juvenile drug and alcohol use and crime in Montgomery County. Montgomery County Juvenile Court Administrative Judge Nick Kuntz (at right) encouraged attendees to participate as Natural Helpers (community volunteers) and to support Reclaiming Futures with monetary donations, job internships and job shadowing for young people, and pro-social opportunities.



Shown listening to the presentation with members and guests of the SMRCOC is Judge Anthony Capizzi, far right.



## Nineteen Volunteers Complete Natural Helper Training

Nineteen community volunteers joined the ranks of Natural Helper graduates in May, and will soon be matched as mentors for court-involved youth.

The majority of this Natural Helper graduating class was recruited during last fall's Reclaiming Futures Sunday at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. During the graduation ceremony at Judge Arthur O. Fisher Park, Vincent Johnson, Sr.,—one of the Mt. Calvary volunteers—spoke on behalf of the graduates about their new role as Natural Helpers.

"So many of our children don't have role models or

parents, and we often blame kids for being unruly or getting into trouble," said Johnson. "These children don't have anyone to praise their accomplishments, and no one is there to be disappointed when they fail. By being a Natural Helper, we can not only give them the support that they need, but they know we'll be disappointed when they fail. Sometimes that's all it takes to turn your life around."

"Most of us who are involved are people of faith," said Johnson, "and we have to take our love and care and concern out of the church and into the community. By doing that, we can change lives for the

better, and therefore change our community for the better," he said.

*For more information about Natural Helpers or to sign up for the next training class, please call Chris Lohr at 496-6877.*

### Congratulations To Our Spring 2007 Natural Helper Graduates

George Brown Jr.  
Cheryl Crabtree  
Tom Evans  
Iola Gist  
Odessa F. Jackson  
Ethel Johnson  
Vincent Johnson Sr.  
Sadie Knight  
Mary Lewis  
Ethel Lynch

Johnnie Marsh  
Margene McCallum  
Harriet McCleskey  
Tyson Persona  
Shelly Tall  
Keith Tanner  
Jennifer Weaver  
Phyllis Wheeler  
Charlene Wortham



*Judge Anthony Capizzi poses with new Natural Helper graduates Jennifer Weaver, left, and Ethel Lynch, at right.*



## Juvenile Probation Officers Call For New Response To Teen Drug And Alcohol Use In National Report

Reclaiming Futures—Montgomery County's Justice Fellow **Eric Shafer** is one of several juvenile justice leaders recommending a ground-breaking approach to help teens in trouble with drugs, alcohol and crime.

In a national report published in February, Shafer and other juvenile probation directors outlined practical steps based on proven successes of the Reclaiming Futures model. The approach includes screening each teen who enters the juvenile justice system for drug and alcohol problems, assessing the severity of their use and providing prompt access to a treatment plan coordinated by a service team.

The report offers ten specific recommendations for juvenile justice practitioners, including:

- Collaborating with mental health providers, alcohol and drug treatment professionals, school administrators and community partners;
- Knowing which services are available and appropriate for drug-involved youth;
- Tailoring interventions based on the teen's strengths, risk and needs;
- Supporting staff to continue to learn about effective substance abuse treatment;

- Promoting funding for family advocacy;
- Wrap-around services and mentoring;
- and collecting and sharing data to help all agencies involved in the effort.

For a copy of the report *Juvenile Probation Officers Call for New Responses to Teen Drug and Alcohol Use and Dependency*, visit [www.reclaimingfutures.org](http://www.reclaimingfutures.org).

*Eric Shafer, Montgomery County Director of Juvenile Probation Services (far right) worked with other Reclaiming Futures justice fellow from around the country to write a report recommending a ground-breaking approach to help teens in trouble with drugs, alcohol and crime.*



---

# Reclaiming Futures Gets The Word Out To Area Businesses, Organizations, Congregations

To build awareness of Reclaiming Futures, recruit Natural Helpers, and generate pro-social opportunities including jobs for court-involved youth, Reclaiming Futures keeps a busy calendar filled with presentations to local business groups, congregations, and social and service organizations. Here's a look at where we've been lately and a few of the places we're headed this summer:

## March

- *Reclaiming Futures Day at United Community Church, hosted by Reverend Reginald Harvey*
- *Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services' Regional Statewide Adolescent Treatment Coordination-Family Voice Ohio in Cincinnati. Participants included Natural Helper Jane Beach, 16-year-old Jesse and his grandparents and father, who discussed their perspectives about the Circle of Caring for Jesse.*
- *Reclaiming Futures Bowling Event for Natural Helpers and Youth*
- *Reclaiming Futures Day for Dayton Catholic Deanery with endorsement from the Cincinnati Archdiocese*

## April

- *Reclaiming Futures Day for South Metro Regional Chamber of Commerce*

## May

- *Law Day on Courthouse Square*
- *Natural Helper Graduation for 24 volunteers at Judge Arthur O. Fisher Park*
- *Reclaiming Futures Day at Christ United Bible Church, hosted by Pastor Ron Ballard.*

## June

- *Commonwealth of Virginia's Juvenile Justice Conference. Project Director Charlotte McGuire and Justice Fellow Eric Shafer will present on behalf of the Reclaiming Futures National Program Office.*

## July

- *Reclaiming Futures Day for Wright Patterson Air Force Base Command.*

## Coming Soon

- *Reclaiming Futures Day in Huber Heights*

---

***If your professional or social organization, congregation, neighborhood group or club needs a speaker and wants to learn more about Reclaiming Futures, contact Charlotte***

***McGuire by phone at***

***(937) 496-6884***

***or by e-mail at***

***mcguirec@mcoho.org.***

---



**RECLAIMING FUTURES**  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO

Communities helping teens  
overcome drugs, alcohol and crime

Montgomery County Juvenile Court  
303 West Second Street  
Dayton, OH 45422  
Phone: 937-496-6884

[www.mcjc.mcoho.org/departments/RF](http://www.mcjc.mcoho.org/departments/RF)

FIRST-CLASS MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
DAYTON, OH 45401  
PERMIT NO. 551