



# Futures NOW!

The Quarterly Newsletter of Montgomery County Juvenile Court and Reclaiming Futures

## Outreach To Faith Community Builds Awareness, Support For Reclaiming Futures

On weekdays, Montgomery County Juvenile Court Judges Nick Kuntz and Anthony Capizzi work from their courtrooms, trying to find solutions to the growing problems of juvenile crime and substance abuse. On weekends, they've been tackling the same issues—from church pulpits throughout the county.

It's all part of a faith-based outreach effort by Montgomery County Juvenile Court and Reclaiming Futures to build awareness of problems facing our young people, and to recruit volunteers to become Natural Helpers to teenagers caught in the cycle of drugs, alcohol and crime. Pastor Arthur McGuire of Joshua Christian Ministries, who serves as Reclaiming Futures' Faith-Based Champion, is spearheading the outreach effort.

"We want to involve the good people in our

community, and most of them go to some kind of church," said Administrative Judge Nick Kuntz. "We don't care what faith they are. We want their values and their support and their hope for these kids."

"Reclaiming Futures stands for everything that our faith is based on," said Pastor Sam Winston of Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, which hosted a

Reclaiming Futures Sunday on October 29. "We don't want to leave this earth without having touched some lives. We here at Mt. Calvary believe it is our mission to reach out, especially to young people," he said.

Throughout Montgomery County, Reclaiming Futures is spreading the word and congregations are answering the call.

"We appreciate the opportunity to speak to people about a problem that affects kids in every neighborhood," said Judge Anthony Capizzi. "And we very much appreciate that

*"We need to understand that the children involved with juvenile court are not people somehow separated from us. They are our sons and grandsons, our daughters and granddaughters, our nieces and nephews. We cannot afford to divide them from us with a big stained-glass wall."*

—Pastor Samuel Winston

people are stepping up, giving their time and their talents to help some of our county's most needy young people."

Already two communities and four churches have hosted

Reclaiming Futures Days; on March 18, United Community Church in Dayton will host a Reclaiming Futures Sunday.

"It's commitments like these that will help us accomplish our goal and truly reclaim the futures of Montgomery County's court-involved youth," said Judge Kuntz.

For more information about Reclaiming Futures' faith-based outreach efforts, call Charlotte McGuire, Project Director, at 496-6737.

### RECLAIMING FUTURES—MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Communities helping teens overcome drugs, alcohol and crime.

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*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.*



Judge Anthony Capizzi speaks with (from left) Reverend Julie Omsted and Lorna Hinshaw from Trinity United Church of Christ in Miamisburg; Charles Lewis, vice president of the Miami Township Trustees; and Pastor J. Thomas Duke of Grace Covenant Church in West Carrollton during the November 13 breakfast hosted by Miami Township and Miamisburg.

WINTER 2007

**Reclaiming Futures Model Identifies Youth Who Need Treatment**

**More And More Teens In Juvenile Justice System Are Getting Much-Needed Help For Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues**

*Youth in long-term residential treatment programs showed an 85% reduction in alcohol or drug use in the 90 days following treatment, while youth in short-term residential treatment programs showed a 71% reduction in use. One year later, the total reduction was 70% and 53%, respectively.*

Stevens S.J. & Morral, A.R. (Eds) 2003. *Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment in the United States: Exemplary Models from a National Evaluation Study.* Binghamton, New York: Haworth Press.

Every young person who enters Montgomery County’s juvenile justice system is now evaluated for substance abuse and/or mental health issues, thanks to the implementation of a Reclaiming Futures model designed to make a difference in the health of our young people.

Montgomery County is one of ten communities nationwide currently using the Reclaiming Futures model to screen and assess teens entering the juvenile justice system, match young people to clinical services and positive community opportunities, and provide care coordination and family support.

And according to research conducted by the Urban

Institute and the University of Chicago’s Chapin Hall Center for Children, coordination of substance abuse treatment in the juvenile justice system has improved significantly in Montgomery County and the nine other communities that are piloting Reclaiming Futures.

In these communities, leaders are working together as a team to assure that each part of the process functions effectively, remains accountable to the community and demonstrates progress, such as decreasing recidivism.

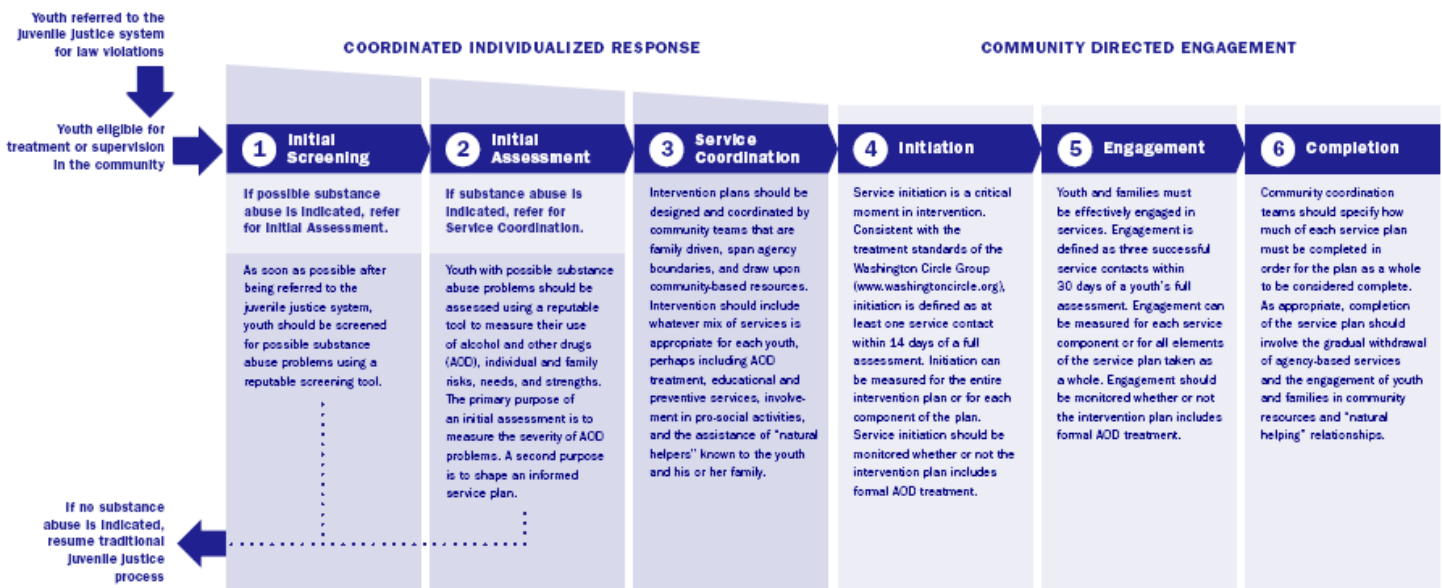
“Through systems change, Reclaiming Futures is making a difference in the health of our young people and their families,” said Charlotte

McGuire, Project Director for Reclaiming Futures—Montgomery County. “We’ve seen significant improvements in drug and alcohol assessments, effectiveness of treatment and access to services,” she said.

Montgomery County and other Reclaiming Futures communities report more families are involved in helping teens turn their lives around, and more teens who have struggled with drugs and alcohol are involved in positive social activities in their communities.

**The Reclaiming Futures Model**

[www.reclaimingfutures.org](http://www.reclaimingfutures.org)



## Twenty Four Join Growing Ranks of Natural Helper Volunteers

In December and January, Reclaiming Futures added 24 Natural Helpers to the growing ranks of Montgomery County volunteers trained to provide support and encouragement to court-involved youth and their families.

"These men and women are ready, willing and able to make a difference in the lives of young people who really need our help," said Charlotte McGuire, Project Director for Reclaiming Futures—Montgomery County. "They are eager to bring their skills and sensitivities to our young people, and we are eager to see the positive impact they will have in their new roles as Natural Helpers," said McGuire.

At the December 6 graduation celebration, speakers included new Natural Helpers Chris Williams and Anthony Fletcher, as well as Juvenile Court Judges Nick Kuntz and Anthony Capizzi; RF Project Director Charlotte McGuire; Natural Helper Coordinator Chris Lohr; and RF Community Fellow Roma

Stephens.

January's Natural Helper graduates included teachers, business owners, a retired Juvenile Magistrate, a construction worker, and a woman previously involved in the juvenile justice system who has turned her life around and is giving back by becoming a Natural Helper. Pastor Reginald Harvey gave the invocation and Greg Corbin spoke about why he decided to be a Natural Helper.

The next Natural Helper class is forming now. To learn more about Reclaiming Futures or to find out how you can become a Natural Helper, call Chris Lohr at 496-6877 or visit online at [www.mcjc.mcoho.org/department/RF](http://www.mcjc.mcoho.org/department/RF).

*Shown at January's Natural Helper graduation are (front row) Cynthia Jackson and Natural Helper Coordinator Chris Lohr; middle row (l-r) Ron Knipfer, Kyna Johnson, Judge, Denise Wilson, Jessica Elam, Carolyn Harris, Sherri Pritchard; back row (l-r) Cameron Voorhees, Thaddeus Washington, Pastor Reginald Harvey, Bob Boyd, Beverly Smith, Mark Maury, Mary Ann Angi and Greg Corbin.*

*'One day, a little boy was walking on a beach that happened to be covered with starfish. As he walked, he would bend over and pick up a starfish and toss it back into the sea. A man on the beach watched for a while as the boy tossed starfish after starfish back into the water. Curious, he approached the boy. "Why are you doing that," he asked. "You can't possibly save them all." The little boy looked at the man, then bent over and picked up another starfish and returned it to the sea. He then said to the man, "No, I can't save them all—but I did just make a difference to that one."*

*So that is why I believe we are ALL here. Trying to make a difference in a child's life. Some of these kids just need a bit of direction, or an ear to listen to them, or a pat on the back or a compliment or a verbal reminder that they DO MATTER. That someone DOES care. Hopefully, as a Natural Helper, we can be like the little boy on the beach. One youth at a time, we can reach out and make a difference.'*

—Chris Williams  
Natural Helper Graduate  
Excerpt from remarks made during  
Natural Helper Graduation  
December 2006



*Natural Helper graduates celebrated together in December. Shown in the front row (left to right) are Kimberly Henderson, Chris Williams, and Natural Helper Coordinator Chris Lohr. Standing (left to right) are Anthony Fletcher, Marcia Griffin, Beverly Crawford, Pastor Arthur McGuire, Judge Nick Kuntz, Judge Anthony Capizzi, Casie Rivera, Lisa Fernald, Mark Fernald and Project Director Charlotte McGuire.*

### Help Us Get The Word Out!

If your professional or social organization, congregation, neighborhood group or club needs of 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](mailto:mcguirec@mcoho.org).



## Chris Lohr Named Natural Helper Coordinator For RF



Chris Lohr is Reclaiming Futures' new Natural Helper Coordinator, responsible for recruiting, training and matching Natural Helper volunteers with court-involved youth.

Chris Lohr

"Since I joined the Reclaiming Futures team a few months ago, I've seen first-hand the awesome impact that our mentors have on the lives of the youth," said Chris. "I am honored to be part of such a wonderful organization and excited to have the opportunity to work for such an important cause."

Chris holds a B.A. in Political Science from Wright State University and will soon begin the MBA program there. He was a member of the Ohio Army National Guard for two years and served with the 2-107 Armored Reconnaissance Squadron (ARS). Chris also worked briefly with the Dayton office of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), and Interned with the City of Riverside and with Helping Hands Community Outreach Center. In July, he'll marry Kristen Rogers in their hometown of Greenville, OH.

## The Greene's Change For Charity Will Benefit Reclaiming Futures This Fall

The Greene, Dayton's newest retail and entertainment complex, selected Reclaiming Futures as the recipient of its *Change For Charity* program next September and October. Six organizations are selected annually to receive a portion of the parking meter proceeds and ticket revenues generated at The Greene. In addition to the proceeds, the Reclaiming Futures will receive the benefit of signage exposure around The Greene.



Yaromir Steiner (second from right), CEO/Founder of The Greene, poses with Judge Nick Kuntz, RF Project Director Charlotte McGuire and Judge Anthony Capizzi during a luncheon to announce the 2007 *Change For Charity* recipients.

## Jane Beach, Natural Helper, Wins Mentoring Award

Congratulations to Natural Helper Jane Beach, chosen to receive a 2007 Outstanding Mentor Award from the Montgomery County Mentoring Collaborative. Jane, an attorney, has been a Natural Helper since 2006.



Natural Helper Jane Beach shares a picnic lunch with Jesse, who graduated from Drug Court last fall.



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MONTGOMERY COUNTY, OHIO

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overcome drugs, alcohol and crime

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