

JUDGE LINDA TUCCI TEODOSIO RECEIVES AWARD

Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio received the *Friend of Children Award* from Child Guidance & Family Solutions for her innovative approach to addressing Court-involved youth who are afflicted with mental illness which could have contributed to their behavior.

Akron Bar Association President Marc Merklin introduced Judge Teodosio, stating, "She truly cares not only about the job she does, but the people the Court serves. She is truly a champion for children."

Judge Teodosio then narrated a presentation entitled, "Mending Hearts & Minds: Summit County's Successful Collaboration." She spoke about the commitment of so many social service agencies who offered support and resources to help form the Crossroads Program in 2003; a program that has since garnered national attention and has served as a model for other Courts across the country to create their own like-minded programs.

Judge Teodosio also informed the crowd of 320 people at Portage Country Club about other programs the Court has created that are designed to identify and treat youth with co-occurring disorders. The Responder Program seeks to collaborate with schools to provide intervention and treatment before they become Court-involved. She also described the Intensive Co-occurring Treatment (ICT) program for those youth not eligible to participate in Crossroads. The goal of ICT is to prevent incarceration of mentally ill youth when treatment is the better option.

"We can put them in Detention, but that's a temporary fix. That doesn't make them well," said Judge Teodosio.

She lauded Child Guidance & Family Solutions for their pivotal collaboration in all of these programs and, particularly, ICT where it provides case management.

"Child Guidance & Family Solutions has been a ready, willing and able partner with the Court and they mirror the effort of so many organizations in Summit County who share a common goal to provide services for our at-risk youth."

Child Guidance and Family Solutions is Summit County's leading provider of behavioral and mental health care to adults, children, and families. The agency provides treatment and prevention services to over 4,000 children and 1,000 adults annually.

This is the second time in the young year where Judge Teodosio's contributions and expertise in this area has been recognized. In January, she accepted an appointment on an advisory committee empanelled by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University which will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the problem of substance use and dependence at America's high schools.

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