

Judge Teodosio to be honored for "Making a Difference"

Once again, Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio's vision for the Juvenile Court has been recognized. On October 21st, Judge Teodosio was the recipient of the Department of Job and Family Services' *Making a Difference Award*.

Judge Teodosio received the honor at a luncheon at The University of Akron's Student Union. The Judge was cited for many outreach programs that she has devised and implemented in her nearly six years on the Juvenile Court bench.

The criteria for the award included demonstrating "a commitment to others through specific examples of improving the quality of life for others, having a measurable history of giving of their time and talent to the community, demonstrating ethics and professionalism while serving as a role model for others and valuing the input of others and collaborating to accomplished established goals for the betterment of the community and its residents."

While several of the outreach and diversion programs Judge Teodosio has started at the Court were noted in her nomination, perhaps two best illustrate why she was a candidate for the award. The Crossroads Program has garnered nationwide recognition for its innovative concept of treating substance abuse and mental illness as co-occurring disorders. While the results yielded by Crossroads have been encouraging, and while it has been a model for others courts to emulate in developing their own programs, it would have never become a reality if not for the coalition-building Judge Teodosio sought from the outset. Dozens of community leaders in the areas of substance abuse, mental health, law enforcement, child and family advocacy, education and government were consulted and impaneled on an advisory committee and it served as the springboard for the program.

The Family Resource Center is a place where Judge Teodosio hoped to bring families together to meet the challenges that come with teen pregnancy, domestic violence, school-to-work and truancy and re-entry into the community after commitment to a detention center or a Department of Youth Services facility. The Court provides case management and referral services so these individuals and/or their families can receive the proper assistance.

"I am very grateful to the Department of Job and Family Services for this acknowledgement," said Judge Teodosio. "But in all honesty, it is a reflection of the work that so many people at the Court and in the community have done to make these programs so effective and I am also very grateful to them."