



*Franklin County's*

# JPO Times

*Volume 22 Issue 1*

## Juvenile Probation Bike Project

Franklin County Juvenile Probation has begun a new project to benefit juveniles in multiple ways. The bike project will give bikes to juveniles in need of transportation for work, school, and other programs. Juveniles will benefit from learning and practicing new skills as they will repair the bikes before they are given to others.

Currently, bikes are received from Chambersburg Police Department. These bikes were found and turned over to the police department. If the owner of the bike cannot be located

after an established period of time, the bike is then considered unclaimed property. The bikes are registered to juvenile probation with the police department in case the bike later becomes missing or stolen.

Once the bikes have been received by juvenile probation, they are inspected to determine if repairs are needed. Any repairs needed are then completed by juveniles with supervision and assistance from probation officers. This allows juveniles to learn some new skills

and practice those skills. If a bike cannot be repaired, it is first used for parts and then any remaining metal pieces are recycled as scrap metal. Any money from the scrap metal is reinvested in the program, as it is used to purchase tools and other supplies, such as tubes for tires.

As this project benefits juveniles in a multitude of ways, the department hopes to expand it by partnering with other police departments to get unclaimed bikes.

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## Why In DEI Stakeholder Training

Approximately 55 people attended a training sponsored by the Criminal Justice Advisory Boards' Juvenile Justice sub-committee and Juvenile Probation on diversity, equity, and inclusivity. The presenter, Dr. Seria Chatters-Smith, is the director of diversity, equity, and inclusion for the State College School District. She spoke about individuals and organizations taking a look internally at practices that may be affecting diversity, equity, and inclusion and gave some strategies to help address these issues. Break-out sessions were held where 5 questions were answered and then those responses were brought back to the group for a wrap up session.

## 2021 Youth Aid Panel Highlights

Participation in the Youth Aid Panel continued to grow in 2021 with seventy-seven referrals being accepted. While some participants are still in progress, fifty-seven juveniles completed the program in 2021. Those juveniles completed a total of two hundred eighty-nine helping hours and performed three hundred fifty-one random acts of kindness.

As a main premise of the youth aid panel is the communities taking care of its own, helping hours are not as stringent as community service. In addition to performing random acts of kindness, participants are required to answer some questions about each

random act of kindness they complete. These questions include how did it make them feel, how do they think it made the person they did the act of kindness for feel, and did they learn anything from doing this.

The following list is just some of what participants did as helping hours or random acts of kindness:

- Visited the grave of a Revolutionary War soldier and paid respects. This participant learned to have pride in our country and that so many have died so that we can live free.
- Answered Santa letters from two 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms
- Helped another student with their geometry work
- Helped a younger kid at the skate park when they fell
- Helped a friend with their homework
- Shoveled snow for parents and neighbor
- Donated blood
- Helped elderly neighbor set up their garden
- Helped art teacher clean up
- Mowed grass for a neighbor
- Left change in a vending machine for someone else to use
- Helped a teacher at parent night
- Helped at Girls Go Race

## Long-Time Administrative Staff Retires

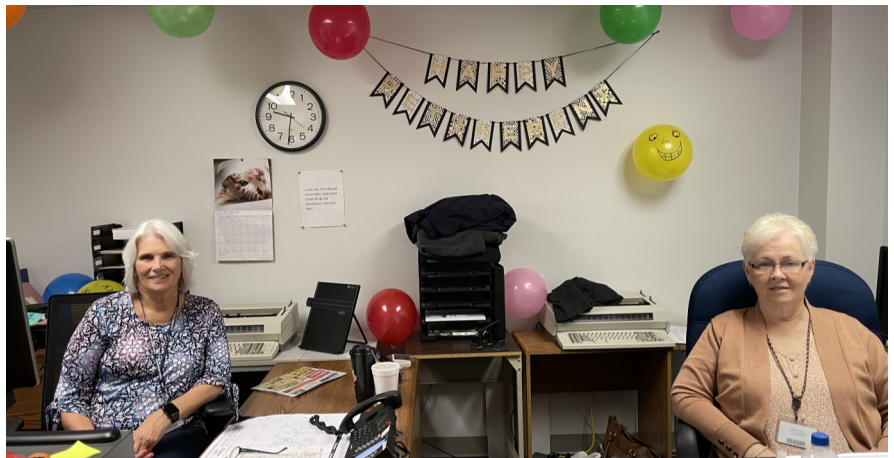
The familiar faces of Ruby Hawbaker and Linda Gadberry will no longer be greeting those arriving at Franklin County Juvenile Probation. Both retired on October 13, 2021 after a combined 30 years working for the department.

Ruby has worked for Franklin County the last fifteen years, of which fourteen years were spent at juvenile probation. She enjoyed getting to know her coworkers, learning more about the court system, and helping her coworkers as needed. Ruby said she will miss her coworkers. She is looking forward to spending more time with friends and family and not planning every day. She is planning to fill her time helping with her grandchildren. Ruby's special plans for her first day of

retirement are to not set an alarm clock and to relax.

Linda has worked for Franklin County for twenty-two years, with the last sixteen years at juvenile probation. According to Linda, the most satisfying part of her job has been the success stories. She will miss her coworkers, but

is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren and having some time for herself. Linda is planning to fill her days with rest and relaxation. She will be starting that on her first day of retirement by leaving for a long weekend at Chincoteague Island.



Linda (left) and Ruby (right) on their last day at juvenile probation.

## PO Spotlight: Kevin Figueroa

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### Where are you from?

I am from New Oxford, Pa.

### What degrees do you hold and where from?

I hold a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Bloomsburg University.

### Why did you choose to work in juvenile justice?

I believe in helping people become a better version of themselves and working with juveniles is a great group to do that with. Juveniles are very susceptible to delinquency and it is important to attempt to deter them from delinquent behaviors so they do not end up becoming lifelong criminals. There are many juveniles that lack a supportive person in their life and having the ability to be that person is a good feeling.

### What do you enjoy the most about your job?

There are a lot of things to enjoy, but one of the main things is the diversity of work that I come across. All the juveniles I work with are different in their own way and it makes the job more exciting when it is not the same

thing over and over. I also really enjoy the work environment. Every place of employment says they are like a small little family but that is truly how it feels here.

### Which attribute of yours do you think helps you the most working with youth?

Being that I am 22-years-old, I think it helps when working with juveniles. I am able to relate to them a little bit more because of the proximity in age with some of them. I am also a very understanding person. I also believe that my personality makes for a good Juvenile Probation Officer. I am quite understanding and open to listen to problems youth may have that others may not care for.

**What goals would you like to accomplish in the next five years?** I would like to either have had my Master's degree within the next five years or at least be in a Master's program.

**What do you like to do for fun?** In my free time I enjoy playing soccer, going to the gym, as well as playing golf!

### Do you have any pets?

I do have a Yorkie Terrier named Toby

### What is something your coworkers would be surprised to learn about?

I think most people would be surprised to learn that I was born in California and spent a couple of years living there before moving here to PA.



Kevin's swearing in ceremony

Pictured from left: Judge Krom, PO Kevin Figueroa, Chief Rick Ackerman, President Judge Meyers

## JJSES Spotlight: Family Involvement

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Family involvement is a building block of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategies (JJSES). It is an important piece at every step of JJSES, and has been shown to have a positive impact on reducing recidivism. Family and other key adults, such as clergy and coaches, assist in supporting and supervising juveniles during and after supervision. Their involvement is needed for behavior changes to be long lasting.

Families should be involved by being informed of assessment results and treatment objectives, identifying and supporting individualized goals, and being informed of the juvenile's progress. Juvenile justice professionals can help the family to access information and supports to understand adolescent brain development and parenting approaches which foster healthy and safe behaviors.

The Family Involvement Committee of the PA Chief Juvenile Probation Officers' Council has worked to develop workbooks. The workbooks are used by juvenile probation officers to assist families to learn skills to work through issues. Currently workbooks are available in the following areas: dealing with frustrations, setting boundaries, respect in the home, and understanding motivation. The workbooks are available in both English and Spanish.

## Staff Spotlight: Julia Plank

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**Where are you from?**

I'm originally from Franklin County, but now live in Adams County.

**Why did you choose to work at juvenile probation?**

I was looking to move ahead, but also staying with the County of Franklin.

**What do you enjoy the most about your job?**

I'm learning lots of new things and my co-workers are so nice and very helpful with all of my questions!

**Which attribute of yours do you think helps you the most working in our office?**

I am eager to learn.

**What goals would you like to accomplish in the next five years?**

I want to travel more in the US and overseas, and commit to a fitness routine.

**What do you like to do for fun?**

Reading, hiking, gardening, going to auctions and estate sales, going to the beach.

**Do you have any pets?**

One cat, she was a stray that someone dropped off on our property and now lives with us. We got lucky, because she is the sweetest cat in the world!

**What is something your coworkers would be surprised to learn about you?**

I've had four different bear sightings at my house over the last few years.

## Staff Spotlight: Kathryn Byers

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**Where are you from?**

I was born in Altoona, PA. I lived in Reisterstown, Maryland for a short time then moved back to Pennsylvania.

**Why did you choose to work at juvenile probation?**

I wanted a career not just a job.

**What do you enjoy the most about your job?**

I enjoy the fact that this job engages my brain more than my previous one.

**Which attribute of yours do you think helps you the most**

**working in our office?**

I try to be very organized which makes keeping things together a bit easier.

**What goals would you like to accomplish in the next five years?**

I would like to buy a car and have some money saved up for the down payment on a small house.

**What do you like to do for fun?**

I cross stitch, play video games, and listen to Audiobooks while doing those things. Also I like to

read.

**Do you have any pets?**

Yes, I have three cats, a 16yr old Tabby named Sarah and two 7-month old orange and white kittens named Aurora and TinkerBell.

**What is something your coworkers would be surprised to learn about you?**

I will pet a snake, but will run away from a butterfly as I have a fear of flying and jumping bugs.

# Congratulations

The Honorable Carol L. Van Horn received the Outstanding Leadership award from the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission in November 2021.

Angie Mackley was named Juvenile Probation Supervisor of the Year by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission at their annual conference in November 2021.

Chance Kelley was named Juvenile Probation Officer of the Year for 2021 by the Franklin County Juvenile Probation Department. This award was based on nominations by fellow probation officers.