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Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home Literacy & Tutoring Center

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Leadership Project
Objectives

- Enhance the students' reading comprehension and ability by providing on-going assessment and individualized literacy tutoring.
- Enhance the students' learning environment by providing consistent tutoring in content areas (math, science, social studies, English).
- Provide support for creating positive life skills through building healthy relationships between students and tutors.
- Provide modeling of positive and active learning styles through interaction with successful undergraduate Western Michigan University students.

Leadership Project
Goals

- Secure funding for operating a five to six day a week Literacy and Tutoring Center for the incarcerated youth in the long term residential unit.
- Provide a consistent presence of six to eight trained WMU undergraduate students for tutoring incarcerated youth.
- Provide consistent mentoring support for incarcerated youth.
- Provide on-going professional development in literacy diagnosis and intervention for tutors.

KALAMAZOO COUNTY
JUVENILE HOME

LITERACY & TUTORING CENTER



On June 15, 2009, the new Kalamazoo County Juvenile Home facility will open. The expanded facility will have 62 beds for detention, a day treatment program for youths living at home, and an alternative education program for non-residents. This facility will provide a continuum of programming for youth involved with the 9th Judicial Circuit Court from secure long term residential programming to community based services incorporating the families and community in the treatment of our youth.

In the past, many adjudicated youth spent time in the Juvie Home and were ultimately sent out of state for secure residential treatment. This was costly and when the youths came back home to Kalamazoo, having lost the support system they had built, they inevitably fell back into old routines getting them into further trouble. The secure long term residential unit will have the capacity to house 16 incarcerated youth providing them with the care and support system necessary to help them build a new life. The Literacy and Tutoring Center will serve this population.

Current Juvie Home
Statistics & Literacy
Support Programs

- Ages 11 – 17 who have been ordered by the Circuit Court.
- 40 bed, short term, secure placement Detention Center.
- Youth Center School serves the detained youth with a full-time staff of teachers.
- The Intensive Learning Center serves youth who live at home but have been court ordered to attend school at the KCJH.
- The great majority of the students read well below grade level and struggle with reading comprehension which has a negative effect on all of their learning as well as their self-efficacy.
- Five week Summer Reading Clinic
- Diversions – weekly book discussion group
- The Late Show – Twice weekly evening read aloud program

Kalamazoo County Juvie
Home Interested
Personnel

- Frank Weichlein, Superintendent
- Peter Holt, Detention Manager
- Tom Noblet, Day Treatment Manager
- Kay Trantham, Literacy Specialist