

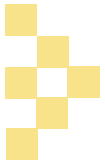
ANNUAL REPORT

Buffalo/Pepin County Teen Court

2024



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



2024 at a glance

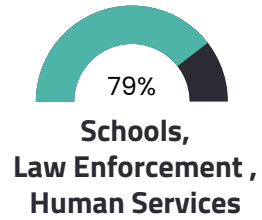
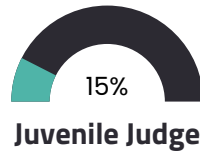
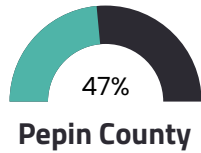
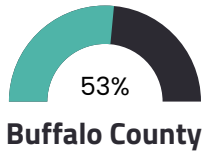
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Teen Court hearings
conducted

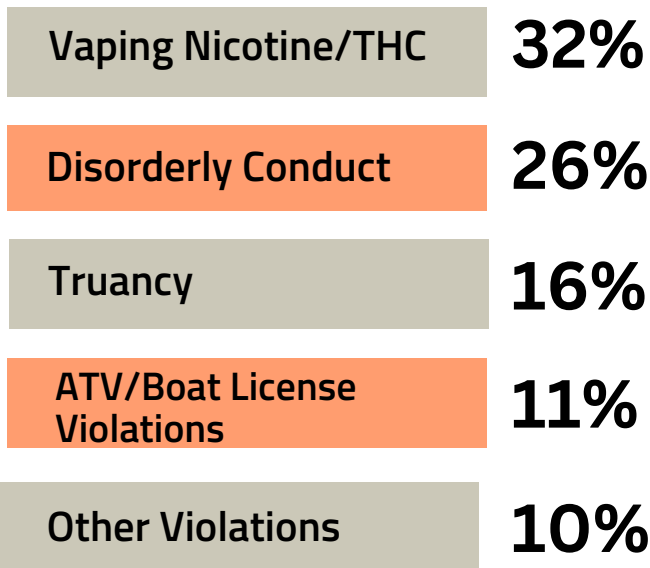
February, May, and
September are the most
active months for
referrals



Referrals:



Referrals by Violation



96%

Successful
completion of
requirements in
2024

Youth with violations completed

50 Hours
of community
service for local
non-profits

40 Hours
evidence-based
course work aimed
at changing their
behavior

30 Kind Acts
participated in more
than 30 intentional
acts of kindness for
community
members

10 Apologies
wrote 10 letters of
apology to those
harmed by their
negative actions

Hearings with a restorative approach

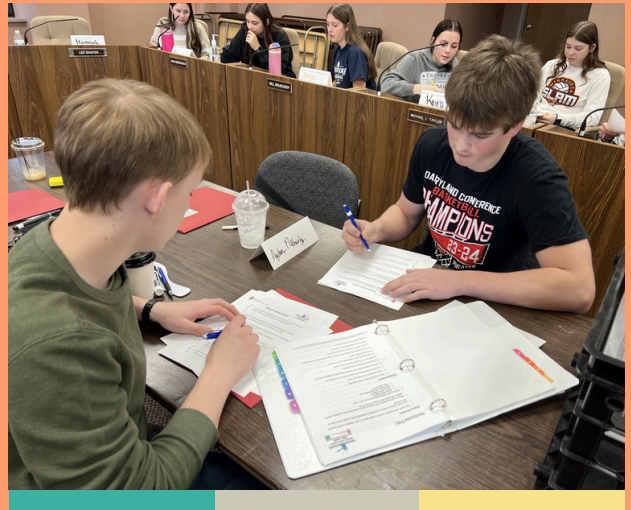
Teen court hearings in Buffalo and Pepin Counties use a restorative approach, which means that youth with violations receive requirements to complete from their peers aimed at rethinking their behavior, repairing relationships, and restoring their image in the community. Restorative justice is a 360 degree approach that engages the youth and their family and those harmed with an ultimate goal to change behavior and make things right.



Panelist training

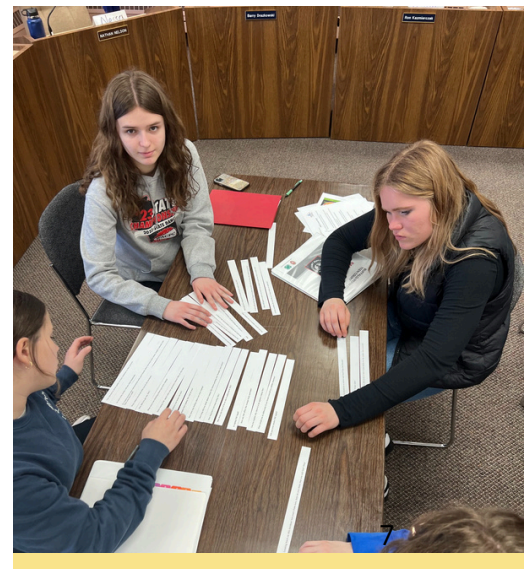
23 new panel members were trained in 2024

Another 3 youth with violations took the oath of confidentiality and participated in restorative questioning and deliberations



Integral parts of the panel member training included developing an understanding of the pillars of restorative justice, practicing effective and equitable questioning strategies, reviewing the hearing process and steps in deliberation, discussing the research behind criminogenic needs, and developing authentic requirements to change behavior and repair relationships.

The Honorable Judge Tom Clark spoke with panel members about his strategies for using a restorative approach in his courtrooms. Students had the opportunity to observe him in action during a sentencing hearing. The training is centered on educating high school students on utilizing restorative justice with their peers.



Advisory Board



Youth representatives



Kailyn Pophal

Durand-Arkansaw
High School



Maya Wier

Durand-Arkansaw
High School



Miriam Sandberg

Mondovi High
School

These graduating seniors provide a youth voice at board meetings, serve as mentors for youth with violations, coach peer panelists, advocate for the program, and help train incoming panel members. They started their one year term in September.

Referral agents and board members

Heather Kosik - Alma School
Rob Stewart - Alma School
Renee Pronschinske - Buffalo County Courts
Michael Osmond - Buffalo County Sheriff
Colin Severson - Buffalo County Sheriff's Dept
Jake Laehn - Buffalo County Sheriff's Dept
Danielle Schalinske - Buffalo County Human Services
Tom Clark - Buffalo/Pepin County Judge
Aarik Lackershire - Alma Police
Dave Williams - C-FC School
Steve Stoppelmoor - C-FC School
Troy White - C-FC School
Ryan Howell - Fountain City Police
Stephen Trudeau - Durand-Arkansaw School
Stan Ridgeway - Durand Police
Brandon Bonnerup - Durand Police

Kory Rud - Gilmanton High School
Amy Endle - Gilmanton High School
Jay Hebert - Gilmanton High School
Darin Gray - Mondovi High School
Jeff Rykal - Mondovi High School
David Shapiro - Mondovi Police
Gina Rieck - Pepin County Courts
Carol Pulkrabek - Pepin County Human Services
Shelley Place - Pepin County Human Services
Matthew Roesler - Pepin County Human Services
Joel Wener - Pepin County Sheriff
Jesse VanAlstine - Pepin Police
Craig Anderson Ruskin - Pepin School
Danni Larson-Noel - Pepin School
Annie Lisowski - Extension Buffalo County

Stories of Teen Court Success

Shared by Teen Court Advisory Board Members



- A social worker working with the family was very impressed with the program and the knowledge of teen court panel members
- All the referrals that this law enforcement officer has been involved with have all been very positive experiences
- Youth with violations and their families are very grateful for the experience and opportunity to participate
- Our young people on the panel are very good at what they do, they are trained well by Extension staff, and they like those that they are working with in the program



- Young people are learning a lot by serving on the panel
- Principals in other districts are wondering how they can get a similar program in their communities because they wish they had this as an option in their schools
- Parents of youth with violations are extremely positive about the program
- One recent family shared that they felt the teen court process was very respectful and their child had positive interactions they had with their peers on the panel
- This is a great program for with an alternative option for juveniles
- The panel members are phenomenal in asking restorative questions and responding in ways that best benefit young people
- A social worker from another county reached out to learn how to replicate our program because it was communicated to them how successful it is for youth and families
- Students are eager to be a part of the panel because of the positive experiences they have heard

Teen Court Scholarships

Zoey Danzinger

Buffalo/Pepin County
Teen Court 2024

\$500
Scholarship

How Teen Court Has Impacted You?

Teen Court has allowed the young people in the community a second chance to prove to the members of the community, their guardians, and most importantly themselves that their mistakes don't define them, but rather the actions they take moving forward will define them as the person they want to become.



Graduating from Alma High School



Isabella Wayne

Buffalo/Pepin County
Teen Court 2024

\$250
Scholarship

How Has Teen Court Impacted You?

Teen Court has taught me helped me understand my community better. Teen Court does a wonderful job helping students understand their issues and get them on a better path for a more successful life. It also gives them a second chance to do better while they are still young.



Graduating from Durand High School



Local teen court scholarships are made possible by our community contributors. Graduating panelists complete a scholarship application and essay. Award winners are selected by a committee of adults from the advisory board.

Thank you to our 2024 contributors

Alliance Bank - Mondovi
Alma Knights of Columbus
Alma Rod & Gun Club
Animal Wellness Center
Bank of Alma
Bauer Built, Inc.
Black's Valley Ag Supply
CastleRock Foundation
Cochrane Telephone Coop
Cochrane VFW Post 10406
Dairyland Power
Dan Johnson Construction
Durand Improvement Group
Durand Lions Club
Eau Galle Cheese Factory
Heike Pharmacy
Jackson Keller, Jr. D.D.S.

Kjentvet-Smith Funeral Home
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La Crosse Milling
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Mondovi Business Assoc. Inc.
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