



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YMCA of Greater Cleveland

# TEEN COURT PROGRESS REPORT

## CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

- Ohio detains and incarcerates more children than two-thirds of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- The cost to incarcerate one youth in Ohio is \$86,140.
- Youth of color represent 21% of Ohio's juvenile population. However, youth of color represent 64% of those committed to the Department of Youth Services at adjudication.

## PROGRAM PURPOSE

Make an impact on at-risk youth who are more likely to enter the criminal justice system based on Department of Justice statistics. The program is designed to reduce the likelihood of youth becoming imprisoned or adjudicated

and reduce recidivism among first time offenders. The program is also for students with records of chronic absence or tardiness, unruly behavior – facing possible suspension.

## METHODOLOGY

Providing access to leadership development opportunities and anger management skills, while facilitating strengthened peer relationships and fortifying student-mentor relationships.

## EXPECTED OUTCOME

- Reduce the number of children returning to the court system after a first time offense.

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# TEEN COURT

## PROGRESS REPORT

- Improve school attendance and unruly behavior.
- Increase participation in other YMCA and community programs (60% of John Adams/Mt Pleasant participate in Leadership Development programs(s)).

### OUTCOME

- 52 Youth participated in Teen Court during 2010.
- Reduction in repeated criminal behavior.
- Reduction in school tardiness.

### DEMOGRAPHICS

#### Age breakdown

- 17% ages 10-14
- 83% ages 15-19

#### Gender Breakdown

- 52% Male
- 48% Female

#### Race Breakdown

- 86% African American
- 9% Caucasian
- 3% Other

### A SUCCESS STORY

Darin Terrell was referred to Teen Court from John Adams High School in May 2009 for truancy.

He says that his Teen Court experience "made me a leader. It changed my attitude and behavior, and it made me more responsible. It helped me to have better time management (skills) and it really made me think about life and how I don't want to be a loser. I am now working at the Underground Station Shoe Store in the Terminal Tower, and still attend the program when I am not working."

The Teen Court program began in 1999 and has many personal success stories like Darin Terrell. The program is accepting repeat offenders who are non-violent in an attempt to reduce case overload within the juvenile court system.

