

# GENESEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2: ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2009

## 2008 PROBATION STATISTICS

Every year each Department within the County prepares an Annual Report for the County Manager and Legislature to review. This report gives an idea of the services and workload of the Department.

The Probation Department does more than just supervise offenders in the community. Probation Department staff provide service to other county agencies, businesses and the community.

An important function of the Probation Department is providing the Courts with a detailed report on each individual before they are sentenced. Called a PreSentence Investigation (or PreDisposition for Family Court), these reports require information to be gathered from schools, agencies, law enforcement and victims. The probation officer prepares the report which includes the defendant's legal history. It is then reviewed by a supervisor and a recommendation for sentencing is included for the Court's review. Last year the Probation Department prepared 812 reports for the Courts, 75 for Family Court and 737 for the criminal courts.

In addition, the Probation Department serves as a collection agency for the Courts by collecting and disbursing restitution to victims. Fines are also collected as a service to the Courts. In 2008 the Probation Department collected \$81,316.41 in restitution and \$100,684.14 in fines/surcharges for a total of \$182,000.55. The Department also collected DWI Supervision Fees in the amount of \$27,059.00 which go back to the County. In all, a total of \$209,059.55 was collected by the Department.

These services are provided in addition to the supervision of clients. This past year, 410 new cases were put on probation while 400 were discharged. The average number of persons on probation at any one time was 675. While most of the probationers followed their Conditions of Probation, in 2008, our Department filed 189 violation petitions with the Courts. These petitions resulted in 62 cases being continued on probation -- 25 of those with added jail time and 132 cases revoked, 103 of which received an incarceration sentence either with the Genesee County Jail or the NYS Department of Corrections.

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### Mission Statement

*The Mission of the Genesee County Probation Department is to enhance the safety of victims and communities through the fair and effective supervision of community-based offenders, community partnerships, and results-driven management practices.*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2008 PROBATION STATISTICS	1
DIRECTOR'S CORNER	1
FAVORITE PROBATIONER QUOTES	2
PROBATION OFFICER TRAINING	2
PROBATION EVOLUTION	3
JUVENILE SUPERVISION	3
EMPLOYEE NEWS/TRIVIA/HISTORY	4
SEX OFFENDER SUPERVISION	4
PROBATION EVENTS	4

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

JULIE A. SMITH, PROBATION DIRECTOR



As the entire country faces tougher economic times, the cost effectiveness of probation supervision as a sanction becomes even more evident.

Nationwide nearly twice the number of offenders are sentenced to probation supervision as are sentenced to parole supervision.

Probation supervision addresses the criminogenic needs of the offender and holds them accountable for their offenses; while providing community protection.

Last year New York State spent an average of \$554 on each probationer, while spending \$4170 on each parolee and \$34,546 on each inmate.

The Genesee County Probation Department continues to use its financial and personnel resources wisely to address the needs of the offender and community.

Our Department continues to use risk assessment instruments for adults and juveniles which enables us to use our resources on the highest risk offenders.

# PROBATION OFFICER TRAINING BATON & PEPPER SPRAY

TIM MICHALAK, PROBATION SUPERVISOR/FIREARMS-ASP BATON-OC SPRAY INSTRUCTOR



Our three newest officers, Timothy Shaughnessy, William Bogan and Edward Engle rounded out their required training this past summer by participating in ASP Tactical Baton and Aerosol Subject Restraint (pepper spray) Training. They received classroom instruction followed by written examinations in both subject areas. Then they took part in the aerobic "hands on" portion of the training where they were required to demonstrate proficiency in using these weapons.

These Probation Officers are now fully trained and contributing to the operation of the Department.

Our veteran officers receive annual refresher training in the various weapons that they carry. As seen in the photos below, our Officers are performing different techniques associated with the ASP Tactical Baton. Our veteran Officers also receive annual training in Firearms, Deadly Physical Force and Aerosol Subject Restraint

(pepper spray.)

The NYS Department of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (DPCA) requires that all Probation Officers statewide receive a minimum of 21 hours of training annually. Our officers always meet and usually exceed this standard. The Genesee County Probation Department takes ongoing training seriously to give our Officers an edge in carrying out our mission to enhance the safety of our community.

### Favorite Probationer Quotes

**"What are you  
doing here?"**

**You're not supposed  
to be here, I'm  
drinking today."**

*To Probation Officer on  
Home Visit / PO Mileham*

**"I'm not me, I'm my  
brother".**

*To Probation Officer in a  
Phone Call / PS Wright*

**"Judge Noonan  
likes me, he would  
never send me to  
prison"**

*To Probation Officer  
PO Shaughnessy*

**"I'll admit I was  
bagging coke, but it  
wasn't because I was  
gonna sell it"**

*To Probation Officer  
PO Garber*

**"Judge, I've heard  
you like to drink and  
drive."**

*To Judge during a Judicial  
Reprimand / PO Bogan*



## PROBATION EVOLUTION

KEVIN R. WRIGHT, PROBATION SUPERVISOR



Twenty years ago the Genesee County Probation Department staff consisted of a director, a supervision, a senior probation officer, 12 probation officers and 5 clerical staff. Field visits in the community were made by a single officer armed with only a pager and field book driving their personal vehicle. The only weapons in the Department were two Smith & Wesson .357 magnum revolvers. The one county vehicle was limited to use by the Intensive Supervision Program officers.

Correspondence and reports were handwritten or dictated and transcribed by clerical staff who also took messages and

monitored the waiting room. In addition to juvenile intake, our Family Court services included Family Offenses, Custody/Visitation and Guardianship.

Today the staff consists of a director, 2 supervisions, 2 senior probation officers, 10 probation officers and 3 clerical/accounting staff. There is no longer an Intensive Supervision Program and our focus has shifted to alternatives to local incarceration. Probation Departments are monitored by the NYS Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (DPCA). Officers are trained to carry a 9 millimeter Sig Sauer, ASP Baton, pepper spray, hand cuffs, radios and cell phones. Each officer is provided with a ballistic vest. Two county vehicles are available to officers, one

equipped with a cage for transport. Dictaphones have been replaced by computers which also provide a database with pictures of our clients. Correspondence and reports are now author generated. We have voice mail and email for messages. Family Court intake services focus on PINS and JD's with counseling handled by referral to other agencies. We have a supervision program designed specifically for sex offenders.

Things have changed over the years, but what has not changed is our focus on protecting the community. As we progress through the next century, we will continue on with the goal of making our community a safer and better place.

## Difference Between Probation and Parole

**Probation** is a sentence or disposition imposed by a criminal court or family court. In general, probationers are released in the community without serving a period of local incarceration, although in certain circumstances they may be sentenced to both imprisonment (local) and probation; the sentence of incarceration shall be a condition of and run concurrently with a sentence of probation. Probation is a **county function** in New York State, except for New York City.\*

## JUVENILE SUPERVISION

SARAH WELKER, PROBATION OFFICER



The Genesee County Probation Department's Juvenile Department consists of two officers. These officers handle the County's Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS) Diversions, Juvenile Delinquent (JD) Diversions, as well as probation supervision.

It is the goal of the Diversion programs to engage the youth and their families in services in order to prevent the matter being forwarded to Court. If the youth is petitioned to Court, there is the possibility of being placed on Probation Supervision, removal from the home or in Juvenile Delinquent matters

placement in Juvenile Detention.

Throughout the diversion programs and while under supervision, the officers work with agencies in the community to meet the needs of the youth and their family. These services can include counseling, mediation, STAR Program, substance abuse treatment, preventive services, sex offender treatment, as well as conferencing with the school for alternative education plans.

While engaged in services with our Department, the majority of youth are expected to obey their parents, attend school and obey school

rules, comply with referrals to treatment, refrain from alcohol and other substances, obey curfews, and obey the law. Many of the referrals to our Department are received from law enforcement agencies, schools, and parents.

Working with youth can be stressful as well as rewarding. Service providers in our community work hard for our youth and advocate for their needs. It is hoped that early intervention will assist them in making good choices for permanent life changes.



**Parole** is a portion of a correctional sentence served in the community following a term of incarceration in state prison. The period of supervised release following incarceration for such offenders is known as "Post-Release Supervision." Parole or Post-Release Supervision is intended to assist offenders in returning to society. These offenders are supervised in the community by parole officers, who are state officials employed by the NYS Division of Parole.\*

\*Division of Parole & Correctional Alternatives (DPCA)  
www.dpca.state.ny



## EMPLOYEE NEWS



Welcome to  
*Brittany Witkop!*  
Brittany fills the  
position of  
*Principal Financial Clerk.*

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

WWW.CO.GENESEE.NY.US/DPT/  
PROBATION

**PROTECTING GENESEE COUNTY**



### Probation Trivia:

**Q:** How and when did probation begin in the US?

**A:** Probation began in the United States in 1841, when a shoemaker named John Augustus asked a Boston judge to release a man charged with public drunkenness into his custody.

## GENESEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT HISTORY CORNER

Every year County departments submit an annual report to the Legislature. Take a look at the Probation Department's First Annual Report submitted to the Legislature in 1948.

### GENESEE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT FIRST ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT

Feb. 1st, 1947 to Feb. 1st, 1948

	Feb.	Mar.	April	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Tot.
Received On Probation	3	9	0	0	4	0	0	1	6	0	1	24
County Court	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	8
City Court	0	0	2	4	5	1	2	1	6	0	6	29
Justice Court	6	1	4	4	0	2	5	0	1	2	8	38
Childrens Court	2	1	2	0	3	9	1	2	4	1	2	29
Physically Handicapped	33	3	1	1	4	3	2	5	1	4	1	63
Non-Support All Courts												191
Collections All Courts												Grand Total **
Fines	0	0	50.00	0		35.00	80.00	25.00	0		5.00	10.00
State and County Aid	0	0	0	0		140.00	67.75	80.00	25.00	0	0	0
Restitutions	0	0	326.86	123.37	45.00	55.00	93.42	77.45	54.19	46.00	274.19	88.33
For Family Support	467.00	821.63	881.00	1167.00	1184.00	1434.00	1871.58	1443.00	1730.00	864.00	1501.00	930.00
231 Court assigned and unassigned investigations made during the past year.												Grand Total**\$16995.77

## SEX OFFENDER SUPERVISION

MICHELE TUCCI, SR PROBATION OFFICER



The current sex offender caseload includes registered and non-registered sex offenders. Registered sex offenders fall under a conviction that warrants them to officially register as a sexual offender through the New York State Sex Offender Registry.

The non-registered offenders include offenses that involve some type of sexually criminal behavior, although the conviction does not require them to be registered. However, all meet the criteria for supervision on this specialized caseload.

Each individual reports to the probation officer on a

weekly basis. Additional contact includes home visits and visits to places of employment. The probation officer also has contact with family members and all involved agencies on a regular basis to ensure the offender's compliance.

All sex offenders on this caseload are required to cooperate with a sex offender treatment agency and complete their recommended program of treatment.

Due to the risk that these Probationers pose to the community, strict supervision is provided throughout their period of supervision.

## PROBATION EVENTS:

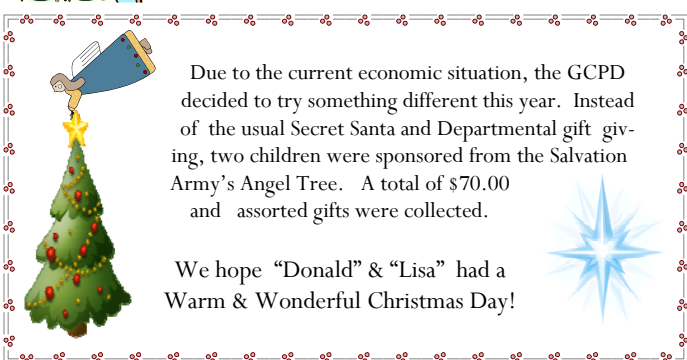
### CHILI COOK OFF & ANGEL TREE

On November 13, 2008, the GCPD hosted a "Chili Day." Staff members contributed their favorite recipes to the menu which included:

- Miss Shelly's Sassy Spicy Chili
- Julie's White Hot Chicken Chili
- Matt's Labatt's Red Light Chili
- KFO's Bald & Beautiful Chili
- Ed's Deer in the Headlights Chili
- Jeff's Lov'n from the Oven Cracked Wheat Rolls
- Sarah's Toss Me a Cold One Salad
- Britt's Pumpkin Spice & Everything Nice Cheesecake
- LP's Chocolate Swirl Oreo Cheesecake



Donations were accepted to benefit the Salvation Army's Banquet in a Box Program which provides complete holiday meals for those in need.



Due to the current economic situation, the GCPD decided to try something different this year. Instead of the usual Secret Santa and Departmental gift giving, two children were sponsored from the Salvation Army's Angel Tree. A total of \$70.00 and assorted gifts were collected.

We hope "Donald" & "Lisa" had a Warm & Wonderful Christmas Day!