



Judge John Williams Judge Melissa Powers

Hamilton County Juvenile Court Update

Dear Friends of Juvenile Court,

Imagine being 17 years old, moving to a new high school in a new school district as your parents go through a tough divorce, and learning that you've only earned enough credits to be in the 9th grade. This is the type of situation that could compel a student to drop out. But not Nashua*. Nashua's Hamilton County Juvenile Court Probation Officer referred him to the TeamChild Program.

TeamChild is an innovative partnership between Legal Aid and our Court designed to promote school stability and success for youth in the juvenile justice system. For over 10 years, TeamChild advocacy has helped students avoid school disciplinary removal, attend school, receive appropriate special education services, secure mental health assessments and supports, and avoid new offenses.

Nashua's TeamChild attorney, the high school, and Juvenile Court worked together to create a plan for Nashua to earn more credits in summer school than he had earned in the previous two years at his former high school. Nashua began the next school year as a sophomore with plans to continue rapid credit recovery. With his increased school engagement and academic success, Nashua has more stability and a realistic chance of graduating from high school.

This is the kind of life-changing difference that good partnerships can make for court-involved children, such as Nashua. School success is vitally important, and our Court partners and I are committed to ensuring that Hamilton County does not have a school to prison pipeline. School attendance and achievement can open critical doors to a child's future and a pathway out of poverty. Judge Powers and I are grateful for the Court's partnership with Legal Aid that makes programs like TeamChild available to help our kids, families, schools, and communities.

All my best to you and your family. Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,


Judge John Williams



**Judge John Williams
and Elaine Fink**

TeamChild reached a significant milestone:

**As of July 2020, TeamChild has served
over 1,000 students and families.**

August 18, 2020



*Nashua's name has been changed for this letter, to protect confidentiality.