ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF CHARLOTTE  
MECKLENBURG COUNTY TEEN COURT  
2020-2021

VP Philanthropic Programs: Judith Sanford  
Chairman: Rebecca Fisher  
Vice Chairman: Jane Rosinski

Program Established: 1995
Purpose of Program: Assistance League of Charlotte, through its Mecklenburg County Teen Court (MCTC) program, provides an alternative justice system for youthful offenders aged 12 through 17 years old. It is designed to provide juveniles a second chance when they admit their guilt, agree to be tried by a jury of their peers, and take responsibility for their actions. Successful program completion allows the offender to avoid a permanent criminal record. This juvenile-based justice system places strong emphasis on accountability, positive peer influence and youth empowerment to effect change within their own generation.

Assistance League recruits and trains volunteer teens to be jurors, clerks, bailiffs, jury foremen and attorneys. Defendants are encouraged to return as volunteers to the program after they complete their sentence. MCTC also conducts an annual Mock Trial training and competition to provide teen attorneys with enhanced skills to better fulfill their roles and to acknowledge their dedication to serving fellow teens.

As recognition for teens’ volunteer service to the program, Mecklenburg County Teen Court awards scholarships to outstanding participants. Scholarship recipients are selected from volunteers who show commitment to MCTC by contributing a minimum of 32 hours to the program, serving six court sessions in the year prior to the application, and demonstrating their commitment to the community through service. Recipients may attend an accredited trade school, community college, college or university.

Procedures: The MCTC Program Administrator receives referrals from School Resource Officers, Department of Juvenile Justice and local law enforcement agencies. An intake interview with the juvenile, along with parent or guardian, assures the youth admits guilt. The juvenile offender appears in court before a judge, trained volunteer teen attorneys, and a jury of his/her peers. Court is in session at the Mecklenburg County Courts Building from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. The jury deliberates a constructive sentence, including community service hours and service on Teen Court juries. The MCTC Program Administrator monitors completion of the sentence. The recidivism rate in the program remains below five percent.

Funding: Mecklenburg County Teen Court is funded through grants, private and corporate donations, chapter fundraising events and proceeds from the Assistance League Thrift Shop.

Special Endorsements: MCTC is a member of the North Carolina Teen Court Association. Also, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools acknowledges MCTC in its Academic Internship Program.

Mecklenburg County Teen Court assisted 293 youth offenders and volunteer teens to provide 4,203 hours of community service in fiscal year 2019-2020. A total of 78 defendants successfully completed their cases with 61 cases currently active. Mecklenburg County Teen Court was operated with the assistance of 1,930 service hours from adult volunteers. Scholarships with a total value of $14,000 were awarded to seven outstanding MCTC volunteers.

6/11/20

Assistance League of Charlotte • assistanceleague.org/charlotte • EIN# 56-1781080  
3405 South Tryon Street. • Charlotte, NC 28217 • 704-525-5228  
Transforming Lives • Strengthening Community