

Calendar aids youth services

By Alexa Zoellner azoellner@dailyunion.com | Posted: Friday, December 11, 2015 9:25 am

JEFFERSON — Incentives can work wonders on a child's motivation to succeed.

But incentives often can cost money, something the Juvenile Justice Team from the Juvenile Justice Integrated Services — part of the Jefferson County Human Services Department — knows all too well.

That's why the team is holding a fundraiser, selling 2016 calendars featuring artwork done by the youths they work with for \$10 each.

"We work with youths anywhere from ages 10 to 17 or 18 who have been adjudicated on court orders on a variety of issues like truancy or disorderly conduct," Amber Brozek, an ISP/community outreach worker with the Juvenile Justice Team, said.

"We link them up with services to help them move forward and be able to be successful adults in society in a positive way. When we work with the kids, (we try to provide incentives to help them want to succeed)."

Brozek explained that incentives can include activities such as social outings or simply going out to lunch.

"I have one girl and she's really into makeup," Brozek said. "To help her kind of have something to work toward, I'd be like, 'OK, you had a great week — let's go buy you a foundation or something.'"

It's not all fun and games though. Food, appropriate clothing for interviews — even just clean clothes — all are things the money would be used to purchase.

"I've bought alarm clocks for kiddos," Brozek said. "Just anything that's going to help them socially or in their daily lives. To have our own little pool of money to be able to do that would be nice."

Currently, team members are using the county's Walmart card or writing off costs on their mileage checks to be reimbursed, she said.

"The hope is, with this fundraiser, the Juvenile Justice team could have our own pool of money," Brozek said. "So that if we wanted to do a social group with the kids to help them with some social skills or to have some fun incentive things around, or even if there's something that they need, (we could do that more easily)."

The calendars, she said, are available to anyone interested.

“We’ve been really trying to stretch out throughout the whole county, letting people know about the calendars and hoping that they would want them,” Brozek said. “Then they could have their own little piece of art. The kids are quite proud of the calendar.”

To order a calendar, contact Rebecca Brown at rebeccab@jeffersoncountywi.gov or call (920) 674-8129. Orders are due by Dec. 16 to ensure production is completed prior to Christmas.