

News >> Top Stories

Adams looking to keep children out of trouble

Print Page

By Taylor Kuykendall
Staff Writer

Published: Thursday, November 12, 2009 11:14 AM CST

Youth Court Judge Kevin Adams says many of the challenges he faces stem from the environment of the children who appear before him.

"Our child and youth problem isn't a child and youth problem," Adams told the Greenwood Voters League. "It's an adult problem."

Adams explained the juvenile court process from protection cases to delinquent children to children in need of supervision.

According to Adams, a study of school-aged children has shown that a child who is arrested is twice as likely to drop out of school. A child who goes to court is four times more likely to drop out.

For this reason, Adams is seeking new kinds of programs to keep children out of trouble.

"Children want to be shown how to live and what's right," he said to the audience. "We've lost a sense of community."

He said truancy is strongly connected to cases of delinquency. Missing out on education only puts the child further behind, leading to more absences and more delinquency, he said.

"If you're missing kindergarten and the first grade, you don't stand a chance in the second grade," Adams said.

State Sen. David Jordan, president of the league, urged his listeners to go out and introduce themselves to younger people and help steer them from trouble. He said it is surprising how much just talking to the youth can help.

"When you write young people off, you write yourself off," Jordan said.



Judge Kevin Adams discusses the Youth Court system with state Sen. David Jordan and other members of the Greenwood Voters League Wednesday night. Photo by Taylor Kuykendall.

Copyright © 2010 - Greenwood Commonwealth

[x] Close Window