

Doing Justice



PEOPLE
Volunteer Newsletter

POSSIBILITIES

PEACE
September 2009

To Our Valued Volunteers

On July 21 I sent you an email about the board of director's decision to change LAVORP's name to Center for Restorative Justice. This change has been necessitated by our moving away from doing just victim-offender conferencing with juveniles. In addition to juveniles, we will be working with adults who are referred from the Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition program, a diversion program for first time adult offenders with low-level crimes. Also, we continue to market the concept of Restorative Practices for Schools. And, you are well aware of the *You Can Be A Winner* program. We are reaching out to Defense Attorneys and Magisterial District Judges for referrals.

To manage an increase in referrals, it is imperative that we utilize all of our volunteers to the fullest extent possible. Though we continue to hold training classes two times a year, the number of new volunteers is offset by attrition and by those who remain on our active roster but take a leave of absence for various reasons.

To those of you who faithfully "answer the call" when Ken contacts you, many thanks. If you have not been taking cases, I'd consider it a great favor that when Ken calls you that you let him know that you are available to take a case. In fact, why not call Ken to say hello and let him know that you are available.

Thanks for all that you do for LAVORP and the community.

Peace, Jon

Volunteer Recognized for Service and Leadership

LAVORP Volunteer **Megan Memoli** was recognized by the Office of Religious Life at Elizabethtown College for her contributions to service learning and leadership on campus. Megan received the award for promoting faith-based service through co-founding Faith in Action and for leading numerous local and non-local service trips over the past four years, including hurricane relief trips to Mississippi and a service trip this year to Caimito, Puerto Rico. In the spirit of service, the monetary part of the award is to be donated to a charity or non-profit that the awardee chooses. Thank you, Megan, for choosing LAVORP.

Congratulations on receiving this award!



"I want to contribute to LAVORP the amount of restitution [I received]. Thank you very much for your work." — Victim



"Yes, it can be a lot of work leading up to the joint meeting, but when you see how restorative justice can work (as I did last night) it makes it all worth while and I'm proud to be a part of it."

—Volunteer Bill Bennett

How are we doing?

Avg Monthly Referrals	2008	2009
Incidents	22.6	18.0
Cases (1 offender-1 victim)	37.1	43.6

Current Unassigned / Backlog	
Incidents	23
Backlog in months.	1.28

Cases Returned/Completed†	
Total	238
Joint meetings/contracts	63
Offender Prep Meetings	133
Victim Prep Meetings	61

Restitution	2008	2009†
New Agreements		
Monetary	\$41,014	\$12,607
Comm Svc/Work	322 hrs	695 hr
Completed		
Monetary	\$40,597	\$9,556
Comm Svc/Work	671 hrs	95 hrs

†Indicates year-to-date (as of Jul 31, 2009)

“Forgiveness is less a matter of forgive and forget than of forgive and remember—remembering in ways that bring healing.”

Kraybill, Nolt and Weaver-Zercher, *Amish Grace*



Parking at the LAVORP Office

If you are coming to the LAVORP office and will be there no longer than 15-20 minutes, you can park in the back of the building.

- Access to the parking lot is from Cherry St. via Orange or from Grant St.
- Please park along the wall where the LAND TRANSFER signs are located.
- To keep from getting a "tow" notice from the landlord, you need to put a "LAVORP" sign on your dash board.
- Enter the building through the door between the spots marked #1 and #2.
- Please be aware of the time limitation.
- In addition, avoid parking here on the 15th and the last day of the month. These are NOT good days to take advantage of the landlord's generosity.

From the Case Manager

What do you do when a victim says, "I am not interested in a meeting with the offender?" All of us have heard some similar comment from a phone contact with a victim or in the victim prep meeting. This can be disappointing to you as a facilitator, especially if you have already met with the offender and you know that he or she is willing to meet with the victim.

In order to salvage something restorative from these case situations, we have developed some new suggestions for you as facilitators.

We would like to offer to the victim the options of receiving a written apology and maybe even restitution payments. However, it is important to try to "overcome objections" to a face-to-face meeting first, and only offer these options as a "last resort."

Please click [Working with Victims](#) to access the new procedures.

— Ken Nissley

LAVORP Seeks an Administrative Assistant

Almost six years ago when Ken was a volunteer facilitator, he agreed to take a half-time position as Case Manager, sharing responsibilities with another half-time person who was under consideration. The second person opted out and Ken agreed to come on as LAVORP's full-time Case Manager. We are so glad that he did, as he's done a super job!

Ken now wants to cut-back his work schedule sometime this fall and work half-time as Case Manager. Carol, our current Administrative Assistant, will become the other half-time Case Manager, giving us full coverage for the Case Manager position. That leaves us with a need for a new Administrative Assistant.

This position requires 15-18 hours per week on an agreed upon schedule. Responsibilities include entering cases, working with restitution, answering phones, assisting staff in general office support including mailings, picking up and delivering documents, copying manuals, and administrative support for the "You Can Be A Winner" program. Knowledge of Microsoft Word is required and familiarization with EXCEL and Access Database strongly preferred.

If you or someone you know is interested in being considered for this position, please contact Jon Singer, Executive Director at 397-2404 or e-mail him at lavorp@lavorp.org.

RSVP

If you are 55 or older, you are eligible to become a member of RSVP — Retired and Senior Volunteer Program — and have LAVORP designated as your Volunteer Station. RSVP has a free Volunteer Banquet once a year and will reimburse you for your mileage up to \$20 per month. If you are interested, let Jon know at lavorp@lavorp.org

Restorative Justice "ISN'T about letting offenders 'off the hook.' In fact, every offender I've ever worked with has said it's a LOT harder to face their victim, hear first-hand about the harm they've caused and apologize than it is to go to court, face a judge and be sentenced."

— Melanie Snyder, LAVORP Volunteer and program director for *You Can Be A Winner*, in a sermon delivered at the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren on May 17, 2009.

For complete transcript of the sermon, click [A Different Kind of Justice](#).

Restorative Justice At Work

Story #1

While at school, one 15 year old juvenile walked up to another juvenile and without saying a word punched him numerous times in the face with his fist. The victim was treated by the school nurse for swelling and contusions around both eyes. In the prep meeting with the offender it became clear that there was anger toward the victim for a name-calling incident that happened over two years prior to this assault incident. The offender was at first reluctant but acknowledged it would be a good step if he is ever to get back into school (he was at the time expelled from school for this incident) and agreed to think about it. In the meantime, a prep meeting with the victim was held and it seemed clear that this "name-calling" had been long forgotten but he was willing to meet with the offender. After a second meeting with the offender he also agreed to a victim-offender conference.

There were no unpaid medical bills so the only issue at stake was the relationship between these two boys. The joint meeting focused on addressing the harm to the victim, and as this was done the name calling incident came to the surface. After an apology was made by the offender for the assault on the victim and the victim accepted this, the victim did a surprising thing—he apologized for calling the offender a name that had wounded him two years before!

"It was good to see these two young men shake hands and pledge not to retaliate and offend again," wrote LAVORP facilitator Chris Peachey. "I note with gratitude and optimism that what the victim and offender discussed

Book Review

Walking After Midnight



If you like to read and are interested in a book that depicts restorative justice in action, I highly recommend this book by author Katy Hutchison. The details that Katy provided in this true story helped me to develop a deeper appreciation for the impact crime has on victims. I would never have guessed what ministry would

emerge out of the destruction she and her family experienced. Long before she knew anything about restorative justice, she believed in and practiced its principles.

Walking After Midnight chronicles Katy's story as she and her family rebuild their lives after her husband's brutal murder in Squamish, British Columbia. On New Year's Eve 1997, her husband, Bob McIntosh, left family and friends at home to check on a disturbance that was going on down the street at a party being thrown by the son of a good friend and neighbor whose parents were away.

Continued on page 4

and agreed upon are the things that make for peace. I was honored to be a part of that." It was also interesting that both youth requested that a copy of the Meeting Agreement be sent to the principal at their High School which was done by the LAVORP office.

Story #2

In April 2007 a youth stole a 4-wheeler from an Ephrata home and caused damages to it. The offender's share of the damages was \$485.00. Due to various reasons, the case only got to a joint meeting with the victim in early October of 2008. While the facilitator and victim were waiting for the offender to arrive, the victim was still skeptical that the youth would show up and shared some of his lingering negative feelings about the incident of a year and a half earlier. However, the offender did arrive and the meeting progressed with increasingly good vibes between the offender and victim. The meeting ended with the offender offering to help find a job at the KFC where he worked for the victim's teenage son. The victim himself also offered to help the offender apply for a better job with the masonry crew where he worked, if he had interest.

— Don Sensenig case

In-Service Training

LAVORP Volunteers: **Mark your calendars** for one of the following dates for in-service training on the new option we have developed called **Working with Victims** (see pg 2).

Mon., October 5, 6:30 PM

Thurs., November 17, 6:30 PM

Location and more information will be coming.

Fall Training Dates

Do you know someone who is interested or might be interested in becoming a LAVORP volunteer facilitator?

- Tell them some of your experiences as a volunteer.
- Invite them to check our website for more information.
- Give them these dates for training:

Tues, Oct 13	6:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Fri, Oct 23	8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Sat, Oct 24	8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Sun, Oct 25	1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Sat, Oct 31	8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

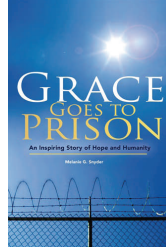
- Encourage them to contact Jon Singer at 397-2404 or email him at lavorp@lavorp.org.

Spread the word!

Not a
 Debt
 Over
 Us

Grace Goes to Prison

By Melanie Snyder



Written by LAVORP volunteer Melanie Snyder, *Grace Goes to Prison* tells the true story of Marie Hamilton, a homemaker who has volunteered in Pennsylvania prisons for the last 33 years and done much to promote restorative justice in our prison system.

When Hamilton started visiting a group of prison inmates, she was guided by one simple principle: to look for and affirm the good in them. Since then she has expanded the vision and created unique programs that educate, empower and support inmates so they can be successful when paroled.

The publisher, Brethren Press, is now taking advance orders on the book and offering a 20% discount for advance orders. The book will be in print and will ship at the end of September.

To order the book, click [Grace Goes to Prison](#).

Walking After Midnight—continued from page 3

Bob never came home. He was savagely beaten him by someone at the party and was pronounced dead that night at a local hospital.

A wall of silence soon grew around the murder which compounded the devastation Katy and her children felt. On June 21, 2002, after four years of investigation, Ryan Aldridge was arrested and charged with the assault. Immediately following the arrest, police officers showed Ryan a video Katy had made for him in which she urged him to confess.

In the video Katy told Ryan that if he confessed, she would find it in her heart to stand behind him and make sure that he had all the support he needed to move through the justice system. "All I want for you is what you took from Bob—a happy and productive life," she said. The impact of this video and a face-to-face meeting with Kati enabled Ryan to confess to Bob's murder. From the beginning she had no desire to retaliate or seek revenge. The destruction of one life did not compel her to destroy the life of another.

This was the beginning of a journey that eventually lead Katy and Ryan to working together to present their remarkable story of forgiveness and transformation in schools, to community and business groups, victim service organizations, and restorative justice groups. Katy also became active in promoting restorative justice. She continues to be available to speak to groups.

While in prison, Ryan wrote, "Katy's forgiveness is the most incredible thing that anyone has ever given me. It changed my life. There's trouble every day in prison, offers of drugs and threats of fights, but I don't give in. My life would still be full of anger and violence if it wasn't for Katy."

Isn't this what we as volunteers hope to see happen?

— Carol Steffy

For more information, check the following web sites:

<http://www.katyhutchisonpresents.com/>
<http://www.theforgivenessproject.com/>

Peace is

Peace is sky blue and purple.

It is red, white and blue.

**Peace is a bird, like an owl,
a bald eagle or a dove.**

It is a rabbit or an alligator.

**Peace is mellow, moving calmly,
floating.**

**Peace is the sound of birds singing,
of the coqui.**

It ushers in the quiet.

**Peace is the smell of fresh flowers,
of spring grass**

and newly baked bread.

Peace tastes sweet and warm.

**Peace is a nice day, sunny
with a gentle breeze.**

**It is cool or warm,
the steady beat of rain,
snow gently falling.**

**— Created by the April You Can
Be A Winner class.**

**"Part of being human is rolling
up our sleeves and taking an
active part in repairing harm."**

**— Katy Hutchison, author of
*Walking After Midnight***

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**Jon Singer, Executive Director ♦ Ken Nissley, Case Manager
Carol Steffy, Administrative Assistant, editor of *Doing Justice***