

PEACEMAKING CIRCLES

Healing our communities one circle at a time

What are the goals of a peacemaking circle?

- Promote healing
- Make amends
- Empower victims
- Support offenders
- Share responsibility
- Build community
- Share values
- Increase competence
- Restore harmony and balance

What are the values of a peacemaking circle?

- Honesty
- Listening
- Accountability
- Spirituality
- Consensus
- Healing
- Patience
- Respect
- Support
- Trust
- Partnership
- Openness
- Nonjudgmental
- Safe places

Peacemaking Circles build on the Principles and values of Restorative Justice* and the wisdom of indigenous traditions to create personal transformation and nonviolent social change. Restorative Justice offers opportunities for healing, for strengthening communities and relationships and creating a better world.

*Restorative Justice is a social movement that embodies a set of values and principles urgently needed to address harms and heal our brokenness and to restore and reconnect our communities and all our relationships.

Other Programs of the Center for Community Peacemaking

- Victim-Offender Conferencing
- Making Peace (*Strategies in Conflict Resolution for Youth*)
- Circles of Support and Accountability (*Reducing Reoffending of Sexual Offenders*)



53 N. Duke Street, Suite 303
Lancaster, PA 17602
Phone: 717-397-2404
Fax: 717-397-5502
Email: peacecircles@ccp.org
www.ccp.org

Printing courtesy of Lancaster Corporate Center
Creative work courtesy of Limehat & Company



Peacemaking Circles

A restorative and holistic approach to peacemaking

Our Mission

To foster peacemaking and the resolution of conflict through the teaching and implementation of Restorative Justice values and principles.

**BUILDING COMMUNITY...
PEACE BY PEACE**

PEACEMAKING CIRCLES

A restorative and holistic approach to peacemaking

Peacemaking Circles build on the power and wisdom of people in restorative dialogue circles to:

- Mediate conflict
- Restore & heal relationships
- Offer all affected by an issue the opportunity to be heard
- Communicate non-violently
- Take responsibility for harm(s) done and address them in meaningful ways
- Work on prevention of problems by building stronger community among us
- Support a healthy connection to the Earth, the Environment and all our relations

Adapted from "Just Peace Circles" and "Community Circles" programs brochures

Putting Peacemaking Circles into Practice

Peacemaking Circles offer a format to learn from our shared values. Together we accept responsibility for our impact on each other, our communities and work together to create a better world. From the power of restorative justice dialogue circles comes our response and intention to restore harmony and balance to:

- Ourselves
- Our families
- Our neighborhoods
- Our wider community
- Our Justice Systems

Participants in a circle are connected by a common purpose. All are equal. There is no judgment. When a person brings a problem or issue to be discussed, it is owned by the group. Equality is achieved by using a talking piece, which can be any object of significance to the group. The talking piece is passed around the circle with the person holding the talking piece having the sole right to speak. All others listen with respect and careful consideration of the words spoken and the feelings expressed, knowing that their time to speak will also be respected.

"Be the change you wish to see in the world."

~ Mahatma Gandhi

Peacemaking Circles provide a confidential and safe space for individuals to dialogue about the difficult issues and painful experiences that have arisen in the context of breaking our community's laws and expectations.

Who Can Benefit from Peacebuilding Circles?

Neighborhoods

Inmates reuniting with family

Justice System

Educators

Families

Crime victims/offenders

Businesses

Churches

