

Helping to Address the Harm by Empowering Victims and Supporting Offenders

TESTIMONIES

“Thank you for helping me through this program. It made me very successful and caring. Made me look at a big picture in life.”
~ Person who offended

“That was a good way to have our situation resolved.”
~ Person who was harmed

“A truly repentant teen, I believe, will look back on this as a turning point in his life (for the better).”
~ Person who was harmed

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The Center for Community Peacemaking “...takes a holistic, system-wide view of the social situation, includes all players in solutions, affirms the dignity, worth and uniqueness of every human involved and their capacity for growth and change; its dynamic is strength-based and empowering.”

~The Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Social Work

Other Programs of the Center for Community Peacemaking

- Circles of Support and Accountability (*Reducing Reoffending of Sexual Offenders*)
- Making Peace (*Strategies in Conflict Resolution for Youth*)
- Peacemaking Circles (*Resolving Conflict in Various Community Settings*)

“Do Justice - Love Mercy”
Micah 6:8



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Victim-Offender Conferencing

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**

What is the Center for Community Peacemaking?

The CCP is a faith-based, non-profit, Restorative Justice organization that provides opportunities for the broader community and those referred by the justice system to resolve differences in a peaceful way.

What is Victim-Offender Conferencing?

Victim-Offender Conferencing is a process whereby those who have caused harm hold themselves accountable, learn the impact of their actions and make amends to those they have harmed. Those who have been harmed can put a human face to the incident, get questions answered, tell how they were impacted (part of healing) and be empowered to be part of the justice system. This process reflects the biblical perspective of shalom (peace) and well-being.

How Does Victim-Offender Conferencing Work?

- By focusing on the harm and broken trust caused by the crime. Restorative Justice asks the questions: Who was hurt? What are their needs? Whose obligations are they? This is a more personal approach than the traditional system which asks: What law was broken? Who is to blame? What should the consequences be?
- By offering face-to-face meetings between victims and their offenders which are led by professionally trained and impartial Volunteer Facilitators. Facilitators assist victims and offenders as they talk about the incident, address the harm and build trust for the future. Conferences are arranged only if both the offender and victim are willing to meet. Emotional and physical safety is a priority.
- By including in a Conference those individuals, chosen by victims and offenders, who will be a supporting presence.

Who Can Benefit from Victim-Offender Conferencing?

Victims

- Are empowered by taking an active role in the justice process.
- Can tell how they experienced the crime and its consequences to the person directly responsible.
- Get answers to their questions.
- Receive compensation for their losses at a success rate of 90-95 percent.

Offenders

- Face the real human and financial effects of their actions.
- Accept responsibility for their actions and take steps to “make things right.”
- Are 50 percent less likely to reoffend.
- Become productive members of the community.

Victims and Offenders

- Have an opportunity for healing and reconciliation, to talk about the future, and to put the incident in the past.

Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems

- Can provide an avenue for victims and offenders to discuss issues which the traditional system does not offer.
- Offer the victim an opportunity to decide on restitution directly with the offender, thus increasing the chances of being compensated.
- Receive a cost savings when offenders do not re-offend.

Communities

- Citizens are involved in practical and meaningful peacemaking.
- Have a more safe and secure environment with fewer repeat offenders.
- Victims and/or offenders involved in non-serious crimes have an opportunity to refer themselves directly to the Center for Community Peacemaking for Victim-Offender Conferencing.
- Enables citizens to volunteer and learn practical skills to resolve victim-offender conflicts.

“**W**e have had an excellent relationship with the Center for Community Peacemaking since 1995 and highly recommend the program to victims and offenders.”

~ Victim/Witness Services
~ Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems

