



Restorative Justice News

End-of-the-Year Program Update

At the end of June 2007, our Restorative Justice Program saw renewed energy and momentum. July 2007 marks the beginning of the fourth year in the restorative justice partnership endeavor between Mediation Services for Anoka County (MSAC) and Anoka County Attorney Victim Services. The partnership continues to be mainly funded by the Minnesota Office of Justice Programs.

The partnership of these two entities sets our Restorative Justice Program apart from most programs because the majority of our referrals are generated due to initial interest expressed by the victim. Although the focus of all restorative justice programs is to be victim-centered, most programs have an offender-driven referral basis. We do receive referrals for offenders needing services. However, because we begin the majority of our restorative justice services with the person who was harmed, our program is notably unique.

Our Restorative Justice Program is growing due to the successful collaboration of several organizations, namely

MSAC, the Anoka County Attorney's Office, and Anoka County Community Corrections. The efforts of many agencies work together to maintain the integrity of restorative justice philosophy within the criminal justice system, which believes that victim, community, and offender are the three parties affected by crime. Restorative Justice conferencing provides opportunities for those affected to dialogue the incident, express feelings, identify the harm, and reach a consensus about repairing that harm.

As we move into the next year, we expect our program to maintain its momentum. We will offer more restorative justice trainings and continue our efforts to educate people about restorative justice services, what they entail, and the types of cases appropriate for our programming.

~ Thank you to everyone for helping to make these services possible in the Anoka County community.

Dianna M. Stair
Restorative Justice Specialist

Direct Services Fiscal Year 2006 - 2007

Total RJ Clients Served: 66

Victims	36
Offenders	13
Community/Support	17

Total Program Services: 677

Types of RJ Cases by Percentages:

Burglary	25%
Forgery	25%
Damage to Property	25%
Theft	16%
Other	9%

Restorative Justice Program Specifics

Staff:	Part-time Specialist; Oversight by MSAC Exe. Dir. & Vic Wit Unit Dir.
Volunteers:	12
Types of Cases:	Juvenile & Adult Diversion & Non-diversion
Condition for Service:	Offender Must Admit Guilt

Don't Forget

Party with a Purpose

Annual Benefit for MSAC

September 6, 2007

Go to www.mediationservice.org for more information



Knowledge Thru Connections...
... Getting Plugged In



<http://rjp.umn.edu/>

Center for Restorative Justice and Peacemaking
Through the University of Minnesota

<http://voma.org/index.html>

Victim Offender Mediation Association
International restorative justice association

<http://www.realjustice.org/>

Restorative Justice Online
Prison Fellowship International resource

www.mnmrsc.org

Minnesota Restorative Services Coalition
State networking and information resource

For more information on restorative justice services in Anoka County contact:

Dianna Stair, Restorative Justice Specialist
763-422-8878 or 763-323-5619

Focus Story

A man, who was intoxicated and under the influence of illegal drugs, broke into several cars while walking through a neighborhood one night. He then stole a family's car, parked it elsewhere in the neighborhood, and broke into their home while they slept.

The police immediately caught the man while he was still at the family's home. He was sent to jail and later sentenced for the crime of Burglary.

The court process was lengthy and the entire event was extremely stressful for the victims. The sentencing hearing was an emotional time.

The victims decided they wanted to meet with the offender and dialogue the incident. The offender, who had successfully completed chemical abuse treatment, agreed that meeting the family was a good idea.

A restorative justice conference was held. Questions were answered. The offender verbally apologized for his actions, explaining his recent decision to redirect his life after years of crime and drug use. The family offered support to the offender and expressed how the experience of meeting helped move them through the healing process.

Events

Putting the Pieces Together, Multiple Dates. Free workshop on working with deaf and hard of hearing people. For more info, go to www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/disabilities/documents/pub/dhs_id_005257.pdf

Intercultural Awareness: Beyond Diversity, Oct. 16th 6:00pm - 9:00pm. Learn about intercultural communication issues that move you beyond initial ideas of diversity into the realm of realizing "You don't know what you don't know." **Workshop is only open to current MSAC volunteer mediators.** Volunteers, please call MSAC to register.

Facilitating Restorative Conferences, Early 2008. Learn how to facilitate restorative justice conferences. Hosted by Mediation Services for Anoka County. Registration available soon. Call Dianna at MSAC for more information. 763-422-8878.

Growing the Connections, Oct. 5th & Oct. 6th. Statewide restorative justice conference to be held at Hamline University. Education and Networking. Register at www.mnmrsc.org

Training for Trainers, Sept. 30th - Oct. 5th. Learn how to teach others how to facilitate restorative conferencing. Registration closes very soon. Go to www.mnmrsc.org for more information.