

Community Work Service

By providing work to various non-profit organizations and causes throughout Winona County, Community Work Service provides youth with the opportunity to repair the harm they have caused to victims and the community. Supervised by a Restorative Justice Coordinator, site supervisors, and community mentoring volunteers, this crew works on Mondays–Fridays during the summer and on Saturdays during the school year from 8:30am—4:30pm. The goal of the Program is to surround youth with a caring atmosphere, engaging in tasks that are educational and meaningful, and hold juveniles accountable for their behavior.

Community Group Conferencing

Community Group Conferencing is a one-time meeting process in which the juvenile offender voluntarily meets with the victim of his/her behavior and community members in a formal setting. Led by a trained facilitator, the group discusses and determines the best way to repair the harm caused by the juvenile's behavior. This process allows both the victim and the community to be directly involved in responding to hurtful behaviors. Conferences are also utilized in the school setting to address victim/offender incidences.

Mentoring

Restorative Justice offers one-on-one mentoring. The programs match youth with a positive, caring adult who want to provide them with access to people, places, and things that are perhaps outside of their normal environment. Mentors are over the age of 18, screened, trained, willing and wanting to try new and exciting activities with their assigned mentee. The program promotes positive and educational activities while meeting at various sites throughout Winona County. A time commitment of 1-2 hours a week for mentoring is required. It has been shown that with the support and encouragement from a mentor, youth will have a better chance at long-lasting success.



Circles

A Circle is a structured process for organizing effective group communication, relationship building, decision making and conflict resolution. Each Circle is designed to fit the needs of the specific population being addressed. The Circle is run by a “Keeper” who monitors the movement and stimulates reflection of the group through questions, topic suggestions, or activities. The purpose of the Circle is to bring people together as equals to have honest exchanges about sometimes difficult issues in an atmosphere of respect and concern for everyone. Circles are often developed for specific groups of youth based on age, gender, interests, or behavior. Currently Restorative Justice offers Victim Empathy, Chemical Awareness, Truancy, Boys, Girls, and School Circles.



Permission has been obtained by all parties to use photographs



How Can I Get Involved?

You can help us to help make a difference by using your talents and expertise. We need your help now in many different areas.

- Mentor
- Community Member in a Community Group Conference
- Mentor/Supervisor on Work Service Crews
- Circle Member
- Marketing / Public Relations
- Fundraising
- Making a Monetary Donation
- Planning Program Activities
- Support through in-kind donations
- Advisory Board Member

Call us to see how we can utilize your gifts and talents.





What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice is traditionally an alternative way of thinking about and working with crime and criminal justice. It views crime as an infringement against an individual or community rather than the state. That is, it empowers victims, family, and the community as a whole to play a major role in the process of offender accountability. Restorative Justice encourages the offenders to take responsibility for their actions and helps them to repair the harm they have caused to the victim and to the community.

Furthering this approach, the need is seen to integrate offenders into the community to make them a part of, rather than apart from, the community thus reducing criminal behaviors. Restorative Justice embraces the philosophy in the formation of all available programs and services. It truly does take a village to raise a child, and it is the hope of Restorative Justice to provide the village to the youth throughout Winona County communities.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Restorative Justice Program of Winona County facilitates compassionate responses to crime and wrongdoing that fosters support and healing for the victim; accountability, rehabilitation and reintegration of the offender; and renewal and safety for the community.

Winona County Restorative Justice

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WINONA COUNTY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



“Making A Difference”

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