



NEWSLETTER

YOU are key to restorative justice for South Dakota
– Thanks for your support –

STAFF

Phyllis Boernke, Director
Professionally Trained as
Volunteer Mediators:

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Alana Kindle
Barbara Snellgrove
Bruce Herrboldt
Charles Geary
De Glasgow
Deb Daly
Donita Reeves
Don Frankenfeld
Donna Hughes-Hargraves
Doug Thrash
Doug Widow
Francine Campone
Gary Nelson
Glennis Torpey
Gloria Sitting Crow
Harley Eagle
Janice Horner
Jean Katus
Jil Jennewein
Jim Pabst
Jim Wahlstrom
Karen Griffith
Kyle Halverson
Laura Dellinger
Lin Jennewein
Lisa Zakrzewski
Manny Iron Hawk
Marlene Todd
Mary Spangler Blair
Michelle Brink-Gluhosky
Miguel Apaza
Mike Lang
Nancy Clary
Pansy Hawk Wing
Paula Wilkinson-Smith
Phyllis Boernke
Renee Iron Hawk
Ron Nordell
Ruth Ann Karlen-Yeske
Ruth Yellow Hawk
Shirley Hobbs
Sue Collins
Suzan Nolan
Tim Amos
Tobie Seiler
Tom Katus
Valerie Charging Eagle
Victoria Kalahar
Wendy Mendoza

National Restorative Justice Week

By Barry Tice



Hello Everyone:

I was pleased to accept the position of President of the Board of Directors for the Center for Restorative Justice in April. I'm very proud to say that the Center has expanded and our commitment to the community in victim/offender mediation has grown. One of our major changes this year is the relocation of our office. We are now located at 712 Columbus Street, Suite 2. We currently have 38 active cases with 20 active mediators providing assistance to the Center, plus 11 Board members meeting monthly to conduct business.

From November 12-19 we will be celebrating National Restorative Justice Week. As I reflect on this year's theme, "Creative Partnership Collaborative Action", I recognize the multitude of partnerships and relationships that have developed through the Center's activities. The Center continues to bring victims and offenders of crime together to

repair the harm that has taken place. We offer training for mediators annually and collaborate with schools to teach conflict resolutions skills to young people. We are expanding our services to surrounding communities and Indian reservations in Western South Dakota.

Most recently, our Executive Director Phyllis Boernke and board member Suzan Nolan gave a presentation at the International Institute for Restorative Practices in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Don't miss Suzan's article in this newsletter that tells about their presentation on one of our Center's special programs.

With the dedication of our Board Members, our Executive Director and the numerous volunteers who have made this program a success, we continue to provide these quality services throughout our region.



Board Members: Don Frankenfeld, Suzan Nolan, JeanMarie Heriba, Diana Southam, Phyllis Boernke, Nancy Clary, Jan Snedigar, Barry Tice, Jay Davis, Dowell Caselli-Smith.
Not pictured: Sharon Kallemeyn, Laurette Pourier and liaison Janice Horner.

Message from the office

Phyllis Boernke, Executive Director

2006 has been the best year ever! Beginning with our day long Board of Directors planning retreat in January, we used “Open Space Technology” to bring out our passions and chart our course for the year. We took on new projects such as youth training with North Middle School and the Ateyapi Mentoring Program supported by RC Weed & Seed Program; developing a restorative plan for working with troubled youth at the invitation of Judge Kern; training in circles process for new mediators; receiving a capacity building grant and technical assistance from Volunteers of America; updating our strategic plan for the next 5 years; hosting a community advisors luncheon; launching our first annual event and benefit concert; presenting a workshop at an international restorative justice conference. The Board has been creative, imaginative and forward thinking while remaining dedicated to our primary focus of healing the harm caused by crime and conflict in our community. Read more about some of these activities in the reports from Board members in this issue.

Referrals from many sources continue to increase. Since January we have received 66 referrals from the judicial system, from schools, agencies and from individuals. Some of these cases are relatively straightforward and are easily resolved; others remain in process for months. Right now, a case with 3 youth offenders and multiple victims will likely be in process for the entire school year to ensure the greatest possibility for a successful outcome. We team experienced mediators with those newly trained and offer ongoing skills practice throughout the year. Currently 40 cases are active, 26 of the 66 referred have been closed. Twenty of the active cases are assigned to mediators, 7 offenders are considering their options, 8 offenders have yet to respond, and 5 offenders are ready to meet with a mediator to talk about their actions and consider the options that restorative justice holds out to repair the harm caused by crime and conflict.

In all the ways that we apply restorative practices we focus on the understanding that crime harms relationships and that the repairing of those relationships is



Making Music for Restorative Justice

**Sunday, November 19th
3-5 pm.**

The Dahl Fine Arts Center

Featuring Musicians:

Mike Reardon
Marty Meyer
Shawn Michael Bitz

- Silent Auction •
- Raffle for music •

Talking About Restorative
Justice

Tickets \$25 single, \$60 family
Buy 5 tickets, get 1 ticket FREE

fundamental. We ask 3 basic questions: what is the harm, who has been affected by the harm, and who is responsible to repair the harm? When people come together to honestly ask and answer those questions, transformation and reconciliation occur.

We invite you - and welcome you - to become part of the Center for Restorative Justice as we strive to make our community a healthier and more peaceful place for all of us.



ANNOUNCEMENTS
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Skills Training for Mediators

Suzan Nolan, Nancy Clary and Jan Snedigar will offer training for mediators November 27th, from 6-9 PM at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 717 Quincy.

The training will consist of practical application of victim/offender mediation skills, circle practice, and family group conferencing. The field of restorative practices has been expanding and evolving over the past 10 years. Our trainers will bring you the best practices currently in use around the world.

If you have taken mediation or circle training in the past and want to refresh you skills, this is the training for you. Elements from Dr. Mark Umbreit's victim offender work; from "The Script" designed and used in Australia, UK, and in our eastern states; and circle practices that have come to us from indigenous, traditional teachers will be included. You will watch these processes demonstrated and will practice the skills in small groups and in role plays of actual situations you might encounter in cases referred to our Center. You will learn how to be an effective facilitator, the differences between counseling and mediation, and how to elicit greater participation. Trainers will answer questions and gear the training specifically to your requests.

This one evening skills training costs \$25; scholarships are available. Call the Center at 348-3665 to register by November 20th.

Application for Membership

Our Vision

A community based organization which serves to promote healing by restoring balance and equity between people who are separated by conflict.

Our Mission

To promote awareness of and to facilitate restorative justice in South Dakota through education and collaborative process.



712 Columbus St.
Rapid City, SD 57701
605-348-3665 FAX: 605-348-3665
email: cfrj@rushmore.com

CFRJ is a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit organization, your contribution is tax deductible.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City _____

State ____ Zip: _____ email: _____

Type of membership: (please check one)

Full voting membership (\$25)
Includes full voting privileges, CFRJ Newsletter and notification of CFRJ sponsored trainings.

Organizational membership (\$100)
Includes one designated voting membership, CFRJ newsletter (up to 4 subscriptions), notification of CFRJ sponsored training and a certificate of CFRJ Membership.

\$ _____ Annual dues enclosed for January 200_ through December 200_.

\$ _____ Donation/additional support for Restorative Justice activities.

Your gift means a lot to us. Thank you very much. We will work hard to deserve it!

- \$1500 will sponsor necessary training for three volunteers.
- \$750 will sponsor the preparation and implementation of a mediation sequence.
- \$500 will support volunteers to work with victims, offenders, and community networks.
- \$250 will support follow-up on restitution and community service agreements.
- \$100 will support monthly training and communications for volunteers.
- \$50 will support collaborations with school liaison officers.
- \$25 will provide match support for material for volunteer mediators.

I want to volunteer:

Board membership

Receive Training

Host a speaker/become a speaker

Give office support

Other: _____



South Dakota represented at International Conference

by Suzan Nolan

October 18-20, 2006, Phyllis Boernke, our own Restorative Justice Center director and I were lucky enough to be presenters and participants at the International Conference on Restorative Justice Practices. We joined 350 people from around the world in the quaint hillside town of Bethlehem, PA, to share with and learn from one another. The conference was sponsored by the International Institute of Restorative Practices (IIRP) located in Bethlehem. It is the world's first graduate school wholly dedicated to the emerging science of restorative practices. The IIRP provides training, consulting and materials to people around the world who are developing restorative justice programs.

The subject of our presentation, "Talking Circles with Schools and Communities" was based on a special program our Restorative Justice Center did in December 2005 with the staff at Takini School on the Cheyenne River Reservation. While most of the programs at the conference were delivered as lectures, Phyllis and I created an experiential workshop modeled on the Takini project, where all participants took part in values clarification and a talking circle guided by restorative practices as a way to resolve conflict. We received very positive feedback from the people who attended and felt they got a very clear picture of this project and the work we are doing in South Dakota.

Attending the conference greatly broadened my perspective about the global practice of

Restorative Justice. We heard from superintendents of schools, family counselors, and court service workers around the globe who are using these methods in their work. I attended a session by a man from Canada who is using RJ practices with children whose parents are incarcerated. Even the United Nations has adopted restorative justice as an approach to solving disputes by its member nations. There were also many sessions on integrating restorative justice and family conferencing where all nuclear and extended family members are allowed to have input about a sentence before it goes to the judge. The next international conference will be November, 2007, in Budapest, Hungary.

In a world full of conflict and strife, it is reassuring to know that this practice, which has its roots in indigenous ways, is really growing and changing the way we deal with crime. We look forward to sharing our new ideas with you at our upcoming training in November.



I AM not a visionary. I claim to be a practical idealist. The religion of non-violence is not meant merely for the rishis and saints. It is meant for the common people as well. Non-violence is the law of our species as violence is the law of the brute. The spirit lies dormant in the brute and he knows no law but that of physical might. The dignity of man requires obedience to a higher law-to the strength of the spirit.

—Mahatma Gandhi

Responses from Mediation Sessions

One of our regular newsletter features is to bring you quotes from people who have taken part in mediation. Reading the comments by both victims and offenders gives the most accurate reflection of the positive change brought about through restorative justice work.

"This was probably the hardest thing I've ever done. Listening to the victim tell me how they felt gives me something to think about for a long time. I never want to be thought of as someone to be afraid of. This has changed my life."

"This validated for me that people need to go to the source when they are having conflicts, to see people as individuals, and that human nature is making mistakes and learning by them."

"I was so angry that this happened to my family and I wanted him locked up for life. Now that we have talked with him, I just want to know that his life will be different and that he has learned something. I'm not angry any longer; in fact, I feel so relieved, I'm sleeping better than I have in months."

"I feel this was productive for all parties involved. I would recommend it to others –it improved the situation in ways I could never have imagined."



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