

2011-2012 Annual Report



CENTER FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE

MISSION STATEMENT

Center for Community Justice serves Elkhart County by providing programs, based on the principles of Restorative Justice, which strengthen community safety, provide support and compensation for victims, aid in the restoration of offenders, and promote reconciliation among victims, offenders and the community.

From the Desk of our Executive Director

I am excited to report that our staff, Board and community are working well together to revitalize Center for Community Justice (CCJ), and to reignite the fire of Restorative Justice principles. During the 2012 Staff Retreat, CCJ's founders shared stories of community-centered work and financial struggles with current staff and volunteers. We were able to appreciate the similarity of past and present practitioners' motivation and inspiration from cases where a victim's needs were addressed and an offender learned the effects of their choices.

Restorative Justice programs give victims a voice in the criminal justice system, provide offenders with the opportunity to be actively accountable for their actions, and address the resulting damage to the community. CCJ successfully carries out restorative justice programs, but it takes the work of a community to move towards restoration from harms that have resulted from crime. We are dependent on and grateful to our donors, volunteers and interns. With your help and the support of local businesses, we are able to work with our community to address crime and its affects.

We have recently had multiple opportunities to share our work with a variety of people. We provided training for practitioners from the nearby Human Resources Network and for individuals from as far away as Tokyo, Japan. We have also been grateful to make presentations to future practitioners who currently attend local colleges and universities.

While our focus remains on continuing to provide quality programming, we maintain an ever-present awareness of new ways to view Restorative Justice and to address the needs of our community. Through our seven current programs, more than 4,400 people were served this year. Our new Community Mediation Program began receiving a significant number of referrals from Elkhart County Sheriff's Department and Goshen City Police Department. This allows CCJ to interact more with the community, and to help empower people to communicate with others in the midst of their own conflicts. Overall, referrals have been stable in all programs.

Thank you to everyone who supported our work over the last year. We look forward to another year of strengthening existing relationships and forging new ones as we serve our community.

Connie Caicerros,
Executive Director

CCJ Staff

Administration

Connie Caicerros, Executive Director

Beakal Girma, Finance Director

Laura Fater, Admin. Assistant

CMP

Kelly Sauder Neff, Coordinator

CSRP

Laura Fater, Caseworker

Bruck Mulat, Crew Supervisor

FMP

Kristin Brandon, MSW, LCSW
Coordinator

VIP/AVIP/SVIP

Antonette Reese, MSW
Coordinator

VORP

Anne Lehman, Coordinator

Sarah Arnett, Caseworker

Dawit Kebede, Caseworker

Kandice Kirkwood, Caseworker

Volunteers

Nikki Allison
James Armour
Wayne Beachy
Tom, Lorrie & Amy Bjornstad
Kristin Brandon
Virgil Claassen
Glenn Cobane
Connie Cruz
Michael Dotlich
Bahareh Ebrahimi
Rebecca Elias
Jeff Fater
Elias Garcia
Jenna Handow
KaRena Hochstetler
Joyce Hoffman
Jana Humphreys
Tony & Glenda Hurst
Alyssa Jarvis
Kristal Klehoth
April & Linda Koepple
Ed Manier
Anne Meyer Byler
Mary Mishler
Pamela Munn
Freda Nolen
Michael O'Neal
Andrea, Clara & Grace Ott
Cherri Peate
Jim Peshina
Courtney Quick
Adrian Regules
Antonette Reese
Eber Dean Rice-Smucker
Adrian Riley
Frances Ringenberg
Michelle Salgado
Ubie Sanchez
Susan Sharpe
Tom Shoff
Christina Smith
Michael Stellingwerf
Michael Swallow
Carrie Sullivan
Matthew Tschetter
Carol Vogel
Sueann VonGunten
Herman Washington
Bill Watrud
Eileen & Megan Yoder
Randy Yohn
Alisa Zornig

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Community Mediation Program (CMP)

The Community Mediation Program is an opportunity for people in conflict to sit down, discuss their dispute and together discover their own solution. With the help of a trained mediator, many people can find common ground without the need of a trial. The mediation process empowers the parties to decide the outcome of their dispute and attempts to repair the broken relationship. Mediation is not in opposition to the legal system. It works along side it, helping people resolve their conflicts without becoming enemies, an effective alternative.

CMP currently receives mediation referrals through three avenues; directly from disputing parties, through a partnership with the Elkhart County Sheriff's Department and the Goshen City Police Department, and through Small Claims Court in Superior Courts V and VI.

<u>Small Claims</u>	<u>10/11</u>	<u>11/12</u>
Total persons served:	207	217
# of mediations:	84	87
% reaching agreement:	57.14%	57.47%
# of trials avoided:	48	50
<u>Community Mediation Referrals</u>		
Total persons referred:		77
Total referrals:		46
# of mediations:		3
# Indirect agreement:		5
% Reaching agreement:		35%

Community Service Restitution Program (CSRP)

Since 1979, CSRP has provided an opportunity for judges in Elkhart County to give offenders community service instead of idle jail time. Staff interview clients, place them in government or non-profit worksites, and monitor their progress as the make real and symbolic restitution to the community.

	<u>10/11</u>	<u>11/12</u>
Total persons served:	972	1,133
# of worksites:	184	194
# of service hours worked:	38,847	37,404
Successful Completion Rate:	68%	81%

Family Mediation Program (FMP)

The Family Mediation Program (FMP) began as a pilot program in cooperation with Superior Court Judge David Bonfiglio in June, 2008. Mediation is provided for families who are working through issues of divorce and custody based on a cooperative parenting model.

Mediation provides the opportunity for parents to devise a framework to resolve logistical and emotional issues that adversely impact their children.

	<u>10/11</u>	<u>11/12</u>
Total mediations:	120	83
# of successful cases:	107	72
# referred back to court/other:	13	11
% success rate:	89%	83%

Volunteer Services

Center for Community Justice values the contributions of community members who give their talents to support our mission. Their efforts are indispensable. Specific programs and the agency as a whole simply could not function without them. They provide an essential link between the vision of the center and the community we serve.

<u>Volunteer services</u>		
	<u>10/11</u>	<u>11/12</u>
# of volunteers:	75	75
# volunteer hours:	1,474	1,700

Over 4,400 Clients Served

School Suspension Project (SSP)

In September 2005, CCJ started the School Suspension Project. As a consequence to being suspended or expelled from school, a probation officer can send the juvenile to CCJ to perform six to eight hours of community service for every day the probationer is not in school. CCJ will continue to work with the juvenile probation department and area high schools on this program.

	10/11	11/12
Total persons served:	65	70
Total worksites served:	9	12
Total hours:	800	1,800

Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP)

Since 1978, VORP has worked to empower victims of crime and to hold offenders accountable for the harm they caused. The VORP process assists the parties in identifying that harm and creating a contract through which reparation can be made.

This process may involve a face-to-face meeting between the victim and offender facilitated by staff and volunteer mediators. Staff then monitors the fulfillment of all contracts.

	10/11	11/12
Total persons served:	1,415	1,492
# of negotiated contracts:	245	173
# of mediated contracts:	55	33
% of meetings resulting in contract:	100%	100%
# of contracts fulfilled:	202	179
Successful contract completion rate:	74%	81%
CSRP hours worked at victims' request:	269	650
Restitution paid to victims:	\$129,963	\$129,207

Revenues	
IN Dept. of Corrections	\$ 175,421
Client Fees	\$ 84,600
Foundations & Private Contributions	\$ 50,000
Courts	\$ 17,280
Elkhart City Bldgs & Grounds	\$ 8,000
Office Space Lease Income	\$ 4,200
Drug Free Community Funds	\$ 5,500
Economic Development Fund	\$ 5,000
Misc. Funding Sources	\$ 6,004
Reserves	\$ 11,327
Total Revenues	\$ 367,332
Expenditures	
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$ 305,680
General Operating Expenses	\$ 61,652
Total Expenditures	\$ 367,332



Victim Impact Panel - English, Spanish & Adolescent VIP

Since 1993, VIP volunteers, consisting of victims, family members or offender who have caused driving accidents while impaired, speak of the consequences of impaired driving to people who have been charged with driving impaired offenses. The goal of this program is to help make our community roads safe and to change participants' thinking about driving while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. The Adolescent Victim Impact Panel (AVIP) gives volunteers a chance to present their stories to young people who have committed an alcohol or drug-related offense. AVIP also presents panels to schools, and other organizations as requested.

Adults	10/11	11/12	Adolescent	10/11	11/12
Total persons served:	912	1,053	Total persons served:	414	287
# of presentations:	20	24	# of presentations:	8	6
# of offenders:	780	911	# of adolescents served:	207	146
# of guest attendees:	132	142	# of parents served:	207	141

Thinking for a Change (T4C)

Thinking for A Change is a cognitive behavioral change program for offenders CCJ's trained facilitators work with a small group of participants for approximately three months in intense sessions that include sharing real life problems and role-playing their responses. Since May, 2011, three sessions have concluded with 25 participants and 14 completions.

STUDENT INTERNS

VORP - Sarah Arnett - Jackson Beck - Doug Belanger - Christina Engler - Hannah Epp - Sara Klassen - Shae Miller - Rachel Stolzhus - Sarah Toews
VIP- Kelsey Shrock
CSRP - Annette Peoples

CENTER FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE

Board of Directors

President - Merritt Lehman, Financial Manager

Vice-President - Tonda Hines, Title 1 - Parent Support & Elkhart City Councilwoman

Secretary - Jolene VonGuten, Former VORP staff, Volunteer

Treasurer - Virgil Claassen, Retired Director of Business & Finance

David Ball, Financial Advisor

Steve Braden, Pastor - First Presbyterian Elkhart

Rodney Dale, Division Chief - Elkhart Fire Department

Beverly Peters, Family Law Attorney

Robert Peters, Professor Emeritus

Norma Riegsecker, Retired

Brad Rogers, Sheriff - Elkhart County



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www.centerforcommunityjustice.org

Contributors

Individuals

Susan Lantz
Kathryn Aschliman
Walter & Lynette Bachman
Debra Beehler
John & Naomi Bender
Timothy & Joyce Boenne
John & Tina Bohn
Pastor Steve Braden
Virgil & Louise Claassen
Rodney & Tanisha Dale
Mark Dicken
Vivian Epp
Douglas & Sandra Friesen
Fred Greenawalt
Dwight & Carole Grieser
Nancy Hilty
Tonda Hines
Terry Hoogenboom
Gordon Hostetler
Theodore Koontz
Don & Jurate Krabill

Mary Jane Lantz
Merritt & Dierra Lehman
Richard E. Martin
Ward & Mary Merchant
Mary Mishler
Kenton Monjon
Carol Nickel
Diana Nye
Robert & Geraldine Peters
William & Rosemary Pletcher
Hon. & Mrs. James Rieckhoff
Norma Riegsecker
Samuel J. Rodino
Sheriff Brad Rogers
Jennifer & Bronson Rose
Mary Sproull
Richard Stout
Earl & Margaret Sutter
Willard & Janet Swartzendruber
Keith & Janet Swihart

Dorothy Under
Sueann VonGuten
Doug & Jolene VonGuten
Gertrude Warkentin
William Watson
Harold & Mary Weaver
John & Dawn Wysong
Janet Yoder

Churches

Assembly Mennonite Church
College Mennonite Church
Hively Avenue Mennonite Church
Prairie Street Mennonite
Southside Fellowship
Sunnyside Mennonite Youth Group
Universal Unitarians

Organizations & Businesses

AMBS
Goshen College

HL Enterprise
Habitat for Humanity ReStore
Heritage Financial Group
Jim Stone Service, Inc.
Maple Leaf Investment Club
Millersville University
Sanders, Pianowski Lawyers
Teall Tax Service

In-Kind Donations

Antonio's Restaurant
b on the River
Elkhart General Hospital
Harrison College
Marilyn Jantzi
Martin's Supermarkets
Olive Garden
Panera Bread
Perkins
Sunnyside Mennonite Church
Wal-Mart