



# Annual Report 2013-2014

## *Our Vision:*

*Vibrant communities- safe, just and engaged.*

*The Center for Community Justice  
Is transforming communities of Elkhart County  
through Restorative Justice.*

## From Our Executive Director:

Restorative Justice is a philosophy that challenges us to ask different questions than one might normally ask about crime. Who has been affected? How can they have a voice in addressing the situation? The result is space where we listen and learn about others' experiences. This allows for healing, forgiveness, and builds relationships.

Principles of restorative justice are used to facilitate challenging conversations, allowing for reconciliation. This reconciliation is made possible in part thanks to the work of the CCJ Board, staff, volunteers and interns. The volunteers and interns contributed 4,241 hours to CCJ, which allowed us to serve **3,592 clients**. As you look through this report you will see a description and data showing the programs' effectiveness. There are many things you will not see.



*Connie Caiceros, Executive Director*

◆ This year in the Community Service Program, Jake Hess, staff and Matt Cordella, a Mennonite Voluntary Service worker worked together to evaluate the program's effectiveness in living out the mission of the agency, making many significant changes to procedures and building stronger relationships with our community service worksites. This was possible thanks to help from one intern from Notre Dame and two from IUSB. The program is now using tools of measurement to evaluate effectiveness.

◆ Two volunteers in the Transitional Coaching Program walked alongside a repeat-offender, and together the three women grow and learn. A year later, the three women are a team ready to walk alongside another person who is transitioning back into Elkhart County after years in prison.

◆ The staff meets once a week in book study to deepen the understanding of restorative justice, in addition to the healthy and strong relationships they share. This allows all the people who work at CCJ to support clients who have experienced trauma, and to do so without distraction.

These are only a small cross section of the many excellent things that are happening at CCJ. CCJ continues to evaluate the quality of all programming to assure distinctive work aligned with our mission, while remaining open to new opportunities. Thank you to everyone who supported our work over the last year, and we look forward to another year of strengthening existing relationships and forging new ones.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Connie Caiceros".

Connie Caiceros  
Executive Director

## Community Mediation Program

This past year has been a busy one for the Community Mediation Program. We have seen an increase in referrals from the police departments and community members resulting in more mediations. This has led to opportunities for neighbors and communities to address harms, work through conflicts and create positive agreements.

We continue to build relationships with other community organizations, neighborhoods and businesses. We strive to promote restorative justice and conflict management through continued education, training and mediation services. We hope to continue these relationships and services because we believe that we need to work together to build a stronger, supportive community.

-Kelly Neff, Coordinator



Small Claims	2012-13	2013-14
<b>Total Persons Served:</b>	185	219
<b># of Mediations:</b>	75	85
<b>% Reaching Agreement:</b>	56%	61%
<b># of Trials Avoided:</b>	42	52

Community Mediation	2012-13	2013-14
<b>Total Persons Served:</b>	194	227
<b>Total Referrals:</b>	66	85
Elkhart Co. Sheriff Dept.	58	80
Goshen Police Department	5	2
Community	3	3
<b># Mediations</b>	13	12
<b>% Closed Successfully:</b>	84%	88%

## Community Service Restitution Program

Since 1979, the Community Service Restitution Program has provided an opportunity for those in Elkhart County to complete court ordered community service in a way that can be mutually beneficial for those working and for one of the hundreds of nonprofits CCJ partners with. CSRP attempts to create opportunities for every person who walks through our doors to address harm to the community created by their crime.



Matt Cordella, CSR

CSRP	2012-13	2013-14	(Adults)	(Juveniles)
<b>Total Persons Served:</b>	712	719	605	114
<b># of worksites served:</b>	184	179		
<b># of service hours worked:</b>	44,857	29,107	25,500	3,607
<b>Successful completion rate:</b>	69.5%	65%	62%	97%



Ramon Martinez, CSR

**Thinking For A Change** Thinking For a Change is a cognitive behavioral change program for offenders. CCJ's trained facilitators work with a small group of participants for three months in intense classes that include sharing real life problems & role-playing their responses. This year four sessions were conducted by presenters Brittany Welles, Adrian Riley, Larry Browning and Kevin Phelps with thirty participants and thirteen completions.

T4C	2012-13	2013-14
<b># of sessions:</b>	2	4
<b># participants:</b>	11	30
<b># completions:</b>	7	13

## Family Mediation Program

The Family Mediation Program began in 2008 as a pilot project in conjunction with Elkhart County Superior Court VI. Since that time FMP mediators have worked with over 700 Elkhart County families through the challenges of divorce, separation, custody and family issues utilizing the cooperative family model. In March of 2012, Elkhart County Judges and Bar adopted the cooperative model requiring that all parents seeking marital dissolution participate in mediation prior to a court hearing. Additionally, Judge David Bonfiglio of Superior Court IV authored the Family Court Grant which supports in part, mediation services for parents needing financial assistance.



Katherine Guy, FMP Coordinator

Upon the determination of paternity, parents are able to resolve issues of custody and parenting time through mediation. Mediations are affordable and provided by mental health professionals cross trained in domestic relations mediation.

FMP	2012-13	2013-14	IV-D Court	2012-13	2013-14
<b>Total Referrals:</b>	260	187	<b>Total Referrals:</b>	175	104
<b># Resolved:</b>	226	165	<b># Resolved:</b>	164	99
<b># Referred back to court:</b>	31	22	<b># Unresolved:</b>	11	5
<b>Success Rate:</b>	87%	88%	<b>Success Rate:</b>	93%	95%

## Victim Offender Reconciliation Program

Since 1978, the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (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.

Through VORP, victims have the opportunity to meet the offenders in their case face to face. One participant wrote **"I like the program because it helps people come together to fix what's wrong."** Another commented **"I don't know what you would do to make [this program] better! VORP was very helpful to me."**



Anne Lehman, VORP Coordinator

VORP	2012-13	2013-14	(Adults)	(Juveniles)
<b>Total persons served:</b>	1,258	1,100	733	367
<b># of negotiated contracts:</b>	121	136	76	60
<b># of mediated contracts:</b>	16	27	9	18
<b>% of meetings resulting in contract:</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b># of contracts fulfilled:</b>	126	116	56	60
<b>Successful contract completion rate:</b>	82%	91%	89%	91%
<b>Community service hours worked at Victims' request:</b>	898	853	783	70
<b>Restitution paid to victims:</b>	\$99,440	\$107,328	\$88,944	\$18,384

## Reading For Life

In 2007, a program was created in St. Joseph County that seeks to cultivate virtue development in at-risk youth. The result of this creative effort was *Reading for Life* (RFL). Youth who are referred to RFL are divided into small groups based on their reading levels. Each group chooses a contemporary teen novel from a list of suggested books. Over the course of 12 weeks, two trained mentors teach about ethics and guide discussions on the virtues exhibited throughout the novel: justice, prudence, temperance, fortitude, fidelity, hope and charity. Youth also write weekly journal entries about situations in which they have acted virtuously or not virtuously. Toward the end of the program, each group chooses a community service project related to the novel. In a final presentation to their parents, youth give a summary of the novel, offer descriptions of the seven virtues and give examples of each from the book, and then share about their own personal growth during the program. CCJ is delighted to announce that Reading for Life is coming to Elkhart as our newest program! Referrals are coming in and we hope to form our first reading groups in August. If you'd like to learn more about RFL's volunteer opportunities—particularly becoming a group mentor— please contact Jake Hess at [jhess@centerforcommunityjustice.org](mailto:jhess@centerforcommunityjustice.org)

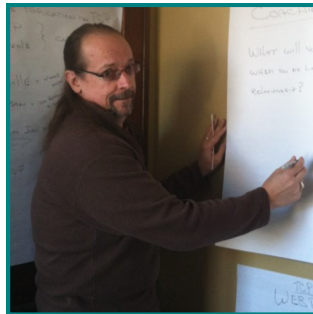


Jake Hess, Reading for Life

Since 2007, over 300 youth have completed Reading for Life in St. Joseph Co. 97% have not been prosecuted for re-offense and 90% have no further contact with the law!

## Transitional Coaching Program

Not surprising, but news travels fast within correctional facilities. And the news is out about the Transitional Coaching Program. Many men and women who will be returning to Elkhart County are requesting a coaching relationship. The common thread that runs through those requests is a desire NOT to return to prison and the awareness that assistance is needed for that desire to become a reality. The formerly incarcerated and their coaches are investing themselves in the process of reentry and both are reaping the rewards of their investment.



Don French, TCP Coordinator

TCP	2012-13	2013-14
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Initial Coach Trainings:	3	5
# active coaching relationships:	5	10
# Training Attendees:	74	91
# coaching hours:	275	448
# volunteer coaches:	25	20

## Victim Impact Panel -English, Spanish and Adolescent

Since 1993, Victim Impact Panel volunteers, consisting of victims, family members or offenders 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	2012-13	2013-14	Adolescents	2012-13	2013-14
Total persons served:	866	862	Total persons served:	284	151
# of presentations:	16	20	# of presentations:	6	6
# of offenders:	764	638	# of adolescents served:	142	151
# of guest attendees:	102	194	# of parents served:	142	157

## Volunteer Services

Center for Community Justice values the contributions of community members who give their time and 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.



### **CCJ Volunteers:**

David Ball • Piyas Bandyopadhyay  
 Stu Basquin • Tom Bjornstad • Steve Braden  
 Nikita Butler • Virgil Claassen • Matt Cordella  
 Liz Core • Rhonda Cox • Jeff Fater • Eric Fink  
 Daniel Foxvog • Elias Garcia • Michael Green  
 Marc Hardy • Tony Hufnagle • Jana Humphreys  
 Tony & Glenda Hurst • Judy Kelly  
 Josh Kinder • Eric LeCount • Aaron Lehman  
 Merritt Lehman • Matt Lentsch • Jameson Lingl  
 Cassandra Long • Jacqueline Malone  
 Ed Manier • Torre McClain • Lynn Miller  
 Jeff Miller • David Moser • Stephen Murad  
 Valerie Neal • Freda Nolen • Mark Norris  
 Kristi Osterday • Kent Palmer  
 Beverly Peters • Bob Peters  
 Jermaine Pulliam • Julie Reed • Patricia Rice  
 Norma Riegsecker • Adrian Riley  
 Ron Ringenberg • Luke Roeschley  
 Brad Rogers • Ted Rondeau • Hilary Scarsella  
 Becky Schaller • Bill Schweinzger  
 Susan Sharpe • Joanna Shenk • Mary Short  
 Dino Signore • Art Stoltzfus  
 Tom & Connie Stull • Michael Talbot  
 James Taylor • Jennifer Tinsley • Will Troyer  
 Carolyn Vogel • Jolene VonGunten  
 SueAnn VonGunten • Liz Wiebe

	2012-13	2013-14
# of volunteers/interns:	113	99
# of volunteer/intern hours:	4,781.5	4,241.25

**CCJ staff was privileged to have the following students serve as Interns or lend assistance to special projects:**

James Bagley  
 Matt Benscoter  
 Marj Betubiza  
 Andrew Braden  
 Mason Braden  
 Sayira Caldwell  
 Karen Campion  
 Kathy Fan  
 Samuel Foxvog  
 Mary Honderich  
 Fedilia Kale  
 Elizabeth Owens  
 Samantha Pena  
 Keziah Samuel  
 Katie Sekardi  
 Christina Smith  
 Tracy Smith  
 Audrey Thill  
 Katie Zimpelman

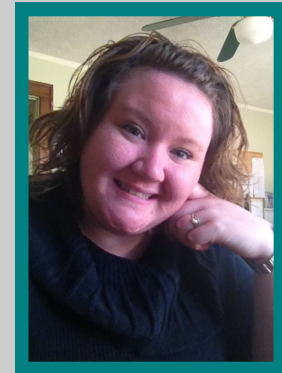


121 South Third Street  
Elkhart, IN 46516  
Phone: (574) 295-6149  
Fax: (574) 522-6685  
[www.centerforcommunityjustice.org](http://www.centerforcommunityjustice.org)

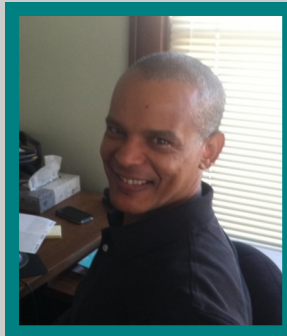
## Center for Community Justice Staff



*Julia Gingrich, VORP*



*Sarah LeCount, VORP*



*Dawit Kebede, VORP*



*Laura Fater, Administrative Assistant*



*Lon Zimmerle, Finance Director*



*David Tunstell, CSR Crew Supervisor*

## 2013-2014 Contributors

**The following individuals, churches, businesses and other entities gave to Center for Community Justice between July 1, 2013 and June 30, 2014. Their contributions helped us to continue to restore victims, work with offenders and enhance public safety. Their support is truly an investment in our community and we are grateful for their generosity.**

### Individuals

Kathryn Aschliman	Aaron & Anne Lehman
David Ball	David & Susan Lehman
Rebecca & Paris Ball-Miller	Merritt & Dierra Lehman
Stuart & Trudy Basquin	Heidi Linder
Tim & Joyce Boenne	Arlene Mark
John & Tina Bohn	Richard Martin
Mrs. Don Bradbury	Ward & Mary Merchant
Steve & Beth Braden	D. Richard Miller
Richard Brotherson	David & Mary Kathryn Miller
Nelson & Evelyn Bushong	Evan J. Miller
Rebecca Butler	Jeff & Kay Miller
Geoffrey & Katharine Church	Lynn & Darlene Miller
Virgil & Louise Claassen	Lora & Angel Miranda
Mary Darling Miller	Mary Mishler
Dave & Sonja Epp	Judith Muench
John & Lois Fidler	Diana Nye
Dr. & Mrs. Donald Findlay	Kristi & Charles Osterday
Rob & Dawn Fisher	Jean Oyer
Menno & Shirley Friesen	Beverly Peters
L. Craig & Constance Fulmer	Donald & Virginia Peters
Elias Garcia Sanchez	Mr. & Mrs. Randall Peters
Elizabeth Gingrich	Robert & Geraldine Peters
Joseph & Rita Gold	James Pitts
Dr. Alvin & Dolores Graber	Hon. & Mrs. James Rieckhoff
Thomas & Diana Graber	Norma Riegsecker
Leonard & Loanne Harms	Ron & Frances Ringenberg
Gordon Hostetler	Brad Rogers
Judy Kolb	Jennifer & Bronson Rose
Theodore Koontz	Stanley & Linda Rupnow
Don & Jurate Krabill	Hilary Scarsella
James & Jeanette Krabill	Bill Schweinzger
J. Nelson & Ellen Kraybill	Charles & Jumpar Sheneman
	Dale & Karen Shenk

Bob & Pam Shultz
Mary Sproull
Dr. & Mrs. Bruce Stahly
Phil Stiver
Gary & Kristine Stoltzfus Horst
Art Stoltzfus
Victor & Marie Stoltzfus
Richard Stout
Greg & Beth Suderman
Shirley Toole
John & Carole Ulmer
Sueann VonGuten
Harold & Mary Weaver
Leonard & Joan Wiebe
Steve & Dorothy Wiebe-Johnson
Andy & Susan Wyse
Dr. Levon & Anita Yoder

Greg's Volcano Pizza
Keybank Foundation
LPL Financial Matching
The Mennonite Foundation
Teall Tax Service
Ten Thousand Villages
Welch Packaging Group

### In-Kind Donations

Adrian Riley (guest speaker)
Bruno's Pizza
Culver Duck Farms, Inc.
Magistrate Deborah Domine (Guest speaker)
Laura Fater
First Congregational Church (meeting space)
First Presbyterian Church (Meeting space)
Sarah LeCount
Martin's Supermarkers
Meijer
Kelly Sauder-Neff
Kristi Osterday (guest speaker)
Office Barn
Old Style Deli
Panera Bread
Subway
Texas Roadhouse
Wal-mart

### Churches

Assembly Mennonite
Berkey Avenue Mennonite
College Mennonite
Fellowship of Hope
Hively Avenue Mennonite
Southside Fellowship
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart

### Organizations & Businesses

Bienvenido Community Solutions
Elkhart Rotary Club
Goshen College -
Department of Social Work

## 2014-15 Income/Expenditures

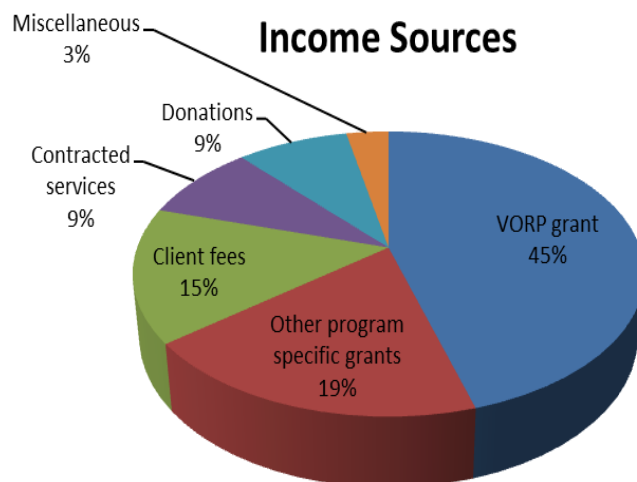
### Revenues

Indiana Department of Corrections VORP Grant	\$176,935
Other Program Specific Grants	\$ 73,824
Client Fees	\$ 59,438
Contracted Services	\$ 34,238
Donations	\$ 32,816
Miscellaneous	\$ 12,454
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$389,705</b>

### Expenditures

Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$294,321
General Operating Expenses	\$102,494
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$396,815</b>

## Income Sources





121 South Third Street

Elkhart, IN 46516

Phone: (574) 295-6149

Fax: (574) 522-6685

[www.centerforcommunityjustice.org](http://www.centerforcommunityjustice.org)

## Center for Community Justice

### Board of Directors

*President* - Steve Braden, Interim Pastor

*Vice-President* - David Ball, First Source Asset Advisor

*Secretary* - Beverly Peters, Family Law Attorney

*Treasurer* - Merritt Lehman, Retired Financial Manager

Elias Garcia Sanchez, IT Heart City Health

Lynn Miller, Chief Financial Officer, Oaklawn

Kristi Osterday, Attorney at Law, Sanders Pianowski LLP

Brad Rogers, Elkhart County Sheriff

Bill Schweinzger, Broker, Berkshire Hathaway

James Taylor, Elkhart Community Schools Community Liason

Jennifer Tinsley, Pastor, St. James AME

## From the Board President:

2013-14 has been a productive year for CCJ. Following a board-staff retreat led by Notre Dame Professor Marc Hardy, CCJ adopted a new mission and vision statement. Both board and staff renewed their focus on transforming our communities through restorative justice. CCJ began more closely tracking income and expenses by program, and focused on bringing income closer to costs wherever possible. This twin focus on mission and costs led CCJ to discontinue the School Suspension Program, transferring it to The Crossing alternative school. CCJ also laid the groundwork to begin an innovative new program, Reading for Life. Developed at Notre Dame, Reading for Life impacts troubled youth through shared reading and guided discussion of appropriate books. In addition, CCJ worked to build interest in possible implementation of restorative practices in local school systems.

On the board level, CCJ bade farewell to two dedicated long-time board members: Virgil Claassen and Norma Riegsecker. We were sorry to lose two other valuable board members, Piyas, Bandyopadhyay and Hilary Scarsella, but we welcomed a diverse and energetic group of new board members including Bill Schweinzger, James Taylor, and Elias Garcia. CCJ continues to be blessed with an extraordinarily talented and dedicated staff, who do amazing work in transforming lives on a daily basis. The board will continue to support Connie and the staff as CCJ serves the community.

The principles and practices of Restorative Justice have power far beyond the criminal justice system. Whether implemented in resolving neighborhood disputes, in mediating legal disputes, or keeping youth in school, Restorative Justice is truly transformative. Will you help us continue this important work through a tax-deductible contribution to CCJ?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Braden".

The Rev. Stephen B. Braden  
Board President