In this issue, the Community Restorative Justice Center (CRJC) reviews the past fiscal year from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 (FY21). Despite the challenges that the pandemic brought to 2020, the CRJC was able to remain open and continue to provide our communities with valuable resources and services.

In fact, FY21 saw us add several new initiatives including the appropriation of a grant to implement transitional housing for people entering the community from incarceration, a new pilot program for dealing with graduated sanctions, and providing support/mediation for homeless individuals who were being housed in local hotels.

The folks who use our services have been grateful to be able to connect with staff in person. Those who are especially vulnerable have valued the continued contact in what would have been otherwise isolating times. We salute our volunteers—community members like you—who dedicate their time and talents to our efforts. They are the heart of what we do and this work would not happen without them.

It continues to be our privilege to connect with our neighbors in and around Caledonia and Essex counties; assist in repair of harm that has been done in our communities; build bridges between people; and help to create safer spaces for people to live, learn, play and work.

In early June, the Justice Center added a new member to our staff. Meet Lilu, who will happily greet you with tail wags and a smile!
Community Restorative Justice Center Revenue/Expense

Revenue

DOC 91%
Training and Donations 4%
Towns 2.5%
VT Bar Foundation 2.5%

Note: DOC is the VT Dept. of Corrections

Expenses

RJ Panels 35%
Reentry 17.5%
Admin 17%
Training 16%
Community Development 5%
Legal Program 5%
Mediation 4%

Funding sources listed are for fiscal year 2021: July 1, 2020—June 30, 2021
Restorative Justice Panels

People who have committed crimes in Caledonia and Essex Counties may have their cases referred to the Community Restorative Justice Center (CRJC) to take part in a Reparative Panel process. Some of the most common referrals are for: Driving Under the Influence, Simple Assault, Disorderly Conduct, Embezzlement, Retail Theft, or Burglary. The person, also referred to as the responsible party, would be referred to us in several ways:

- Direct referral from the police pre-charge; the person won’t be charged if they participate and complete the reparative panel process. If the person fails the process, they may be sent to court and charged.
- Through probation and parole. In this case, the reparative panel process is now a condition of their probation. The person has to complete the process before they can be released from probation.
- Direct referral from a school or business.

In a Reparative Panel process the responsible party comes for an intake with the coordinator who listens to their story, especially to hear if they take responsibility for their actions. If the person accepts responsibility, the coordinator explains the restorative goals, which are to: learn the impact of the crime on victims, affected parties and the community; make amends to victims, affected parties and the community; and learn ways not to re-offend.

The person then meets with a group of up to 5 volunteers who are trained in restorative justice. The team will draw up an agreement with the responsible party, who will come back in a month, meet with the same group of people and determine whether the agreement was fulfilled. The process is about repairing harm rather than applying punishment.

Victims are contacted by our Victim Liaison and offered an opportunity to come to the meeting to speak firsthand about how the crime has impacted them and what they might want for reparation. If the victim does not want to attend the meeting, they may choose to file a victim impact statement which could be read at the meeting, or they may choose not to participate at all.

**In fiscal year 2020, the CRJC Restorative Justice Panel Coordinator:**

- Received 83 referrals for Reparative Justice Panels from Caledonia and Essex counties; 41 of those cases involved victims.
- Held a total of 101 cases open (some carried over from the previous fiscal year).
- Successfully closed 89 cases.
- Logged 1102 volunteer hours for volunteers on Reparative Panels.

Tune Faulkner, Restorative Panel Coordinator
This story reflects the experience of one responsible party who went through the Restorative Panel process:

[Note: The name of the responsible party has been changed to protect confidentiality.]

In February of 2019, Allison was referred to the Community Restorative Justice Center for a pre-charge of Simple Assault. A pre-charge means that the police were called for an incident that occurred; if necessary the police investigated the situation and wrote a report based on a belief they had probable cause to file charges. The last step is to send the case to the State’s Attorney (SA). The SA looks at the case, checks to see if the person has a prior criminal record or not. In not, and if the incident is not too egregious, she may send it to us as a pre-charge. The case never goes to court if the person engages in the restorative justice process, and if resolved successfully, the person will not have the charge on their record.

Allison’s pre-charge was for Simple Assault. She admitted that she was involved in a fight but she felt justified in punching her former boyfriend and his new girlfriend. She had suspected that the two of them had been seeing each other and she was right. She found them together in the parking lot of a local business, and decided to follow them in her car as they drove away. She was so close that when the brakes were hit by the former boyfriend, Allison hit their car. When everyone got out, a fight ensued between all three of them.

When Allison came in for her first meeting with the panel, she was angry and defensive. The panel listened to Allison for some time before one panel member succinctly summarized what was said and offered some observations about Allison’s behavior. Allison at first was angry, but then began to cry. She had been to counseling but didn’t connect with the counselor. Allison gave birth to her daughter at age 17 and the two of them lived with Allison’s grandmother. After much conversation, the only thing on the agreement was to contact another counselor and make an appointment. Allison was fine doing this and when she came in for a follow up meeting, she let us know she had an appointment with another counselor. Allison’s case was then closed successfully.

Two plus years later –

Allison is referred again for a pre-charge of Simple Assault. This time the incident stemmed from a party Allison attended. She was at the party drinking with others when she and another young woman started to argue about some harbored, prickly history they had with each other. One threw her drink into the other’s face and that started the fight. Allison was again cited for Simple Assault; the other young woman was labeled as the victim as she had multiple bruises on her body. Allison decided not to provide a statement to the police.
Allison again came before the reparative panel, again she was defensive. Why wasn’t the other woman charged, they were both equally involved in the fight she claimed. The panel did their best to direct Allison’s attention to her behavior and not divert the conversation to the other woman. Allison was angry as she was being challenged by the panel. The meeting was held on zoom and Allison turned off her video, we asked her to turn it back on which she did as she lit a cigarette, but she wasn’t happy about it. The meeting was tense and we finished after an hour without an agreement. She swore as she signed off zoom, we weren’t sure if she knew she was still in the meeting. I scheduled her for the following month.

The next meeting was held on zoom as well but this time Allison apologized to the panel for her behavior during the last meeting. She was ready to acknowledge her role in the fight the night of the party. She also mentioned that she quit drinking about two months prior and realized that drinking as much as she did was not good for her or anyone she was around. She said she wanted to seek counseling again but didn’t know who to go to. She said she’d like to write a letter of apology to the woman she got in a fight with. We talked about what she might say in the letter and what exactly she wanted to apologize for. We were all shocked at the difference between the two meetings.

Allison returned for a third meeting with her letter of apology. She read the letter and had obviously followed the guidelines we hand out to those that write such letters, which ask the person to take responsibility for what they did, speak to why there’s a law against it, talk about the harm caused to the affected party, and speak to what was learned from the experience. Allison also had been to one counseling session and was scheduled for another the next day. She mentioned that she was still abstaining from alcohol and she quit smoking in the past two weeks. The panel was pleasantly surprised by the shift in demeanor from the first meeting. We hope that Allison continues her path of recognizing her harmful behavior and continues the hard work required at therapy.

**Crime is a violation of people and relationships. It creates obligations to make things right. Justice Involves the victim, the offender, and the community in a search for solutions which promote repair, reconciliation, and reassurance.**

- Howard Zehr
Victim Support Services

The Victim Outreach Liaison for the Victim Support Services Program works in partnership with law enforcement to identify direct victims of crimes and accidents in their communities. Victims are contacted within a few days after the incident to offer services which can include emotional support, information and referrals to resources, assistance with safety issues, limited financial assistance for losses incurred, as well as information about our programs. The goal of this program is to help people feel heard and to be able to safely express their concerns.

The Victim Outreach Liaison also works with victims in cases where the responsible party is referred for a restorative process such as a reparative panel or group conference. Victims are contacted by phone or in person. The liaison offers a number of options for participating in the process and learns about how the crime has impacted the victim’s life. The victim can choose to attend a Reparative Panel meeting and, for those who do, the liaison generally attends as a support person. The victim can choose to complete a victim impact statement or participate in an interview with Victim Outreach Liaison which she will then share at a meeting on their behalf. Victims can also participate by phone during the meeting so that their voice is heard. Some victims prefer not to be involved but do wish to be informed of the outcome. Others choose not to be involved at all.

The CRJC believes that, as a victim of crime, you have the right to:

- Talk about your experiences as the affected party in a crime.
- Share the emotional, physical, and/or financial impacts of the crime.
- Voice your thoughts about how the responsible party can repair the harm done to you and other affected parties, including your family, friends, business, and community.

In fiscal year 2021, the CRJC’s Victim Services Liaison:

- Contacted 272 victims of crime.
- Additionally, supported 36 victims to navigate the Reparative Panel Process.
- Identified needed reparations for victims and connected them to appropriate resources and services.

Stephanie Rowe, Victim Outreach Liaison
How do victims benefit?

The CRJC received a pre-charge case of a 24 year old male, Daniel (pseudonym), for the offenses of Disorderly Conduct and Assault of a Protected Professional. Daniel had been brought to the Emergency Department (ED) by a staff person who worked at the residential treatment center where he resided. He was evaluated by the ED physician, Dr. Z (not his real name), for various complaints including suicidal threats and not feeling safe. During the course of his evaluation, Daniel became angry and combative. He bit, scratched and attempted to punch Dr. Z as well as made threats of an obscene nature to hunt him down and kill him. Daniel also injured a nurse’s hand before he was restrained and sedated.

The Victim Outreach Liaison (VOL) contacted the nurse who did not respond. Dr. Z was in the process of moving out of state and while he was unable to attend the meetings, he stayed in close contact with the VOL. Dr. Z stated that this was the third time he been assaulted in his 25 year career and he had made reports to local law enforcement each time. The doctor wanted Daniel to be held responsible for his actions because he stated that it’s not acceptable to assault care providers “who would do anything to help patients and families.” He wanted this process to be a “lesson, not a punishment.” During the process, the VOL shared Dr. Z’s comments with Daniel, who was accompanied by a residential staff person at all the meetings. Daniel acknowledged that he should have processed his feelings with residential staff and utilized the skills he had been taught in therapy to deal with his emotions. Daniel wanted to write a letter of apology to the physician. He wrote about feeling “really bad about what I did that night” and his understanding that “it is not ok to physically harm anyone, no matter what mood you are in.” He was able to imagine himself in Dr. Z’s shoes and talked about the anxiety and fear he would feel if aggressive patients came to him for help. He also wrote about how uncomfortable other patients in the ED might have felt if they had heard or witnessed his behaviors.

Daniel’s apology letter was mailed to Dr. Z, not necessarily expecting a reply. However, Dr. Z wrote back expressing his appreciation and gratitude for this process. The doctor also enclosed a letter that he requested to be sent to Daniel. Dr. Z thanked him for taking the time to write the letter, acknowledge his responsibility and express remorse for this incident. Dr. Z also said that of the three assault reports he had made to law enforcement, Daniel was the only one who acknowledged his own behavior and accepted responsibility for the offense. Dr. Z told Daniel that this was a “big deal” and Daniel “should be proud of himself.” Even though Dr. Z could not participate in person, these exchanges between Daniel and Dr. Z still reflected a successful process in which Daniel was able to identify, in a sensitive manner, the impacts on Dr. Z and the hospital community. In return, Dr. Z, through a letter in response to Daniel, not only conveyed his thanks to Daniel but, perhaps most importantly, celebrated Daniel’s ability to acknowledge his offense and offer a meaningful apology.
Summer Institute for Restorative Practices

During our 20-21 fiscal year, all our school training was done virtually. Susan spent some time with Cabot, Twinfield and the after-school program at Kingdom East helping teachers and staff coordinate and adapt restorative practices to a virtual platform. Circles can happen on the screen as the host can arrange the pictures so that everyone sees the same order.

It has been critical to the culture of schools to consider how to keep the community together and feel a sense of belonging when they are not seeing each other in person. It has been commendable to see the creativity and love put into this work by our local educators.

Since so many parents became directly involved with their child’s education this year, I send family circle prompts to the schools to share with their families. This was very well received.

At one point, Susan led a fourth-grade circle. The children were just learning circle process and were happy to tell their stories. A bit later in the year, Susan went to Newark School and did a circle with the after-school program. They loved the circle process and encouraged their teachers to keep it going at least every week. It is wonderful to see how enthusiastic our students are with the invitation to tell their stories in a non-judgmental circle. As Susan often shares with teachers during a training, students will always tell their stories. Students can explode, or they can be invited. Isn’t it better to invite them?

The Summer Institute for Restorative Practices in Schools will once again return to being an in-person conference in FY22.

During training sessions led by Susan Cherry, CRJC Executive Director, school personnel learn how to facilitate restorative circles and make plans to implement them in their own school settings.
Office Administration

Our programs and services are supported by our administrative assistant. As the front line of our office, our administrative assistant greets and connects our guests with program staff, answers phone calls, keeps track of all program materials, trains college interns, serves on Reparative Panels and has taken on the role of landlord contact.

In fiscal year 2021, our administrative assistant:

- Completed an overhaul of the office filing system.
- Conducted a phone survey of more than 300 landlords to support our efforts to get people housed and implement transitional housing.
- Trained 4 college interns.

Safe Driving Program

The Safe Driving Program is sponsored by The Community Restorative Justice Center. This is an educational program designed to teach the real consequences of unsafe, impaired, and/or distracted driving. Participants will learn how unsafe driving affects the driver, their family, and members of the community. A panel of victims who have either been injured themselves, or lost loved ones during a car crash speak as part of the program.

The goal is to motivate participants to take responsibility for themselves and others when driving, to think about changing behaviors, and to inspire them to develop their own plan for how to be a safe driver on the road. This means that if a person is going to drive, they will not use substances that will impair judgment or reaction times, text, or engage in other distracting behaviors that will make someone an unsafe driver and potentially injure or kill self or others.

Generally, referrals for the Safe Driving Program are court ordered or ordered by reparative panels, but anyone can attend. Students often report that they have learned new and better ways to guide their driving behavior.

In fiscal year 2021, the CRJC:

- Graduated 7 individuals from the class. Note: Due to COVID, CRJC was required to suspend in person classes for much of the fiscal year until we could safely begin meeting again in person. However, classes were held or in our newly constructed yurt.
Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA)/Navigation

Circles of Support and Accountability are facilitated by a Reentry Coordinator who receives referrals, interviews referred individuals, and determines if the referral is accepted based on the individual’s acceptance of responsibility for the harm they have caused. COSA is intended to serve individuals who are at highest risk to reoffend or who may have committed a particularly egregious crime. Participants, who we call core members, become part of a weekly COSA and meet with their COSA team once a week for up to a year.

Using a collaborative model, COSA circles aim to empower core members to establish healthy, interdependent relationships in a supportive environment in order to reduce the risk of re-offense; guide the core member in the repair of past harms to victims and community; and help the core member to find a renewed sense of belonging. The Reentry Coordinator also recruits and provides ongoing training and support for the volunteers who graciously give their time and energy to this process. Due to the intensity of the process, COSA caseloads tend to be smaller and of longer duration. Due to COVID, many COSAs were held on Zoom until spring when we were able to meet outside, using all safety precautions.

Navigation services are provided to all COSA core members but also to any referred individual who is under the supervision of the Dept. of Corrections. Navigation services vary depending on client needs and may include assistance to obtain identification; preparation and support for job search and work; health care and other benefit navigation; support for family members of individuals who have been or are incarcerated; and referral to needed resources, supports, and more.

During FY21, the Reentry Coordinator took on the additional role of providing mediation services to hotels who were/are housing homeless individuals. This role entailed mediating disputes between hotel guests and owners; referring hotel guests to needed services; providing case management for housing assistance; partnering with the Housing Review and Community Partners agencies to provide wraparound services to hotel guests.

**During fiscal year 2020, the CRJC Reentry Coordinator:**

- Started, maintained, or completed a **15** Circles of Support and Accountability.
- Logged **964** volunteer hours shared by **54** volunteers
- Provided navigation services to **69** non-COSA individuals
- Assisted non-DOC supervised individuals with assistance to access housing or homelessness assistance.

**Susan Russell, Reentry Coordinator**
Something new in FY21—Sanction Panels

In FY21, the Dept. of Corrections began making a shift away from incarcerating people for technical violations of their furlough or probation to a more restorative approach of referring them to the CRJC for a Sanction Panel process. Under the old model, if someone on furlough or probation violated the conditions of their supervision, they would face graduated sanctions that would become progressively more severe, up to and including a return to jail.

In this new pilot model, if an individual violates their conditions and there is not risk to the public, the person can be referred here to the CRJC. Once referred, the person meets with a small team of community members who, over a series of weekly meetings, examine the concerning behavior, identify any harm that was caused and who was impacted, and form a plan to repair that harm. The team can also connect the individual with resources or supports needed to successfully carry out the plan. This is a new process, so it is still in its infancy, but those who have participated have reported that they were pleasantly surprised by the process, felt supported and heard, and have made new connections in their community.

An example was an individual who had not had a driver’s license for over 15 years. He worked with his wife, who was the only licensed driver in the household. On the way to a job, she became tired and was having trouble navigating the truck/trailer. The husband made the decision to drive the remainder of the distance to the job and was pulled over by law enforcement. He was cited with several traffic violations including hefty fines and driving without a license. When he was referred to the Sanction Panel, he had already paid the fines. The panel assisted him to find out what he needed to do to be able to legally drive again, connected him with a service to help him reduce and pay down his VT fines, and make a plan for him to retest and obtain his driver’s license again, something he hadn’t been able to accomplish in 15 years.

Another participant had admitted to his probation officer that he had purchased and consumed beer, which is a violation of his conditions. In meeting with the Sanction Panel, he was able to identify his triggers and risks around drinking, form a plan to stop drinking and receive recovery services, and make amends to himself for breaking his sobriety after a long period of time of not drinking. He reported that his interactions with the team helped him see how he was hurting himself and made him feel that he was worthy of the care and concern from others.

Rather than go to jail, both individuals were able to remain in their communities, retain their jobs to help support themselves and their households, and get back on track to being a safe and healthy community member.
Legal Clinic

The Legal Clinic provides civil, non-criminal legal services to residents of Caledonia and Essex counties. Residents may self-refer; some referrals come from the court system or other agencies. This free clinic provides one-time assistance and advice with attorneys who volunteer their time. The Legal Clinic Coordinator, not himself an attorney, works with individuals who may need information, referrals, or help to fill out paperwork. The coordinator will meet with individuals in person or by phone. Some issues can be worked out without rising to the level of needing legal advice from an attorney.

The CRJC received a pre-charge referral for vandalism done by a renter to an apartment in a building shared by the landlord. He was tired of the destructive behavior and in some fear of the tenants, as they had been threatening in the past and been part of other illegal activity. A referral was made by the CRJC’s Victim Outreach Liaison to the legal program coordinator for assistance. The pre-charge case was sent back for prosecution and the landlord worked with the legal program coordinator to find resources for assistance. A connection was made with the Vermont Landlord’s Association, and he received some assistance by the attorney there to start the process of eviction during Covid. As the landlord’s first language was not English, the legal program coordinator could assist with initial communication between him and the attorney, eventually getting the process started for them to carry on together.

In another case, a man approached the legal clinic asking for assistance with a personal injury case he was attempting to file. The man lives on a fixed income. 75% of his income is immediately taken out for rent at the beginning of each month. His injury case involved a slip and fall requiring numerous surgeries on lower extremities. He was attempting to recoup medical losses. His fixed income permitting only scheduled trips to the post office, lack of access to a computer, no email and inability to navigate complicated court processes created a situation where his case got thrown out. The legal clinic coordinator worked with him to petition to reopen his case. This was done successfully and the case was reopened and is currently active in court.

In fiscal year 2021, the Restorative Justice Program Coordinator:

- Connected 42 individuals from Caledonia/Essex counties to free legal services in our clinic.
- Assisted 144 individuals with information, referrals, or legal paperwork, a 44% increase from FY20.
Mediation

When disputes occur between two or more people, one way to handle the dispute may be mediation. This allows individuals to resolve the underlying dispute and repair harm that may have been done. In these cases, a trained mediator meets with all parties to resolve the dispute and come up with an agreement that will be followed by all involved parties. The Justice Center makes clear to the parties that if an agreement is reached, it is not legally binding in court; instead the onus is on the two parties that reach the agreement to follow it in good faith. The agreement is signed by all and the option to revisit the agreement in a month or so is offered. The role of the mediator is to listen to everyone’s side of the story but not align with any particular position or view.

In fiscal year 2021, the CRJC Mediator:

- Completed 8 mediations. This included preparatory phone calls and meetings with numerous affected parties.

Parking Ticket Appeals

In collaboration with the St. Johnsbury Town Office and St. Johnsbury Police Department, the CRJC hears and makes decisions about parking ticket disputes. Tickets may be placed on appeal by contacting the CRJC within 5 days of receiving the ticket. A panel will hear the dispute and make a final decision about the resolution. Appellants are invited to participate in the process. In addition to making decisions about appeals, the parking board also makes recommendations to the Town of St. Johnsbury about signage or other suggested parking improvements.

In fiscal year 2021, the CRJC:

- Resolved 17 parking ticket appeals.

Information and Referral

There are times when individuals walk in to our office because they simply do not know where else to go. Our knowledgeable staff will take the time to find out where the person needs to be connected; help the individual make phone calls if needed; at times will assist with filling out certain types of paperwork; and determine if there are other resources that the person can access. Sometimes, individuals are just needing someone to hear their story.

In fiscal year 2021, the CRJC:

- Assisted 26 people with non-legal information and referral services.
Community Development

The CRJC conducts a variety of community development activities including, but not limited to, technical assistance and ongoing support to residents of any neighborhood to start up their own neighborhood association, hosting community forums, mediating community disputes, working with town officials on regulations or policies, and more. A neighborhood association is a group of residents or property owners who advocate for or organize change or improvements within their area of a town in order to make their neighborhood safer and more vibrant. Association members may plan activities or events, share opinions with local officials, and look out for their neighbors. The CRJC understands that areas of a city or town with active neighborhood associations tend to have decreased crime, higher property values and happier residents.

Most neighborhood groups or associations stopped meeting in person during FY21 out of an abundance of caution due to Covid. We look forward to their gradual resurgence as things begin to open up.

In fiscal year 2021, the CRJC Community Development program:

- Disseminated information to citizens in all of our towns about how to safely navigate Covid, while also providing ideas of how to family members in safe, healthy activities during periods of isolation.
- Connected residents with financial supports to help them keep their housing during the pandemic.
- Assisted individuals to file tax returns in order to receive stimulus payments.

DART Intervention Team

The goal of the DART Intervention Team is to collaborate as agencies to increase communication and support for the work around substance abuse, recidivism, and better utilization of local resources. Local law enforcement, human services agencies, schools, and mental health organizations meet monthly, under the facilitation of Susan Cherry, Executive Director of the CRJC. Intervention Team members:

- Discuss cases where individuals are having repeat contact with law enforcement so that agency personnel can intervene with outreach efforts.
- Learn about who will be reentering their communities from incarceration in order to identify concerns, victim needs, and supports that may be available to the returning individual.
- Address systemic barriers that individuals may experience when trying to access treatment, housing, safety, etc. and make plans to resolve these barriers.
- Update each other about policy or staffing changes.

Members of the Intervention team include but are not limited to the CRJC, members of law enforcement in Caledonia and Essex counties, NEK Human Services, NEK Community Action, NEK Youth Services, Northeast Correctional Complex, AHS Field Services Director, Umbrella, Community Connections, Kingdom Recovery Center, Economic Services, Dept. of Corrections, and various housing providers.

In fiscal year 2021, the DART team:

- Worked toward the reopening of the PIP bed in order to reduce the use of the correctional facility as a drop off for incapacitated people.
- Reduced the number of law enforcement visits for individuals who utilize law enforcement for non-criminal matters.
Any community member can apply to join the Board of Directors, except where their own organizations may see this as a conflict of interest. Interested applicants are interviewed by the standing Board of Directors, along with the Executive Director and any interested staff.

The CRJC Executive Director may reach out to the community via newspaper, radio, or other media outlets and attendance at various meetings or social events to advise the community about openings. Ongoing recruitment efforts occur to fill vacancies.

The Community Restorative Justice Center, Inc.
Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Chair
Cindy Boyd
Effective: 01/01/2017
Term ends: 12/31/2022

Vice Chair
Linda Metzke
Effective: 01/01/2017
Term ends: 12/31/2022

Secretary
Brandon Stroup
Effective: 03/01/2014
Term Ends: 02/28/2023

Treasurer
Robert Hersey
Effective: 01/01/2015
Term ends: 12/31/2023

Emeritus
John Perry
Effective: 10/01/2009

Directors

Bob Wilkins
Effective: 07/01/2006
Term ends: 06/30/2024

Gretchen Hammer
Effective: 03/01/2018
Term ends: 02/28/2021

Lou Bushey
Effective: 07/01/2019
Term ends: 06/30/2022

Wayne C. Dyer
Effective: 12/01/2019
Term ends: 11/30/2022

Jane Arthur
Effective: 10/01/2019
Term ends: 09/30/2022

David Edwards
Effective: 03/01/2021
Term ends: 02/28/2024

Vacant
Effective:
Term ends:

Vacant
Effective:
Term ends:

“Restorative Justice puts a human face on the handling of crime and violence. Rather than being a purely punitive in approach, restorative justice involves the entire community.”

- Carol Palmer
The Community Restorative Justice Center is committed to providing a safe environment for neighbors and other parties to resolve conflict in our communities, to restore relationships, and to take responsibility to repair harms caused. We promote the principles of victim-informed restorative justice that transforms practices in workplace, school, institution, and living spaces throughout Caledonia and Essex counties.

The CRJC is committed to providing a safe environment for resolving conflicts and to promoting restorative justice and victim sensitivity throughout the entire community, based on the following principles:

♦ Crimes and disputes are best resolved in the local communities where they occur.

♦ The victim has special needs and claims that are at the center of the resolution process.

♦ The offender has an opportunity to understand the impact of the crime, express remorse and repair the harm done to the victim and to the wider community.

♦ Community members have a right to feel safe, respected and involved in the issues that affect their quality of life and sense of personal well being.

The CRJC is always working to achieve more...

The staff at the CRJC regularly participates in local, state, and regional efforts to address issues that impact the residents in our communities. We believe that safety is a prime factor in the well-being and economic health of a region. Our work, along with other agencies in the region, coordinate our efforts in order to promote healthy, safe, and prosperous communities. To find out more, please give us a call.