

# THE RESTORATIVE REVIEW



The monthly newsletter of the Hartford Community Restorative Justice Center



\*Cornhole boards made in our art class by program participant Jonny R & Volunteer Kitty O

## WHAT'S NEW?

UPCOMING REP PANELS  
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COMMUNITY EVENTS  
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MEET THE NEW STAFF MEMBER  
.....

ADDRESSING FEAR WITHIN RJ  
.....

THANK YOU!

## UPCOMING REP PANELS

**Wednesday November 6th 5- 6pm**

*Please note that this is a new panel, ongoing panels will continue as scheduled.*

Please email Bryana or respond to this newsletter with any interest!

## Community Events

### Community Coffee

Fridays at 10am  
Hartford Justice Center

Coffee will continue on Friday mornings in October! Stop by - chat with us, share a cup of coffee, and meet some of the folks living in our housing.

### Community Block Party

October 18th

Lyman Point Park, WRJ

The July Block Party was canceled and it has been rescheduled to October 18th from 3:30pm-8:30pm. Make sure to put in your calendar!

### Game Night

October 23rd 5:30pm- 6:30pm  
Hartford Justice Center

It's that time again: your chance to meet other volunteers and hang out with transitional housing folks over board games!

### Trunk or Treat

October 26th at 4pm-6pm  
Lyman Point Park

Have Fun Trick or Treating! Trunk or treating allows kids to have all the trick or treating fun without crossing streets or worrying about traffic

## Vermonters convicted of felonies are eligible to vote!

- Vermont is one of two states in the nation where all prisoners are eligible to vote (Lewis, The Marshall Project)
- Deadline to register for the General Election is 11/05/24, Election Day
- Deadline to request an absentee ballot is the day before the General Election, 11/04/24 by 12pm

## Meet our new Restorative Program Coordinator, Bryana!

Can you briefly describe your role as Restorative Program Coordinator?

As a Restorative Program Coordinator, I oversee the reparative panels here at the Justice Center. I facilitate dialogues, onboard volunteers, and ensure that our programs are running smoothly to meet the needs of all involved parties.



What inspired you to pursue a career in restorative justice?

My passion for restorative justice stems from my belief in the power of **community healing**. I was drawn to this field because of its focus on repairing harm in a way that builds understanding and accountability rather than simply punishing people.

What does restorative justice mean to you, and how do you see it benefiting the community?

To me, restorative justice is about creating spaces where people feel **heard, respected, and empowered** to address conflict in constructive ways. It benefits the community by promoting healing rather than perpetuating cycles of harm and incarceration. It allows individuals to take responsibility for their actions while also giving victims a voice.



## Facing Fear in Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice can be a little intimidating at first, to all parties involved. Whether you're the victim or the person responsible for the harm, there's bound to be some level of fear. Here's the thing: fear is completely normal – and it is not something to shy away from. In fact, within the framework of Restorative Justice fear can be viewed as the first step towards something amazing – healing, accountability, and even growth!

**Victims:** It is natural for victims to feel nervous about engaging in a process with the person who caused them harm. What will they say? Will they understand how much their actions affected the victim? This kind of fear is real, but that's what we are here for to make sure victims feel safe and supported every step of the way.

On the other side, offenders often come into the process with their own fear – will they be judged, rejected, or seen only for their mistakes? The good news is that the restorative justice (RJ) process is all about getting past fear of judgement and stepping into accountability with confidence. The team of volunteers at the justice center are here to make sure everyone feels heard, respected, and ready to engage.

At the end of the day restorative justice is scary – and having fear about engaging in this process is completely normal. By facing these emotions head on participants often find a renewed sense of peace and connection. Restorative justice is a journey worth taking, where we can move past the discomfort of fear together and create lasting change in our communities – one conversation at a time.