

# THE RESTORATIVE REVIEW



The monthly newsletter of the Hartford Community Restorative Justice Center



## WHAT'S NEW

UPCOMING EVENTS  
.....

2023 DEMOGRAPHICS  
.....

BOARD & COMMITTEES  
.....

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE  
UPDATES

### *Upcoming Rep Panels*

**Tuesday 2/6: 5:00-6:00pm**

**Thursday 2/8: 3:30-4:30pm**

***Note: these are new panels.  
Ongoing panels will continue  
at their scheduled time.***

## Upcoming Events

### Community Coffee

Fridays, 10-11am  
Hartford Justice Center

Community coffee is a fun, low-stress way to stay engaged with the community here at the center. And who can say no to free coffee?

### Game Night

Thursday February 29th, 4:30pm

Join us for a special Leap Year game night! We always have a blast playing games and hanging out. If you haven't made it to a game night yet, this is your chance!

### Vermont RJ Volunteer Conference

June 7th  
Lake Morey Resort

Get it on your calendars. The biggest gathering of RJ volunteers in the state is taking place on June 7th. We'll share more information as soon as it's available.

### Rep Panel Training

February 26th & 27th  
Online

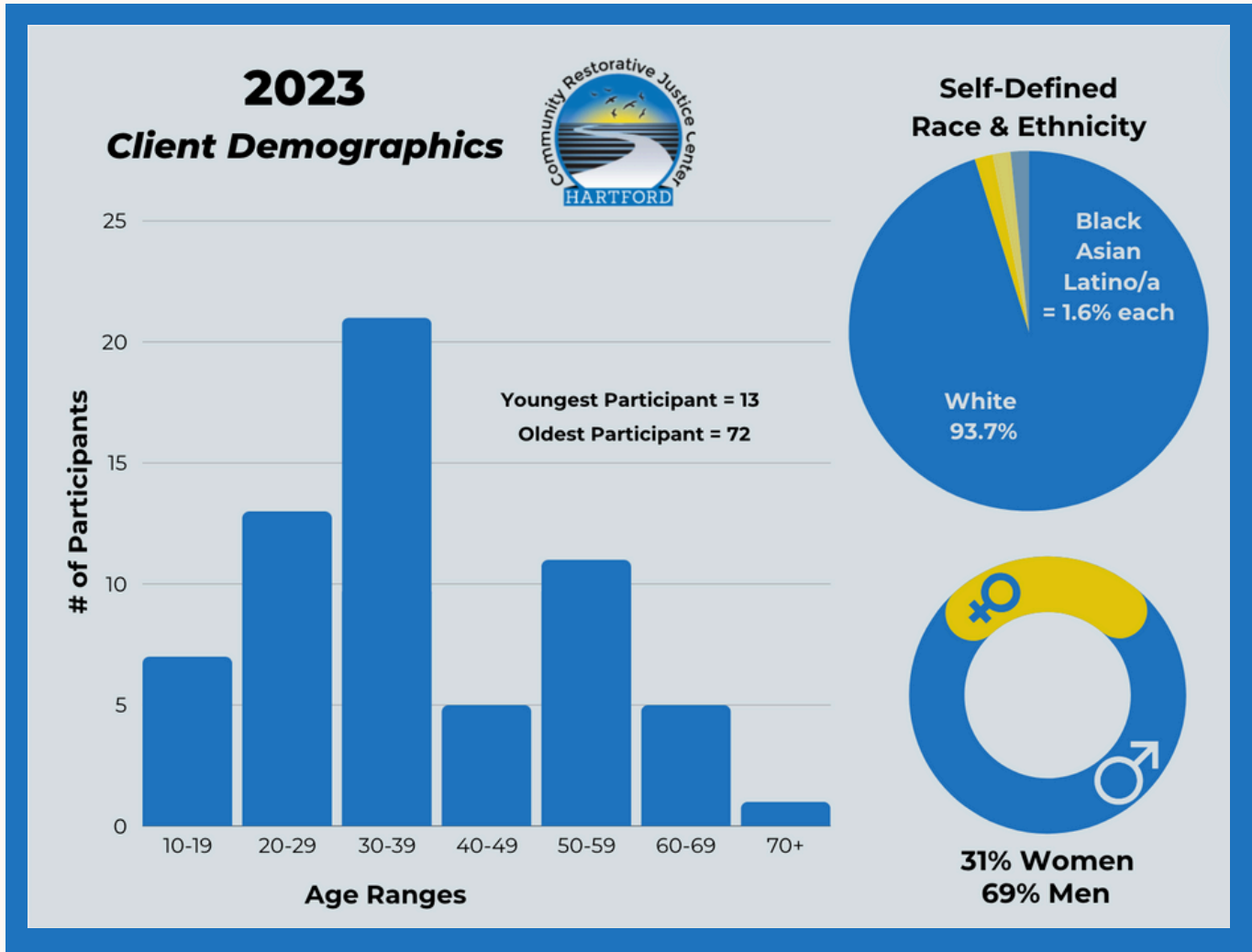
If you would like to join the Reparative Panels as a volunteer, the Hartford CJC is hosting a training in late February. Contact the center to register.

## Quote of the Month

*"The experience of victimization is often devastating and affects people in profound, life-altering ways. Whether the crime is "minor" or "serious", the effects can be traumatic. Victims experience a range of emotions that include intense fear, helplessness, and anger at themselves and others, including family, friends, and the legal system... Many ask whether the harm was their own fault and struggle with a loss of control over their own lives."*

– Lorraine Stutzman Amstutz –

*"The Little Book of Victim Offender Conferencing"*



## Board & Committees

The Hartford Community Restorative Justice Center is looking for community members who are committed to Restorative Justice (like you!) to join our board. See what current board member Kitty O. has to say about it:

**“This is an exciting time at the Justice Center. As an original member of the board, I have seen our organization grow, at first by baby steps in a little office space in town hall. Today we are embarking on renovating our own building as well as expanding our programs and services. We managed to continue our work through COVID and now the community needs us more than ever. We are always seeking new fresh ideas. Consider becoming a board member. It is not a huge commitment, but so very rewarding.”**

## Rep Panel Community of Practice Meeting

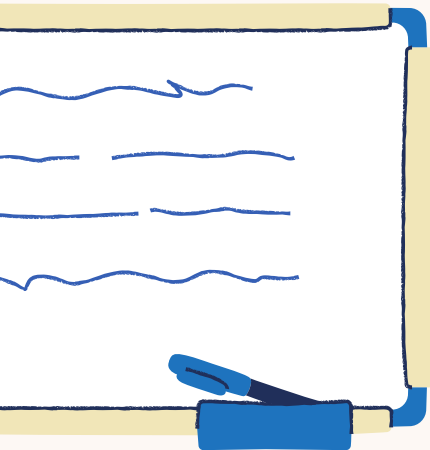
Thank you to everyone who joined us in the office for the community of practice meeting. We enjoyed some rich discussion that covered many facets of the work we do. See below for some of the takeaways!

### “Victim Centered”

One conversation that came up in both sessions was the concept of “victim centered” work. While RJ philosophy traditionally places a strong emphasis on being victim-centered, many of our volunteers find that to be a challenging standard. Meeting this standard becomes particularly difficult when the victim is not actively participating in the process.

Some folks raised that beyond the logistical difficulties of centering a voice that isn’t present, the Reparative Panel program works best when the offender feels safe. This raises a crucial question: how do we differentiate between feeling unsafe and merely uncomfortable? The program does work best when our participant feels safe, but there is also real value to be found in discomfort. As one volunteer aptly expressed, “it is in that discomfort that I grow”.

Some folks feel that facing the hurt or anger of the victim is a very necessary discomfort. Others feel that it makes it more difficult for us to achieve the goals of the Reparative Panel. What are your thoughts?

An illustration of a whiteboard with several horizontal blue wavy lines representing text. A blue marker is shown at the bottom left corner of the whiteboard.

Another point raised was how we share information and teach within the Reparative Panels. One volunteer shared the story of a participant for whom the work just didn’t seem to click. We were going in circles until staff got up and brought the whiteboard into play. Seeing it written out as he spoke was this participant’s “aha” moment.

It begs the question: how can we incorporate different tools and styles of teaching? How do we meet the needs of audio vs visual learners? Is there space for worksheets or roleplays?