

# THE RESTORATIVE REVIEW



The monthly newsletter of the Hartford Community Restorative Justice Center

# Youth Justice



## WHAT'S NEW

UPCOMING EVENTS  
.....

CENTER UPDATES  
.....

BOARD & COMMITTEES  
.....

YOUTH AND RESTORATIVE  
JUSTICE

### ***Upcoming Rep Panels***

Tues March 26th at 5:00pm

Weds March 27th at 3:30pm

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

### ***Upcoming CoSA***

If you're interested in joining a CoSA, please reply to this email or reach out to staff at the center.

## 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, March 21st, 4:30pm

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! Join staff, transitional housing residents, and other volunteers for snacks and games at the Justice Center.

### Community Conversation: Forgiveness

April 18th 5:00pm

The Justice Center is participating in Public Philosophy Week by hosting a community conversation about restorative justice and forgiveness. Facilitated like our practitioner circles, it's a place to gather and talk about the big subjects that influence our work.

### 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.

## Quote of the Month

*"We define youth engagement in restorative justice as the meaningful participation of youth who are most impacted by structural injustice as changemakers and practitioners in all aspects of restorative justice - including community building, healing, and the transformation of self and institutions."*

- Evelín Aquino, Anita Wadhwa, Heather Bligh Manchester -  
*"The Little Book of Youth Engagement in Restorative Justice"*

## 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 or sit on a committee. Joining a committee is a powerful way to help steward the Restorative Justice Center!

### Committees

#### Marketing & Development

This committee is focused on fundraising and communication. If you love spreading the word about Restorative Justice and bringing folks into the RJ project, this is the committee for you.

#### Housing

It's not new news, but it's big news - we own a house! And with owning a house comes a lot of logistical questions. Help us answer them!

#### Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

We're committed to making sure the justice center is an accessible space for all members of our community. This is the committee that holds that work - though we try to center that philosophy in everything we do.

## Youth & Restorative Justice

Vermont has an extensive restorative justice project, but in many states around the country their restorative systems are geared almost entirely towards youth. It's interesting to compare that with our center here in Hartford, where our average age range for program participants is 30-39.

We've seen more youth cases in the past year, and grant opportunities are arising to potentially work with more. Given that, it's worth reflecting on how other RJ projects approach juvenile justice.



## Youth and Restorative Justice Work in Vermont

### BARJ

The Balanced And Restorative Justice program is run across Vermont through County Diversion programs, Community Justice Centers, and youth services. BARJ is geared towards youthful offenders aged 10 through 22. BARJ often has a strong case management component, understanding that child involved (or headed towards involvement) in the criminal justice system often needs assistance with skill development and is facing challenges beyond a single event.

### YSASP

Some Court Diversion centers and Community Justice Centers offer the Youth Substance Abuse Safety Program. Youth meet with staff and the program is tailored to meet their needs: some go through a process similar to a reparative panel, others may be asked to meet with a substance abuse counselor.

## Resources for Youth Justice Work

### Reading

***“The Little Book of Youth Engagement in Restorative Justice”***

by Evelín Aquino, Anita Wadhwa, Heather Bligh Manchester

***“Balanced and Restorative Justice for Juveniles: A Framework for Juvenile Justice in the 21st Century”***

by Gordon Bazemore

### Questions

What support would have (or had) helped you thrive as a child or young adult?

What obligation does the community have to youth within the community?