

THE RESTORATIVE REVIEW



The monthly newsletter of the Hartford Community Restorative Justice Center



The tree in front of the office gave us a beautiful show this May!

WHAT'S NEW

UPCOMING EVENTS

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WELCOMING THOMAS

.....

CLIENT UPDATE

.....

REVIEWING FEEDBACK

CoSA

We are looking for folks interested in participating in a Circle of Support and Accountability. You could be a part of a crucial and transformative process for someone reentering the community post-incarceration.

Rep Panel

We have Rep Panels starting
Weds June 12th at 3:30pm
Weds June 19th at 3:30pm
that needs volunteers.

Upcoming Events

Hartford Block Party

June 19th at 5pm
Lyman Point Park, WRJ

Justice Center staff will be hanging out at the Hartford block party on June 19th. Come visit us at our table, or sit a while and chat with others about the benefits of volunteering.

First Friday

June 7th
Downtown White River Junc.

Summer First Fridays are a special occasion! There'll be food and live music in the parking lot behind Revolution, later hours at the shops, and ice cream down the block at Ava's. It's a community celebration!



Above is a photo of Jenny F. at our table at last year's block party.

Quote of the Month

"As important as it is to understand their moral orientation, providers must also understand how willing they are to act on their values to uphold their personal ethics if they are challenged. Being aware of the need for action, determining the right course of action, and having the emotional and intellectual commitment to follow through are all important factors when assessing personal values."

- Melissa Hook -

Ethics in Victim Services



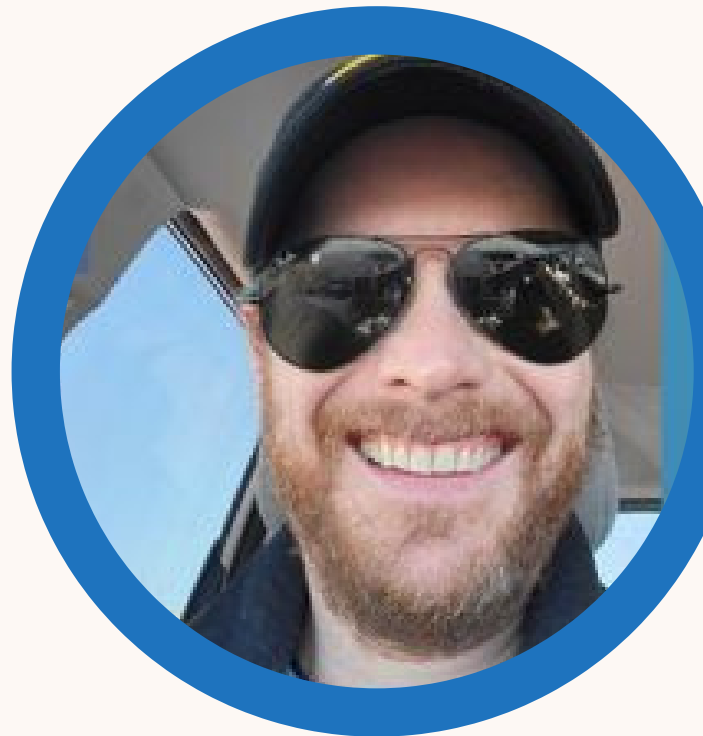
We are asking for help with the house!

As many of our community members know we recently purchased a house so we could have long-term stability for our transitional housing program. We are currently working on renovations for the building and a strategic plan for paying off the Community Loan Fund loan that we received. We need help with this project! Come join us.

Welcoming Thomas

Please welcome our newest addition to the CJC staff! Thomas is probably a familiar face to many of us as he's been volunteering with the justice center for almost two years.

Thomas is a recent Vermont Law School graduate and skilled RJ practitioner. We're incredibly excited to have him on our team.



Client Update

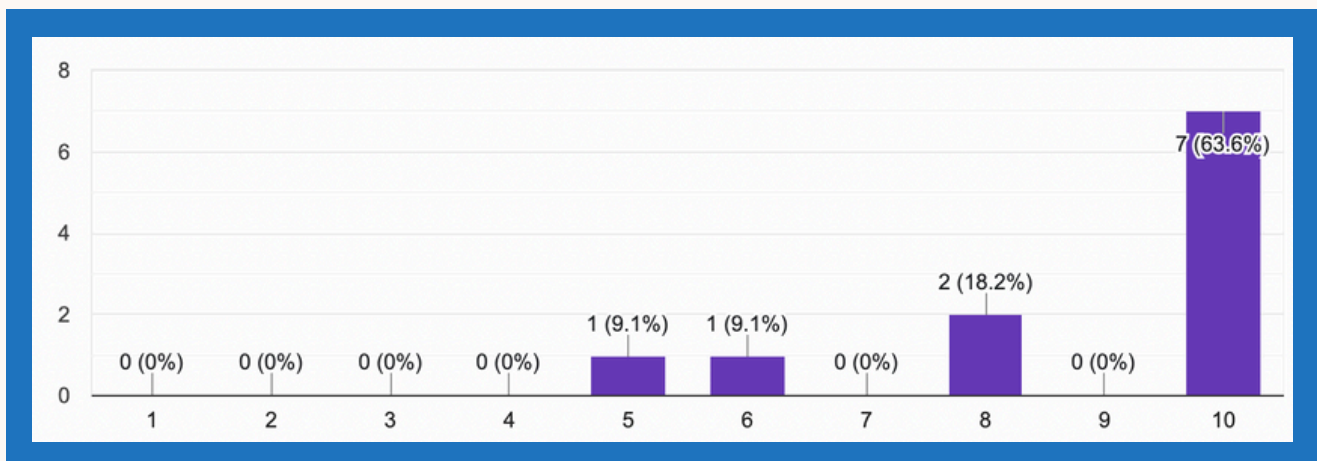
As we undertook office spring cleaning on Friday the 10th, some of our housing clients joined us to pack toiletry bags. Using supplies generously donated by community members, Bill B. and Steve S. packed men's and women's toiletry bags for folks who need them in the future. On the left is a picture of Bill B. with all the packed bags.

Reviewing Client Feedback

Understanding what does and does not work for our program participants is important. If we want to be conscientious practitioners of restorative justice, we must seek feedback and reflect on it once given. The information provided by our program participants can guide us toward ways to improve our practice and identify where we're already successful.

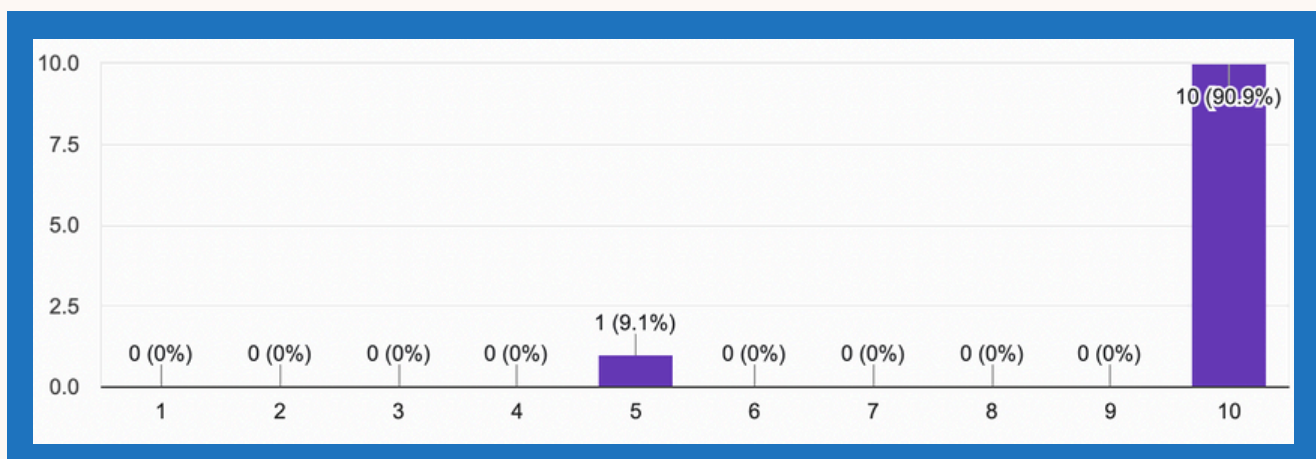
. As we reflect on this data it's also important to note that of the 41 folks we've worked with in the last year only 11 consented to fill out the feedback form. These answers reflect a sample size of 27% of all program participants.

Question: I feel like I have made amends for the harm I have done.



“On the amends front, I feel that's an ongoing task, and I'll continue to make amends by contributing time and effort to hopefully mitigate the risk of others causing harm.” - Anonymous Participant

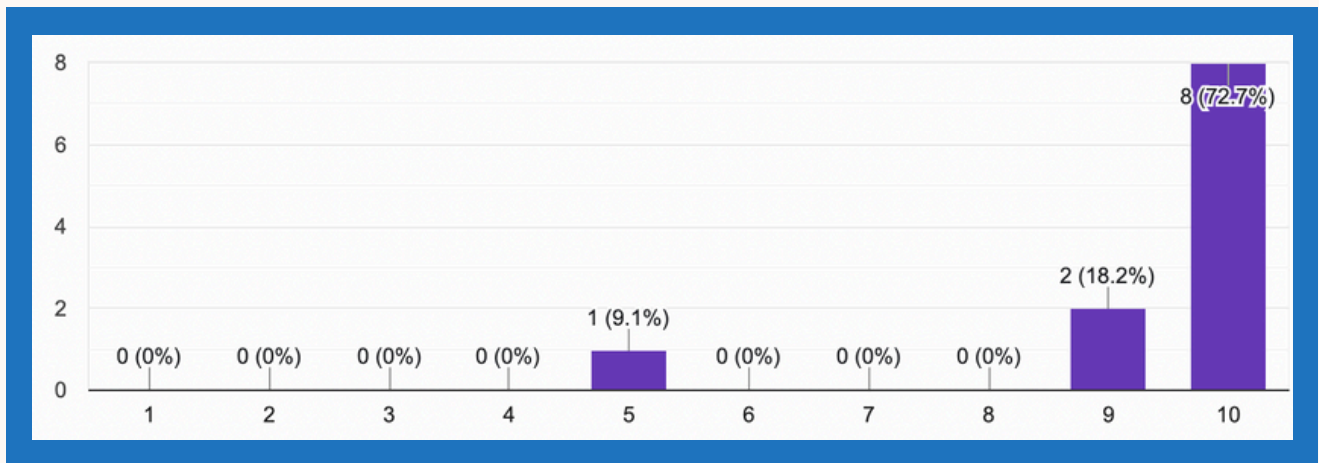
Question: I feel the restorative process helped me resolve this incident and move forward with my life.



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Question: The Justice Center staff & community members helped make it comfortable to talk freely.



Question: In your view, what was the most valuable part of the restorative justice process?

“Realizing how many people were affected.”

“Having a chance to have my voice heard and explain how the event affected my life.”

“the process was handled in such a way that I was able to feel comfortable sharing my story in a safe environment”

“Being honest with myself, the staff and community members.”

Question: Are there additional thoughts you would like to share?

“The process separated my actions from who I know I am as a person, and gave me further confidence to pursue my course of recovery in a constructive way.”

“For people coming after me - be patient, reliable, and honest.”

“I really appreciated that the panel made me feel comfortable and never judged. It made it easier to share with them and be honest.”

As we review & edit the feedback forms, what questions do you think we should be asking?