

THE RESTORATIVE REVIEW



The monthly newsletter of the Hartford Community Restorative Justice Center



WHAT'S NEW

REP PANEL UPDATE

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

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VOLUNTEER
HIGHLIGHT

.....

A RESTORATIVE NEW
YEAR

REP PANEL UPDATE

Rep Panel dates and times for January are listed below:

Wednesday January 15th 5pm-6pm

Friday January 17th 11am-12pm

Please note that these are new panels, and that ongoing panels will continue as scheduled,

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

Story Jam

January 9th 6pm-7:30pm
Junction Arts and Media

Story Jam is a bi-monthly story circle where community members can meet to get to know each other through personal stories.

For more information reach out to storyjam@uvjam.org

Community Coffee

Every Friday at 10am
Hartford Justice Center

Take a break and connect with your neighbors! We host Community Coffee every Friday at 10 AM—a great opportunity to enjoy a warm cup, share stories, and build connections. Everyone is welcome! See you there!



THANK YOU!

A big thank you to Jessica for organizing an incredible donation drive at her work to support the Justice Center!

Your efforts brought in **essential items** that will make a huge difference for those we serve.

Thank you Jessica!!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Name: Kim G.

A spotlight for volunteer Kim G. for her commitment to and passion for restorative justice work, and work within the Upper Valley community. Earlier last month, the HCRJC sent out questions to our volunteers, and Kim was the very first to respond. Here are the highlights!

What does restorative justice mean to you?

“For me, restorative justice is an awakening to the community around me. It’s been easy to stay within the safety of my own routines. To be around the same people, within the same areas. But I challenged myself to look around and be more involved with eyes wide open. Restorative justice was my way to step beyond my “norm” and really connect and help people in the community. I entered active listening mode, without judgement, and with an open heart. It is quite powerful to mindfully put my best self in supporting others, understanding their personal stories, and to share ideas which would lead to inspiring accountability.”

How did you find out about the center?

“While participating in one of the Leadership Upper Valley courses (through Vital Communities), I became aware of the Vermont Community Justice Center and the incredible work around restorative justice. I was inspired and motivated to learn more (google and I were very close during this exploration). I could see myself in this work and really wanted to jump in.”



How has your involvement with the center changed your perspective on justice?

“I think it’s incredibly powerful for the client (offender) to come to the realization that strangers have volunteered their time and energy, to open their hearts to listen and support an offender who comes to us as recommended by the justice system. This is a moment that I’ve witnessed time and time again. The realization that we (volunteers) provide support, encouragement, and true human to human connections.”

“Challenge yourself to see the community more deeply while opening your heart to those who need it most.”

New Year, New Beginnings: Embracing Restorative Justice in 2025

As we step into 2025, many of us are filled with the hope and promise that a new year brings. It's a time for fresh starts, setting resolutions, and envisioning a better future. The principles of **restorative justice** provide an excellent framework for these resolutions.

Restorative justice isn't just about addressing harm; it's about building stronger, more connected communities where empathy, accountability, and healing are at the forefront. In the spirit of the new year, let's consider how these principles can guide our resolutions:

- **Practice Empathy:** This year, make it a goal to listen more and judge less. Understanding others' perspectives can lead to deeper connections and reduce conflicts in our personal & professional lives.
- **Seek Accountability:** Embrace your mistakes as opportunities for growth. By owning our actions and their impact, we not only improve ourselves but also strengthen our relationships.
- **Promote Healing:** Focus on mending broken ties and fostering forgiveness. Whether it's with family, friends, or colleagues, let 2025 be a year where we prioritize reconciliation.

At the Hartford Restorative Justice Center, we are committed to supporting our community in adopting these restorative practices.

Let's make 2025 a year of restoration, not just in our justice system but in our hearts and communities. Together, we can create a more compassionate and understanding world.

Here's to a restorative new year!

Happy New Year!