March 2025 Volume LII

## THE RESTORATIVE REVIEW



The monthly newsletter of the Hartford Community Restorative Justice Center



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### REP PANEL UPDATE

We have Rep Panels starting that need volunteers.

Tuesday March 11th 3:30pm Thursday March 20th 3:30pm

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!

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# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### Fill the Food Truck Drive

Saturday, March 22 9am-3pm WRJ Co-op Food Stores @ WRJ Methodist Church

It's the five-year anniversary of the WRJ Fill the Food Truck Drive! Swing by the White River Co-op Food Store on Saturday, March 22 from 9-3pm to drop off your donations and help us fill the truck – now more than ever, every donation counts.

#### **Community Coffee**

Every Friday 10am HCRJC Office

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!

# CCBA Free Family Movie Night

Saturday March 8th 1 Campbell St Lebanon, NH 03766

Join the CCBA for the heartwarming and hilarious animated movie "Leo"!
Bring the kids, your comfiest blankets, and wear your P.J's for a cozy movie experience! FREE and open to the public!

#### Unpacking Risks of Modern Marijuana – Operation Parent

Tuesday March 4th at 1pm

Join to talk modern marijuana usage and dangers, and learn how to start essential conversations with your children, students, and community

Sign up at: https://www.operationparent.org/webinars

'Common Threads' event with
Dartmouth Geisel medical students



## THE RESTORATIVE REVIEW



REFLECTIONS ON REPARATIVE PANEL

TRAINING

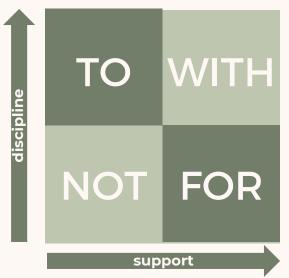
Communications intern, Lena Kufferman, shares reflections about her reparative panel training

Moments after watching my parents drive off, leaving me in the unknown, I was instructed by my Undergraduate Advisor (UGA), along with other bewildered first years, to walk single file to Leverone Field House, a bizarre, space-age brutalist structure juxtaposed by soft pine trees and rolling hills.



Inside Leverone sat 1,000 of my peers, none of who I had never met. I looked up at the ceiling, and read the Latin words, "Vox Clamantis in Deserto [A voice crying out in the wilderness]". Dartmouth students are socialized to believe that nothing but wilderness spans beyond Hanover. This attitude, exemplified by our Latin motto, erases the Upper Valley community, and all of the community organizers, volunteers, and activists who fight tirelessly for its people. My time training for Vermont reparative panels – despite its virtual format – exposed me to a vibrant community of Vermonters striving for a people, community-centered framework of justice.

The training was led by Lauren MacArthur from the Greater Falls Community Justice Center, and Kaci Viado from Interaction VT. All of my fellow trainees represented Community Justice Centers (CJC) from across the state, marking Vermont as a rich landscape of alternative justice. Throughout the trainings, what stood out to me most was the **Social Discipline Window** (bottom left), a visual aid that represents RJ's underlying belief that people are most motivated to commit to long-lasting positive change when those in positions of authority do things *with* them rather than *for* them. Notably, restorative justice (RJ) is high support *and* high control, thus



negating the prevailing critique that RJ is 'soft' on offenders – or more formally in RJ terms, the 'responsible party'. Precisely because restorative justice demands accountability beyond what the paternalistic and punitive criminal justice provides, and thus requires the responsible party to face the guilt, trauma, regret, and all of the other complex, coalescing emotions related to their harm.