

JJ JUSTICEWORKS•JOURNAL

A quarterly newsletter published by Justiceworks, Ltd, a non-profit community justice organization dedicated to advancing policies and practices of justice that create right relationships in communities. Justiceworks supports volunteers and programs on mentoring, victim/offender conferencing, substance-free housing, and access to justice. Justiceworks has received grants from the State Bar of Wisconsin, the Community Foundation, the US Department of Justice, St. Bronislava Church, the Polish Legion of American Veterans, and the Wisconsin Humanities Board.

A community-based justice system devoted to restorative justice requires substantial assistance and commitment. To join the effort return the registration below with your gift or pledge.

PLEASE help now!

All contributions are tax deductible as Justiceworks is a tax exempt organization under Sec. 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Justiceworks, 1547 Strong's Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____ email _____

Donation \$ _____

quote for a quarter:

“A fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dreamt of.”

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and The Nelson Mandela Foundation*

Fostering forms of justice that strengthen and heal communities

JUSTICEWORKS•JOURNAL

1547 STRONGS AVENUE

STEVENS POINT WI 54481

Justiceworks•Journal

Fostering Restorative Justice for Portage County

01/09/14

A New Year: New Beginnings

The new year for Justiceworks will begin without an Executive Director. Katherine Munck faced the realities of the end of our grant funding head-on, and chose to resign in order to extend the time our limited funding will continue the programming we provide to victims and offenders. For although the County has included funding for some of Justiceworks programs, that funding has never fully covered the cost of the programming provided, let alone overhead, supervision and developmental costs for Justiceworks. Until now, grants from the US Dept. of Justice and fund-raising efforts paid those costs.

Coming into this new year, we have seen the County make very positive decisions to continue partial funding of the VIP program, funding for the Family Law Information Center and for the monitoring of deferred prosecution agreements through the District Attorney's Office. The County also funded new programming in connection with the State Department of Corrections' financial commitment to Portage County's programs. This demonstrates a strong concern to redirect the focus of our justice system response toward evidence based practices, that is strategies which demonstrate their effectiveness through data collection and evaluation. If Justiceworks succeeds at nothing else but to help create that change of focus, it has been a major success and a credit to this community.

We have the potential to go further however. The Dept of Corrections CRP program relies on group sessions to provide offenders with cognitive counseling to engender their change to pro-social behaviors. Data on these programs suggests they are effective, but that their effectiveness is greatly enhanced by post-counseling mentoring. Justice-works has provided that in the past through the discontinued TEAM program and could do so again. See the related article about restoring that program.

Notes and Upcoming Efforts:

- **LAST PRINTED ISSUE!!** Justice-works can't presently incur the expense of mailing printed issues of JJ. If you wish to receive an electronic version, email us at info@justiceworksltd.org or you can read it on our website.
- **Martin Luther King, Jr Community Celebration** Monday January 20th at 7:00 pm, Spash Auditorium
- Ad hoc effort to restore **TEAM**, call 715 344-3677
- Dept of Corrections CRP to begin January 15. Ron and Kurt will begin providing services on Jan 20th.
- VIP programming with renewed funding from Portage County started taking referrals in December. Thanks to the leadership and people of Portage County for recognizing the importance of sustaining this valuable program.
- Justiceworks presentation at Portage County Democratic Party on January 14th.
- Justiceworks presentation at Portage County Leadership on January 16th.
- Happy New Year!



TEAM continuation)

Community costs for the offenders who did not continue the program totaled \$12,675.00 for combined total of 195 jail bed days alone. This doesn't include costs to victims, the justice system, or the community as a direct result of the offense. All participants scored as moderate to medium risk at program entry. The individuals unaccounted for in this tabulation left the program in good graces due to circumstances like moves out of the area, or connections to alternative resources.

Although the statistical pool was small, the outcomes were promising. If something works, continue to use it; if not, try another way. Coupled now with the Department of Corrections cognitive thinking program, **TEAM** could provide a turn around for some of our most troubled offenders. Unfortunately, the County couldn't allocate enough resources to allow **TEAM** to continue to prove it's value as a sentencing resource. Perhaps the community can.

Employers in our community have difficulty finding and retaining consistent laborers. **TEAM** has shown the ability to make that happen. Furthermore it provides mentoring and other support to the new employees during the most critical period immediately after hiring and up to a year thereafter. Program participants are screened to insure their commitment to change and marketable employment skills.

Justiceworks has historically supported community efforts to respond to particular issues, and this is no exception. Volunteers in this effort can work to create a Phoenix like renewal for **TEAM** and find a way to finance its efforts. We hope the Portage County Business Council and others will join us. To do so, please Call 715 344-3766.

Ron Carlson's Perspective of TEAM's importance:

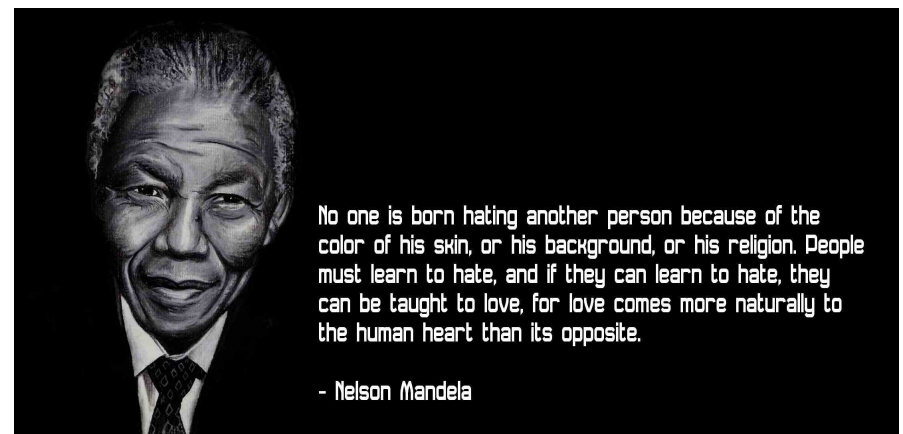
“ . . . (T)here is no greater reward than . . . helping individuals regain their lives or perhaps begin it over. One fifty two year old man's comment on . . . the program was, “I am here because every decision and action I have made in my life has been wrong, I want to learn the right way to think and act.” When clients form positive relationships with both mentors and the staff of Justiceworks, bridges of trust and respect have been built. These contacts often may be the first positive relationships clients have formed in their lives. It creates a safety net and sounding board for their decision making processes that they can trust.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration set for Jan 20th See you there!

The community sponsored MLK, Jr. Celebration will take place from 7 to 8 pm at the Spash Auditorium on January 20th 2014 featuring:

- **UWSP Professor Jennifer Collins on Nelson Mandela.**
 - **Monteverdi Master Chorale**
 - **Spash Concert Choir**

Admission is **free!**



Sponsored by

Baha'i Faith • Frame Presbyterian Church • Good Shepherd Lutheran Church • Newman University Parish
Redeemer Lutheran Church • Saint Bronislava Catholic Church • St. Paul's United Methodist Church
Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church • Stevens Point Quaker Meeting • Trinity Lutheran Church
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship • UWSP Multicultural Affairs • Sisters of St. Joseph-TOSF

and Justiceworks, Ltd.

The Shift in Strategy

“Restorative Justice is a theory of justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused or revealed by criminal behavior. It is best accomplished through cooperative processes that include all stakeholders”. The stakeholders include victims, offenders and the community. . . . Restorative Justice is much more than implementing programming and services, . . . (it addresses) the true causes of crime within the offender, repairing the damage caused and giving the victims a voice in the process. It differs greatly from our long standing single dimensional approach of *incapacitation which allows offenders to choose a passive role* in the process and does not allow the individual victim or the respective community to be involved or contribute in a meaningful way in addressing the core problematic issues behind the offenders’ criminality. It does not stress the importance of the offender to come face to face with the human impact of his criminal behavior. The offender can go to prison and take no role in making whole the victim, the community or himself. Restorative Justice seeks to change this.

Restorative Justice is a different framework for reducing recidivism and providing public safety. It is not a program. It is a collection of concepts put into action to administer justice as a process that involves the victim, the offender and the community. It does not seek to undermine or mitigate the punitive characteristics of incarceration. Taking responsibility is fundamental and therefore more difficult for the offender. Restorative Justice Principles facilitates changing the offenders’ thinking and raising their level of moral reasoning. It attempts to teach offenders empathy and compassion for human suffering. Both qualities many offenders lack through inadequate childhood socialization, neglect or abuse. With a Restorative Justice correctional long term direction, the focus is appropriately placed on healing the victim, making whole the community and restoring the offender to a moral place he *was or should have been*. This model gives offenders a chance to reclaim their lives, to give back and be a positive force in their community.

From Restorative Justice: Transforming Corrections

By Daniel Patrick Downen M.S. AJ/S Published 11/07/2011

Can there be a Phoenix like Renewal for TEAM?

You could help!

TEAM (Teamwork for Employment Access through Mentoring) began with the premise that mentoring and community resources for ex-offenders could break the cycle of crime and improve on the community's habit of re-incarcerating 40% of the offenders it releases from custody. Despite doubt that a little non-profit from Central Wisconsin could compete for national grant funding, the US Department of Justice chose to fund Justiceworks' offender re-entry program in 2009. Justiceworks was one of only 116 successful re-entry programs chosen from over 1000 applications received nationwide.

The TEAM Re-entry Program opened its doors in 2010 under the direction of former police officer Ron Carlson. With the goal of reducing recidivism, the program offered a range of re-entry services to offenders: it provided offenders with individualized relationship-based support through mentoring; it encouraged enduring personal change through the guidance of community members and professional life coaches.; it emphasized employ-ability working with local businesses and provided employment skills training; and it streamlined access to mental health, relationship management, and substance abuse treatment resources.

TEAM made a commitment to generate reliable data and outcome measurements. Working with a TEAM case manager and program volunteers, over 77 individuals have received the benefit of re-entry services. Of the 18 individuals who successfully completed self-guided program objectives over an average of 13 months, none committed new crimes, was arrested or booked for criminal violations. Of the 10 who failed to complete, or join the program, 4 have since been arrested or convicted of new crimes, meeting the current re-offense rate of the traditional correctional system. (continuation next page)

