

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:

But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

Amos 5:24 (RSV)

NEW LOOK FOR THE NEWSLETTER!

If you've been with us for awhile, this issue isn't completely what you're used to. For financial reasons, Justiceworks ended mailing hard copies of the newsletter this spring. The newsletter's original format accommodated a printed mailer, and thus dictated how we put the document together. Freedom from those dictates has allowed us to venture where we've never been before and further changes will probably come as we grow accustomed to a new editorial liberty.

To delve into that, **Justiceworks could use a volunteer or two who would like the opportunity to format and create the look for this small newsletter** to present information on restorative justice to the broader community. It includes the chance to learn and investigate the topic, gather stories and reactions from the general public, and create the work on a quarterly basis. If you're interested or know someone who may be, call the Justiceworks office at 715 344-3766.

Please pass this on to a friend, or even an enemy, who may be interested in community justice. To get on our mailing list, send your email address to:

info@justiceworksltd.org

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Justiceworks•Journal

Fostering Forms of Justice that create right relationships in communities.

02/01/15

MLK Celebration!

Justiceworks Joins with Community Churches and Local Schools to Honor Efforts of Martin Luther King, Jr.

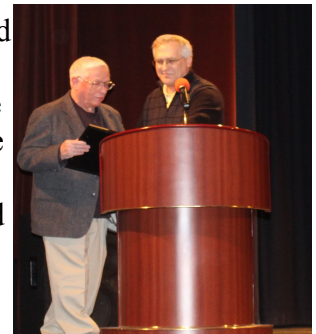
The community once again honored Martin Luther King, Jr. at a Community Celebration held Monday, January 19, 2015 from 7:00 -8:30 p.m. at the Stevens Point Area Senior High School. The MLK event is organized by a committee of community volunteers representing diverse faith backgrounds and non-profit organizations who are associated with Justiceworks. Currently this includes fourteen community and faith-based organizations involved in event planning and as funding sponsors.

The objectives of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Community Celebration are to:

- Educate community members on the historical significance of the civil rights movement
- Recognize the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Bring focus to social and restorative justice principles
- Bring focus to local, state and national justice issues

The 2015 keynote speaker, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Alumna, Barbara Hickman focused on her experiences as a woman of color in the past and currently. Also included in the program are musical performances by the Wisconsin Master Chorale and Rosholt Elementary School Choir.

In addition, the event focuses on the importance of volunteerism and provides community members with information on volunteer opportunities in the justice system through community-based justice programs. Bob Quam of the Salvation Army received the John Klismet Justiceworks Award for 2015. Presented by the President of Justiceworks, Ltd., David Knaapen,, the award recognized Bob Quam's service in providing leadership and guidance for the Salvation Army as a place of hope for those who have little or no hope left, working to establish an emergency shelter for men, women and families and provide them with the tools they need to resume an active and productive life, and helping individuals obtain the necessary resources to overcome the obstacles to their self-sufficiency.”



Justiceworks expresses its appreciation for the community's promotion of this special Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration with the hope that it will continue to grow and prosper.

Things Happen For a Reason

On a sub zero and windy early January day Kurt Helminiak and I (Ron Carlson) decided to take a walk. We were curious and wanted to check the progress at the soon to be offices of Justiceworks at the Non Profit Center just down the block.

We met and talked with the drywall who has been working hard on the project mostly by himself. He stated he cannot find anyone of his friends who would help even though he offered to pay them \$25 an hour. We offered him words of encouragement as we left. I asked Kurt if he would mind extending our walk as I had to get some paperwork at the Portage House.

Once at the Portage House staff members wanted us to meet a new resident, who they said was a very good guy who has had a very rough life. They explained he was just laid off from Steel King. A moment later brought "Jeff" in. Introductions were made, and we asked Jeff if he knew how to drywall. He quickly responded that he did. We told him to put on his coat and take a walk with us.

Arriving at the Non Profit Center Jeff was introduced to the drywaller who quickly began explaining what needed to be done. Kurt and I left as they went to work. The following day Jeff left the Portage House to start work at 6 AM at the Center.

Things do happen for a reason.

Every single day, try to find at least one small thing you can do, in whatever situation you find yourself in, to tip the scales in favor of justice. It's the best and really the only way to stop being part of the problem, and to start becoming part of the solution instead.

Anonymous

Justiceworks, Ltd.

Central Wisconsin's Center for Non-Profits Takes Off

The boards of Justiceworks, Ltd. the 2617 Club move on with their creative new start. The two organizations purchased the former Masonic lodge on Strongs Avenue near the courthouse and remodeling efforts have gutted the building. New walls going up will allow Justiceworks to move in this spring. Jeff Ebel, on the board on both organizations, led the hands on effort to prepare the building for new construction. His efforts with other volunteers have saved an estimated \$24,000 by doing our own demolition and clean-up.

A new corporation, The Central Wisconsin Center for Non-Profits, organized to manage the affairs of the building, will house the operations of the 2617 Club and Justiceworks, Ltd. It will also provide reduced cost office/meeting space and support for beginning charitable organizations who lack the wherewithal to support a continuing office location. Management decisions will be made by a board consisting of members from each of the organizers. Both organizations feel that working together will create a new synergistic effect for their efforts.

This story resonated with the community, and their support for the project has provided the resources for this dramatic, promising project. Donations or pledges of \$233,265 have been received to date, and with additional calls and the Board is hopeful that we will generate further funds to complete renovation and improvements to the Center. With calls made to 33 individuals or corporations, 29, or 87% of those called, have donated more than \$150,000.

We thank the donors listed below and others we may have missed, but cannot express our appreciation enough, and hopefully our future efforts will demonstrate the significance of your help!



Jeff Ebel

John and Patti Noel
Edward J Okray Foundation
Delta Dental
St. Michael's Foundation
Sentry Foundation
Bob and Mary Berard
Ellis Stone
Kevin McAdam
Bob Taylor
Jim Buck

Chris Okray
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Anderson O'Brien Bertz Skenes
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Don and Tina Peters
Neal Nealis
Pineries Bank
Dave & Jan Way
George May

Peter Sudevan
Cathy Carapezza
Rettler Corporation
Community First Bank
Kay Mumper
Dan Burns
Rotary International
Dick Christianson
Sue Wilcox
Laura Newby

Introducing Kate Kipp:

Portage County Justice Programs Coordinator

Portage County recently hired Kate Kipp as its new Justice Programs Coordinator. Kate is a native of Wausau and a lifelong resident of Wisconsin. After beginning college at UW-Marathon County, Kate transferred to UW-Madison, where she obtained her bachelor's degree in social work. Kate obtained a fellowship that enabled her to earn a Master in Social Work degree. Required to work in county government for two years, she returned home to work in the Marathon County Child Protective Services division, where she stayed for three years because she loved the work so much. In 2006 Kate transferred into the county's juvenile justice division and worked as a case manager until she was hired by Portage County in October of last year.

As Justice Programs Coordinator, Kate reports directly to County Executive Patti Dreier. Her job, as she explains it, is in some ways a continuation of what she's been doing, except that she is now a social worker not for an individual, but for the entire justice system of Portage County, whether geared toward juveniles or adults. Her job, she said, is to look at the justice system from beginning to end, from referrals to treatment and everything in between, and by asking questions and evaluating the answers. How things are things running? What can we do to improve things? What should we be developing to better serve all the people of Portage County?

In doing this, she gets legislative oversight from the County Board's Judicial General Government Committee, and works with the Justice Coalition, which serves as an advisory body. As Justice Programs Coordinator, Kate will also be working closely with the state's pilot program in Portage County, the Community and Residential Program. This ties in with old problems, such as jail overcrowding, but it also encompasses new ideas that the county is looking at such as instituting a drug court.

Kate is excited about her new job, she says, because Portage County is doing some things even much larger counties aren't doing, and there seems to be widespread support for expanding the justice system in ways that promote outcomes that are better for the community and the people in it. When asked if she had anything she wanted to say to the community, she mentioned two things. First, she wants to know about or hear from all the groups in the county who are working toward, or who want to work toward social justice or restorative justice in the county. But second, she would like to hear the stories people have to tell about their experiences in the system, both good and bad. She thinks those stories are important, and that they can help make the system better.

We welcome her service in this very important post!





Neil Pederson has been doing an outstanding job managing Shifting Gears. As you can see from the picture above, there's no task too big or small for Neil, including hanging our sign, which he did last July.

In addition to everything else he does, Neil also does skate sharpening. He's been doing it for twenty years, and has experience sharpening all types of skates. And Shifting Gears is charging only \$3.00 per pair until Jan. 1! Not only that, if you have old skates that you want to sell, drop them off at Shifting Gears, and Neil and his staff of volunteers will do that for you.

If you haven't liked Shifting Gears on Facebook, you should. And as always, please spread the word about our community bike shop whenever and wherever you can. It's another way Justiceworks is promoting restorative justice in Stevens Point, Portage County, and beyond.

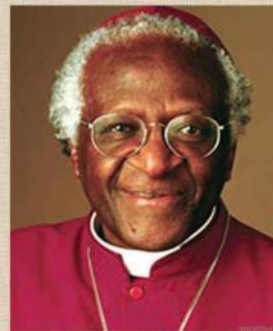
Shifting Gears is located at 2116 Wood Street in Stevens Point, and occupies part of the old Vetter Building. You can give Shifting Gears a call at 715.544.6611. And you can find us on the web on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Shifting-Gears-LLC/540762319316900>.



Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob, and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe.

Frederick Douglass

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If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.

Desmond Tutu

Justiceworks, Ltd.



Remembering that almost anything we do will tend to promote either justice or injustice, act always in ways that will tend to promote justice for the person or persons closest to you. That's all that most of us can do, and it's the most important thing that any of us can do.

Anonymous

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