

Juvenile Justice

The Center for Restorative Programs offers an alternative or supplemental process to the justice system through the **Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP)**. Victims and young offenders (ages 10-24) meet face-to-face to address the personal nature of the offense and, if needed, to repair the harm. VORP also handles teen-on-teen conflicts involving simple assault or harassment.

Participation is voluntary. Meetings are led by a team of trained volunteer mediators from the community who facilitate the dialogue.

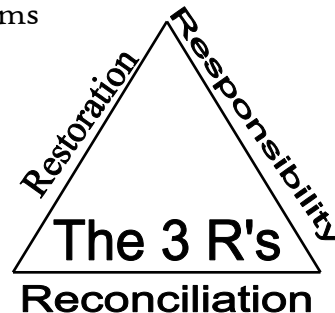
The mediators contact the parties separately to explain the program, learn about the individual's situation and invite participation in the mediation process. If both parties choose, the mediators set and facilitate a meeting at which parties may discuss personal aspects of the offense, and determine how they will relate in the future. VORP will follow-up on agreements as needed.

Cases are accepted from throughout the Valley, after admission of responsibility by the offender. Referrals typically come from the Municipal Courts, Juvenile Magistrate, Probation or District Attorney. Referral inquiries from schools, community agencies and affected families are also welcome.

School and Youth Organizations

The Center for Restorative Programs works in partnership with Valley schools & after-school sites to develop healthy conflict management skills, programs and systems. Since each system's needs and concerns are unique, we work to design a timetable and appropriate mix of trainings and interventions suited to each setting, including:

- **Dialogue Processes** - for chronic or more serious disputes involving students, staff, administration and/or parents
- **Training Workshops** - conflict skills education and training for students and staff, including peer mediation teams
- **Restorative Discipline** - dialogue-based approaches to discipline, in lieu of or following suspension or expulsion
- **Bullying Prevention** - training and intervention services, including the Olweus Bullying Prevention Programs



Community

- **Parent-Teen Mediation** - families are self-referred or referred by schools, youth programs, churches, social service agencies & counselors for up to 4 free mediation sessions with trained facilitators. Mediation helps to restore communication and facilitate negotiation of typical adolescent issues. Mediation can be scheduled for after work & school, evenings, or weekends in a neutral location close to where the family lives.
- **Conflict Resolution Trainings** - train community members in conflict resolution and mediation skills
- **Facilitations** - in limited cases, we will assist community members and courts in mediating conflicts and facilitating meetings outside our primary program areas
- **Girls' Circles** - This program provides an emotionally safe setting and structure within which teens can develop caring relationships and use authentic voices. Each week, a group of girls meet with a facilitator to take turns talking and listening to one another about their concerns and interests.

What is Restorative Justice?

The Center for Restorative Programs offers a restorative approach to youth crime and other youth conflict. This model contrasts with more traditional retributive models, in which punishment is key.

Retributive Models

- Offense violates laws or rules
- Focus on placing guilt
- Applies punishment
- Adversarial process
- State is central to the process
- Rules are key
- Win/lose outcomes
- Community members separated
- Focus on past

Restorative Justice

- Offense violates personal relationships
- Focus on needs and responsibilities
- Makes things as right as possible
- Agreement by dialogue
- Victim and offender are central in the process
- Assumption of responsibility is key
- Needs are met and healing on both sides
- Community members come together
- Focus on future

Restorative Discipline*

- Misbehavior primarily violates relationships
- Primary victim is one most impacted by the offense. Secondary victims include students, teachers, parents and community
- Focus on trust and accountability
- Discipline makes things as right as possible
- Misbehavior handled with cooperative structure between those in conflict, at earliest point possible
- Follow-up and accountability structures built in
- Consequences are reasonable, related, restorative and respectful

*Adapted from Ron Claassen, c. 1993

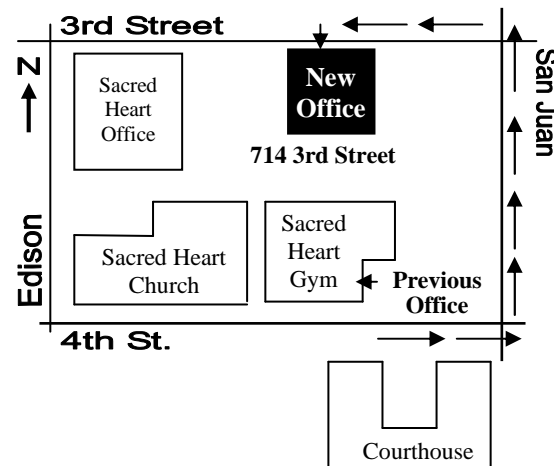
The Center for Restorative Programs is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization operated by a Board of concerned community members. The program could not function without volunteer mediators, and the support of other community partners throughout the Valley.

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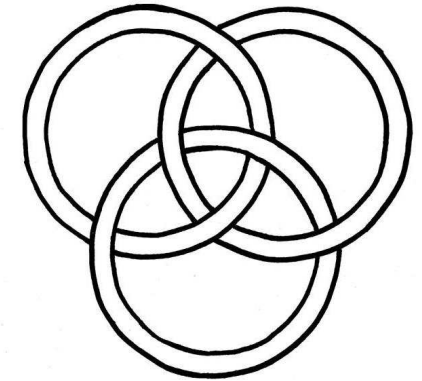
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Center for Restorative Programs

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Center for Restorative Programs



The Center's Programs include:

- 1) **Juvenile Justice Programs**—victim-offender reconciliation, teen-on-teen conflict mediation
- 2) **Schools and Youth Organizations** - training in mediation, restorative discipline & bullying prevention; intervention services for youth-in-conflict.
- 3) **Community** - parent-teen mediation, conflict resolution training and facilitation.