

Newsletter

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MARCH 2003

Restorative Justice Program

Goodwill Factoids: **In Praise of Goodwill**

Goodwill's mission is to improve the community by improving the lives of its people through services partnerships, collaborations, and the responsible use of community resources.

Locally, Goodwill in Menasha serves 33 counties, employs 550 people, manages 17 retail stores, and hand sorts enough donated goods in a year to fill Lambeau Field 15 stories high (that's 28 million pounds of stuff!).

The Eau Claire Goodwill alone processed 2 1/2 million pounds of donated goods in 2002, set an all-time yearly sales record, started a job mentoring program, and became host to the Restorative Justice Program.



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What began with the concept of self help to the needy in 1902 has since spread across the nation and the world to form what we know today as Goodwill Industries. Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin is a not-for-profit organization who's mission is to improve the community by improving the lives of its people. Through partnerships, collaborations, and responsible use of community resources, Goodwill provides jobs and social programs to the public.

The connection between Restorative Justice and Goodwill began in 2002. Goodwill, having collaborated on similar programming in Barron County, extended an offer to the courts to provide rent-free accommodations, employment services, and technical advisement to the seedling Restorative Justice Program.

Since then, the Restorative Justice Program, retail Store Manager Scott Turner and the team at Goodwill have opened their doors host the program and its small army of community volunteers, employees, and clients. Turner,

who's retail store touched the lives of some 214,000 consumers, workers, program participants in 2002, now adds host to the Restorative Justice Program to his list available local services.

Among other things, he and the management staff cleared space, assisted in office set-up, and RJ staff orientation. Turner believes the Restorative Justice Program is yet another demonstration of how maximizing the resource of donated goods impacts what can be returned to the community in the form of public services.

The Restorative Justice Program is one of more than 24 public programs and 100+ collaborative partnerships and services made possible through Goodwill of North Central Wisconsin. For more information on how your Goodwill donation or purchase ultimately improves your community, please visit www.goodwill.org or ask a manager at your local Goodwill how you can get involved.

Did you know...

Since the inception of the Eau Claire County Restorative Justice Program there have been approximately 50 referrals to date. The program participation rates are: 30-35% for victim/offender conferencing and 65-70% for accountability mentoring. The mentoring piece is unique to the Eau Claire program.

The first volunteer recruitment and training was in October 2002. There are now 4 active mediators and 3 active mentors. The program has plans to recruit new volunteers on a bi-annual basis (Spring and Fall). The next recruitment will be March-April with a training

set for May 2003. The Fall recruitment will be August-September, training in October 2003. The quarterly newsletter will be produced end-of-month in March, June, September, and December. Inquiries should be directed to RJ staff at 835-6521.

Volunteers Aid in Restorative Justice Efforts

Lisa VanZutphen is the owner of Tans To Go, an airbrush tanning service. She has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and is currently working on a Masters in Law with an emphasis in Dispute Resolution. She has certificates in Conflict Management & Negotiation and Grant Writing for Non-Profit Organizations. Lisa believes in the RJ concept and the premise that early intervention can REALLY make a difference in the lives of at-risk youth. She believes the opportunity for a young offender to meet with his/her victim and actually see and feel the harm s/he has caused is much more effective in promoting positive change than any other type of court-imposed punishment. She also believes that RJ can and does benefit the victim, the offender, and the entire community, our society, and our world; and, if implemented on a wide-scale basis, will make our communities safer for us all. Lisa says that by "dealing with young offenders, the RJ concept allows us to begin to shift our paradigm away from building more prisons as a way to cope with crime to one of building peace and healing through early intervention." Lisa is a mediator with the RJ Program.

Susan Saxe is a small business owner. She has been a small claims court mediator with TRY Mediation here in Eau Claire since 1985. Susan is interested in the Restorative Justice Program because she feels it can be "a wonderful stop gap to a life of crime for a young person." Susan is a mediator and mentor with the RJ Program.

Jane Neilsen is a Professor of Sociology at UW-Stout and is Adjunct Faculty at UW-Eau Claire. She is a former New York Police Officer with an extensive interest in empowering communities to address crime. Jane is a mediator and mentor with the RJ Program. She is using her professional experience as an instructor to develop curricula for RJ mentors, mentees, and program interns.

Paul Jacobs, born and raised on a western South Dakota ranch, has moved through four occupations searching for the one that would make the biggest impact on the well being of the planet. As a pastor, he found his niche. During ministerial training, he served at a half way house witnessing bitterness and hostility among clients coming out of the prison system. In 1998 he trained to facilitate community group conferences with a Colorado Restorative Justice group. Participating in the process of coming together as community to support our youth in learning from their mistakes rather than becoming more alienated and angry has been one of the most rewarding experiences in Paul's community service and ministry. He says "each of us can remember times when our community helped us learn from our mistakes and begin again. We can probably remember times when we were down and felt our community kicked us. Do unto others as we would have them do unto us." Paul is the Pastor at Unity Christ Center here in Eau Claire. He is a mediator with the RJ program specializing in small group conferencing.

Kelly Bender is currently employed at two part-time jobs while attending the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire as a full-time Psychology student. She is a senior at UWEC and will be graduating with a B.S. in Psychology in May of this year. She enjoys volleyball, snowboarding, and bicycling. Kelly's interest in Restorative Justice was piqued when she recently took a juvenile delinquency course. She found the course to be an enjoyable experience and when she saw a newspaper article on the Restorative Justice Program, she felt that it would be an interesting and rewarding opportunity. She is a mentor with RJ and as part of her degree work, she is currently developing curricula for accountability workshops for first-time, light, and petty offending youth mentees.

Western Dairyland Partners with RJ

Western Dairyland is a non-profit community action agency serving Buffalo, Eau Claire, Jackson, and Trempealeau counties since 1966. Its mission is to alleviate poverty-related conditions and assist low-income families in achieving self-sufficiency. Their motto is "help for today, hope for tomorrow."

As part of an effort to restore our youth and community, Western Dairyland has provided worksites, employment assistance, job seeker training,

restitution recovery, and monitoring to juvenile offenders via the "Youth Restitution Program." Soon after the inception of the Restorative Justice Program, it became evident that there were clients and interests in common between the two offices. Therefore, an "Interagency Agreement" was struck, focusing on the mutually held vision to offer continuity of service, free communication, and collaboration on all shared cases. While both entities will preserve their respective

programmatic focuses, there will be strong joint effort on enhancing accountability through meaningful public service, personal service, and restitution return plans.

Currently, the two offices have been working to secure a United Way grant to be used to set a standard of victim involvement on restitution, property return, and service hours via the RJ Program. It will be presented in April.

Job Mentoring for Youth Now Available

Many people know Goodwill as a retail store for used and donated goods. What most people don't know is that Goodwill is a not-for-profit organization that develops programs to enable people of all ages, need, and experience levels to have the opportunity to work. In the spirit of helping people learn how to get and keep a job, "guided employment" for youth is now being offered at the Eau Claire Goodwill.

In cooperation with senior aides from the Department of Workforce

Development, there is now a place at Goodwill for young and/or inexperienced workers to get into a job environment and learn firsthand what it's like to be employed. This service is provided to anyone interested in learning basic jobs skills. Although mentees tend to be adolescents, mentees of all other ages, skill, and need levels are welcome.

Ideally, mentees are persons who would benefit from the experience of guided employment, meaning that mentees will be guided through the

work day by a more experienced worker. Mentors provide direction, advice, and training taking away the assumption that a person new to the world of work would already know the values, ethics and social expectations of the work environment.

The program is located at the Goodwill retail store. It is an "on-site" service focusing specifically on job related mentoring. For inquiries about the program or instructions on making a referral, telephone Diane Cartwright at Goodwill (715) 835-

Accountability Workshop Coming Soon

Restorative Justice Program board members, staff, and volunteers are currently developing a curriculum for an accountability skills workshop. This workshop will be offered on a monthly basis to help young offenders develop victim empathy, responsibility, self-management, and restorative thinking. Curriculum from the Federal Office of Victim Services as well as existing literature on accountability thinking to create meaningful psycho-social lessons

in accountability.

Participants of the workshop will receive generalized instruction in small group settings of 8-10 members. To qualify for participation, participants must be aged 10-14 with an average age of 12. Ideally, the workshop is for youth with informal court orders or those who have not habituated as offenders.

The workshop is an early diversion meant to curtail serious offending before it begins. Unlike victim/offender conferencing or one-on-one accountability mentoring, the workshop will work from a more generalized curricula. The RJ Program expects to complete and pilot the workshop in May 2003. Please contact the RJ office for more information or if you have

Restorative Justice Program

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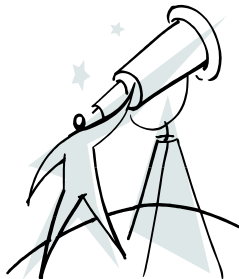
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, JESSICA@ECCRJP.ORG

Dedicated to building a safer community by discouraging juvenile crime, restoring victim well-being, and emphasizing direct offender accountability.

Restorative Justice Events & Training Opportunities

APRIL 2003

Interested volunteers and community members should contact the RJ Program this month to reserve a spot for the RJ training in May. Barb Nimmer of the Trempealeau County Restorative Justice Program will be providing an on-site training to current mediation volunteers with the Restorative Justice Program on April 10th from 9:30-11:30. If you are a current volunteer and would like to attend, please call the program. The Restorative Justice staff will be presenting at the Regional Juvenile Justice meeting 9:30 a.m. April 25th.



Looking ahead on the Restorative Justice calendar...

MAY 2003

Restorative Justice staff will be attending training May 6th thru 8th in St. Louis, MO with the OJJDP on the "Balanced & Restorative Justice" (BARJ) model. A BARJ mini-training will be available to interested parties this summer. May 27th & 29th the Restorative Justice Program will offer Spring Training for new volunteers; \$30 per person for materials and refreshments, limited scholarships. Reservations due May 13th. Call Jess at (715) 835-6521 for more information.

JUNE 2003

A Restorative Justice regional training will be coming to UW-La Crosse in June, call the UW-Extension Office at La Crosse for more information on dates and locations.