



Carlton County Community Restorative Justice Program March/April Newsletter

Announcement of Volunteer Event

On May 31st, there will be a volunteer event at the Carlton County Transportation building. It will be held from 6-8pm. Please RSVP to Ariane Norrgard if you have not already. The speakers for the event will be Katie Danielson and Yvonne Hughes, with a topic on mandatory reporting. This event will also be at time to network with other volunteers, and ask any questions you may have as a volunteer.

Ways to Get Involved

- Volunteer as a community member and donate one night a week, meeting in a circle for an extended period of time.
- Donate food and make a meal for ongoing circle meetings.
- Get the word out, please contact our Coordinator and request any groups that may want to hear about our program.
- Contribute financially to help with program expenses

Program Updates

The Carlton County Restorative Justice Program now has six active circles going. Volunteer software and evaluation tools have been created, and are now starting to be implemented. We are still in need of individuals that would like to be trained as circle keepers for upcoming cases. If you know of anyone that hasn't signed up yet, please contact us!

Our webpage is completed. Please visit:

<http://www.ccollab.org/Services/RestorativeJusticeProgram.aspx>

Thank You!

Meeting space providers:

Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Applebee's, Fond Du Lac Tribal College, Fond Du Lac Tribal Center, and Carlton County Probation Office.

Community Partners:

Carlton County Collaborative, Carlton County Human Services, Carlton County Courthouse and Probation, Carlton County Volunteer Services.

Special Thanks to our numerous Circle Keepers and Volunteers that keep our program running!

Restorative Justice Program Volunteer Account:

By Dan Conley

I think circles are like clouds, the wind or the energy of the people in the circle form it. The form is constantly changing each moment. As a seasoned circle person you pay attention to the energy in the moment. A person who has been in a few circles, their attention may be completely different. A new person spends a lot of their energy worrying about their words or remembering what another said. They curse the talking stick and see it as interference. We sit in the circle and have all these thoughts rush into our minds like someone turning a station on a radio/ talk radio. At first the thoughts come from our internal ego and then they come from energy we are picking up from others. As we tune our station to the present moment, something amazing happens; our connection to the source clears & opens up. If one person reaches this level the circle vibrates at a very high frequency. If two or more reach it, a fluid like energy appears in the middle of the circle that is very intense. This is source energy and its power is limitless. Now it is a healing circle that is holding a powerful frequency. Someone coming late into the circle can pull the plug on this energy or other distractions but seconds in this state is priceless. This is the level we should seek for our new circles and after this starts happening, another level with more intensity will present itself. Some say a circle will vibrate at the level of the lowest dense energy of a person in a circle but I disagree. The vibration of a circle can both bring one up or down. At a higher frequency there are no polarities. Danger, fear and other emotions cannot live in that cloud. Everything written in this message will be void in the future as our circle tree grows.

Circle Keeper Reminders:

Please remember to monitor the age of the youth you are working with. Note that if the youth is close to the age of 18, you will need to have the case continued for jurisdiction purposes. Contact Donna or Laraine for more information. Please remember to send in your regular case updates to Ariane. These updates are utilized by the court and program staff to monitor case activity. We have one case pending with no assigned keepers. If you are a trained circle keeper and available, please contact Ariane.

Circle Keeper Tips & Hints:

This is a good group exercise to review where participants are with the status of the sentencing circle process....

Bright, Blurry, Blind

Have the group identify those areas that they consider to be 'bright'.

Areas that are clearly evident - Areas that are common knowledge to all.

Have the group identify those areas that they consider to be "blurry".

Areas that the group has questions about - Areas that are currently uncertain. Have the group identify those areas that they consider to be "blind." Areas that are not known - Areas that if known would help the group. Utilize the circle process to explore each topic separately, offering a pass for each category.

Contact: **Ariane Norrgard - Coordinator**

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