

# CCR CORNER

Center for Conflict Resolution Newsletter

September 2015

## Neighborhood Accountability Board Creates Turning Point in Young Woman's Life

In building bridges from conflict to peace, the Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR) employs restorative justice (RJ) processes at Neighborhood Accountability Boards (NAB), where the victim, the offender, community members and a CCR facilitator work together to solve harm in restorative ways. Here's an example of what NABs can accomplish:

*Facing a shoplifting charge, a 17-year-old girl arrived for an NAB meeting with her mentor. This young woman was ready to take responsibility for her actions, open to whatever action plan she and the board developed and in a good place for initiating life changes. When she arrived at home after the NAB meeting, her friends asked what she thought of the NAB. Her response? "It was awesome! Those people were the bomb."*

*Her mentor told the CCR facilitators that the NAB facilitation was a turning point in this young woman's life. To tell her story, she has written music inspired by her NAB experience that she now performs at area churches.*



Neighborhood Accountability Board (NAB) trainees hear from a class member at a recent training at the Center for Conflict Resolution. These participants now are helping to alleviate violence in our community by serving on NABS.

# What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice (RJ) brings a victim, an offender and community members together to make as right as possible, harm that has occurred. In RJ processes, all parties are empowered to solve issues and all voices are valued for what they bring. While the criminal justice system focuses on offenders, making sure they get what they deserve, restorative justice focuses on the needs of victims, offenders and their communities.

One of the ways the RJ process is utilized at CCR is through Neighborhood Accountability Boards (NAB). To begin the process, a Kansas City, Mo., assistant prosecutor refers to CCR the name of an offender who has committed a low level crime like shoplifting or vandalism. A panel of neighbors trained in RJ, the offender and often a victim hear one another's stories as a CCR staff member facilitates. The community members relate the impact the crime had on their attitudes toward safety and other repercussions. Together they agree upon restitution that helps the offender recognize the human impact of his or her behavior and take responsibility for the behavior, making as right as possible the harm done.



Two participants at a recent NAB training session learn how to interact in ways that can de-escalate emotions that can lead to violence and to facilitate agreements between community members, a victim and an offender.

## New Program Targets High Crime Area

CCR is committed to bringing the power of restorative justice to many more Kansas City area neighborhoods. Through funding provided by a U.S. Justice Department Edward Byrne grant, a new program, the **Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation**, will combine the resources of the Kansas City No Violence Alliance, the University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City Crime Commission, Jackson County Prosecutors' Office, CCR and other community partners to decrease violence in a high-crime area.

Four additional police officers have been assigned to the area designated the "**Prospect corridor**," between 25th and 39th streets and the Paseo and Indiana Avenue. The officers will communicate with community members to identify and connect with violent or potentially violent individuals. The persons identified will be offered services, jobs or educational opportunities. Criminal offenders will have the opportunity to meet with their victims, NAB members and CCR staff facilitators to solve problems and de-escalate potentially violent conflicts.

# You can make a difference!

If you're interested in serving on an NAB, please contact CCR at (816) 461-8255.

Interested in becoming a mediator? CCR will hold its next mediator training October 19 through 23:

- ◆ October 19-20: Interpersonal Conflict Resolution (ICR) Training
- ◆ October 21-23: Mediation Training

All classes meet from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The cost of \$700.00 includes both classes and a 20-hour practicum required for certification.



Participants at a recent ICR/Mediation training form a human sculpture to illustrate the journey from conflict to resolution.

## Let Us Hear From You!

Do we have your current information? Please help us stay up-to-date by providing the information requested on the form below and emailing it to [info.ccr@gmail.com](mailto:info.ccr@gmail.com) or mail it to **CCR, 1734 East 63rd Street, Kansas City, MO, 64110:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a CCR success story you can share? Please send it—email or regular mail—to the addresses indicated above. **Thank you!**



**Center for Conflict Resolution**  
*Prevent · Educate · Restore*

**1734 East 63rd Street**

**Kansas City, MO**