



Restorative Justice Circles

A process allowing everyone involved opportunity to speak, share, listen and be understood. Grounded in values and based on mutual respect.

The St. Croix Valley Restorative Justice Program SCVRJP works to engage victims, offenders and community members in repairing harm caused by crime and conflict. Circles are a means to problem solve and build community. All Circle members are equal and equally valued. Each person will be given the opportunity to speak and listen respectfully. The Circle process utilizes both values and a 'talking piece' to guide and facilitate the process.

Circles have a variety of applications. Circles strengthen relationships in classrooms, families, the workplace, neighborhood and community settings. Restorative Justice Circles are used in many of the SCVRJP programs.

**The St. Croix Valley
Restorative Justice Mission
Statement: *To build and sustain a culture of peace and belonging utilizing restorative justice principles and programs in our community.***

How does it work? Once seated in Circle, a brief introduction of the process is followed by an opening reading. *Values* for each Circle are unique to the members present. These values are used to guide the process. *Confidentiality* is the key to trust in the Circle. When problems solving in Circle, the plan created maybe shared. Decisions in Circle are made by *Consensus*. A *Talking Piece* guides the sharing. When you are holding the talking piece you speak from the heart, when not holding the talking piece you are listening for understanding.

SCVRJP provides trainings on Circle-keeping, Restorative Justice Conferences and School-based Restorative Justice

The path to community is paved with understanding. Inclusion is community and diversity creates a vibrant community.

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