**Totally Worth It:**

A Parent’s Gratitude

We received a simple handwritten note from a mother last month. Her son had been through the restorative justice process with us some years ago. She has been a faithful donor ever since. Her note accompanied a check and read, “It’s not much and it’s later than I usually send it in, but here it is.”

When we called to thank her, she reported that her son was in college and happy. In her mind, his success is due in some part to the restorative justice process they participated in as a family.

Another parent reflected this fall that the restorative justice circle at C4RJ has been “a great segue to conversations we’ve continued at home about responsibility and respect.” These are two stories of gratitude.

We know that they, along with many affected by crime in the community, are grateful for a pathway to respond to harm constructively. It’s why we do this work. If you read this newsletter, if you’ve donated to our program, if you’ve given hundreds of hours as a volunteer, you have made our work possible. Look at all the names of donors inside this newsletter. (It’s a nice problem to have…making them all fit!)

We thank each of you and wish you a season of abundant peace and light.

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**“Finding Courage” Film Finds a Crowd**

Who in their right mind schedules an event on the first night of the World Series? C4RJ’s film premiere “Finding Courage” was slated for October 23 long before the Red Sox were in the running.

Surprisingly, then, we needed overflow parking at the premiere. Volunteers, donors, community supporters, and police filled the room at Kerem Shalom. Executive Director Jennifer Larson Sawin assured them, “First pitch is at 8:07pm. We’ll adjourn in time.”

The event, kindly sponsored by Dane Brady & Haydon, LLP, brought to fruition a year-long project by C4RJ. The film captures how a restorative justice circle plays out. While actors depict a case, actual participants, volunteers, and police also offer interviews about their experience.

After the film, Concord’s police Chief Bill Chase said, “[Restorative justice] is another tool in our tool belt.” And many of his police counterparts agree. C4RJ currently partners with 12 police departments and communities in the region.

Chief Robert Bongiorno hosted a second screening of “Finding Courage” in Bedford on November 14. He said, “This film is not a Hollywood or Big Apple production. This film is from here, by us, about our work.”

Thanks to all our in-kind supporters: Cataldo’s Gift and Garden Center, Colonial Gardens, Crosby’s Marketplace, Debra’s Natural Gourmet, Betsy Levinson, Rogers Printing Co., Jeremy and Max Rosenzweig, and Temple Kerem Shalom. Gratitude to C4RJ Board member Di Clymer who masterfully coordinated all the details that night.

In Spring 2014, we’ll make the film available at minimal cost to the public. In the meantime, watch www.c4rj.com for screenings in the region!
“Crowd-sourcing” at its Best!

We’ve used this term before at C4RJ. And it applies still. “Crowd-sourcing” is a way to harness the power of the community to accomplish a task otherwise not within reach. The accomplishments in these charts reflect what you have made possible in 2013. We are so very grateful. If we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name, please accept our sincere apologies and let us know. Supporters listed here reflect receipts as of 11/7/2013.

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### Community Service As Repair

**Offenders contributed 500 hours at these sites:**
- Apple Valley Nursing Center (Ayer)
- Arlington Recreation Department
- Bedford Council on Aging
- Blanchard School (Boxborough)
- Carleton Willard Village (Bedford)
- Carroll School (Lincoln)
- Crossroads Community Church Bridge Ministry (Fitchburg)
- First Parish Housing of Fitchburg Inc.
- Ginny’s Helping Hand, Leominster
- Groton Youth Baseball
- The Hope Center (Fitchburg)
- Household Goods Recycling of Massachusetts (Acton)
- Hurricane Sandy Relief
- Life Care Center of Littleton
- Littleton 7th grade traveling basketball team
- Littleton Council on Aging
- Littleton Middle School
- Littleton Parks and Recreation
- Littleton Police Department
- Littleton Scholarship Fund
- Loaves & Fishes (Devens)
- St. Anne Catholic Church (Littleton)

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**People Served in 2013: 235**

**Persons Harmed/Affected: 15**

**Supporters: 124**

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Key: * = 5 or more gifts to C4RJ; + = 10 or more gifts to C4RJ

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**Supporters Listed:**

- Jo-Ann Berry & Adam & Katharine Berger
- Ellie Bemis*
- Reinier & Nancy Beeuwkes*
- Russel Beede*
- Carmen & Jim Beaton*
- Dorrie Bean
- Carol Barron
- William & Amy Barrett*
- Christopher Brandon
- Sibylle Barlow+
- Leigh & Alex Banay
- Peter & Mary Ann Ashton
- Bob & Sue Armstrong
- Elsie Apthorp
- Joseph L. Andrews, M.D.*
- Susie Allen
- Joanne Albright
- Terri Ackerman
- Susan Allen
- John L. Andrews, M.D.*
- Elise Atnorp
- Nancy & Neil Arkuss*
- Bob & Sue Armstrong
- Peter & Mary Ann Ashton
- Jean & Chuck Bagnasi
- Ron & Alex Banay
- Christy Barbere & Thomas Spencer*
- Sibylle Barlow+
- Bill & Amy Barrett*
- Charles & Jane Barrett*
- Carol Barson
- Tom & Susan Bates
- Donnie Bean
- Carmen & Jim Beaton*
- Nancy & Norman Beecher*
- Russell Beebee*
- Reiner & Nancy Beeuwkes*
- David Bell*
- Ellie Bemis*
- Jon Benson & Pamela W. Lynn
- Adam & Katharine Berger
- Jo-Ann Berry & Christopher Brandon
- Nancy Bichard
- Stanly E. Black
- Tim & Becky Blodgett
- Steven B. Bloomfield & Melissa H. Apperson*
- Brad Bokcin & Renee Robins
- Kelley Bothe
- Kathy Bowen*
- John & Johanna Boynton
- John & Mary Ann Boynton
- Mary Allen Bramhall*
- Rick & Peggy Briggs
- Mark & Eileen Brooks
- Elissa Brown & Alan Schneyer
- Dinah Buechner-Vischer
- Bettina Burbach & Paul Kirshen
- Dennis & Kim Burns
- Jonathan Byrd
- Keith Campbell
- Jeff & Ellen Campbell*
- Roger & Ruth Campbell*
- Winifred Campbell*
- David Carlise & Morene Bodner
- Alan Carpenter
- Stephen & Candace Carr*
- Steve & Kate Carr*
- Kay Chambers
- Ruth Chappell
- Les Charm & Karen Belinsky*
- David & Susan Clark*
- Bob & Beth Clarke
- Gloria & Chuck Clough*
- John & Diana Clymer
- Judy Cole*
- George & Ann Colony
- Bruce P. Compean
- Brewer Conant
- Gale & Peter Constable
- Marcia & David Cook
- William & Linda Cotter*
- John & Holly Cratsley*
- Nancy Connin*
- Susan Cummings
- Martha Mattison Curran
- Sue & Tom Curran
- Lawrence E. Curtiss
- George M. Dallas*
- Henry Dane
- Jim & Laura Davidian*
- Carolyn Davies*
- David & Elizabeth Dawson*
- Grier Dehandschuter
- Elaine DiCicco*
- Sophie DiCicco*
- The DiGiovanni Family*
- Ann & Daniel Donohue
- Jill Durham
- Joan Howland
- William Webber
- Ernie & Ellen Huber*
- John & Nancy Huggins
- Don & Vanetta Hunter
- Elaine Inker
- Tom & Christine Jacobs*
- Signy & Dusty Johnstone*
- Mary Beth & George Jones
- Candace Jolayan
- Jeanne S. Kangas
- Cynthia Katz
- Bertha Keiner*
- Clyde Kessel & Francois Boudreau
- Judy & Jonathan Keyes*
- Karin Kiwera
- BC & Geeta Krishna
- Judy Kronewasser
- Judith & Robert Krumme
- Michael Krupe & Ruth Bell
- Libby Karten & Viktor Vejins*
- The Kussin Family*
- Nancy Kuziemski
- David & Joyce Lamasdorff
- Schuyler Lance & Linda Mervin
- Marg & Joe Landolfi
- Jennifer & Greg Larson Sasin
- Mr. & Mrs. William A. Lawrence II*
- Herman B. Leonard & Kathryn A. Angelii*
- Jerome Lerman
- Bonnie Lobel
- Phil & Nancy Lotane
- Frank Lowell
- Jay & Carolynn Luby*
- Bob Luoma & Sally Stokes
- Bob Macauley
- Geraldine Madigan*
- Gregory Maguire
- Louise Mattson*
- Thomas & Susan McAndrew*
- Melissa & Jack McBride*
- James & Caroline McLoy
- Joan McDade*
- Jennifer & John McDonald
- Bob McGowan & Robin Tuckerski*
- Anne McNeece
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- Anne McNeece
- Martha M. McNeil
- Carol & Peter Meenan*
- Carl & Carol Miller*
- Ken & Dorcas Miller*
- Nick Miller & Patricia McCarthy
- Arthur N. Milken
- Linda Minkoff
- Elizabeth Morrison
- John Moss & Ellen Boyce
- Candace Nelson
- Sarah Stevens
- Bill & Mary Jane Nichols
- Harold F. Nichols Insurance Agency
- John & Cindy Nock
- Ronni Olitsky
- Brian & Erin Pastuzensky*
- Steve & Diane Payne
- Al & Sandy Peirce
- Edward N. Perry
- Michael Picard*
- Martin Plotkin & Pamela Swing
- Ed & Janet Polansky*
- Thomas & Isola Porter
- John M. Putnam & Marcia S. Powell*
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard Quanrud* Gaill Wine & Lance Ramshaw
- Anne Rarich
- Kate Reid
- Lloyd & Lisa Resnick
- Janet Rhodes & Dan Friedman
- Harold E. Roman
- Gene Rork*
- Nina & Timothy Rose
- Michael & Naomi Rosenfeld*
- Lauren Rosenweig Morton
- Hope Rubin*
- Wade Robubin & Jill Block
- Terry Rublinsk & Paul Kelly*
- Melissa Savaliff
- R.D. & Linda Sahl*
- James & Bridget Saltonstall*
- Frank Sander
- Jonathan & Margaret Saphier*
- Sally & Michael Salthizer
- Gary & Kathie Schwartz
- Cynthia S. D. Schweppes
- Martha Shapland
- Nancy Settle-Murphy
- Ralph & Kai Shaner*
- Ben & Norma Shapiro
- Sarah A. Sharpe*
- Deidre Sheedy & Leonard Halley
- Annabelle Shepherd*
- Diana K. Shoemaker
- Andrea & Sergio Siani*
- Robert & Karen Silver*
- Adam Simon
- Elizabeth C. Shuler
- Darian N. Smith*
- Barbara Smith-Moran*
- Howard & Thelma Sobey*
- Margaret B. Solvez*
- Edward Sonn*
- Laura Spear
- Nikki Spencer
- Alan & Janet Splietter
- George & Judith Sprott
- Debra Stark*
- Carolyn & Eric Stein*
- Eleanor Brown Stengel*
- Donald & Marjory Stevenson*

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**Agency**
- BC & Geeta Krishna
- Jennifer & Greg Larson Sasin
- Mr. & Mrs. William A. Lawrence II*
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- David & Joyce Lamasdorff
- Schuyler Lance & Linda Mervin
- Marg & Joe Landolfi
- Jennifer & Greg Larson Sasin
- Mr. & Mrs. William A. Lawrence II*
Satisfaction Rates

All participants in a restorative justice circle are invited to complete an anonymous online survey after a case closes. In it, they reflect on whether the process was satisfying. Our “satisfaction” scores are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offender &amp; Supporters</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim &amp; Supporters</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Officers</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4RJ Volunteers</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Satisfaction rates

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Offenses Referred in 2013

- Arson*
- Assault
- Breaking & entering in the night
- Civil rights violation
- Counterfeiting
- Graffiti
- Grand larceny
- Harassment
- Malicious destruction of property
- Shoplifting
- Social host law violation
- Theft from motor vehicle
- Theft from school
- Trespassing
- Unauthorized use of motor vehicle
- Vandalism

* This case was an adult matter referred by the Ayer District Court. Restorative justice was a part of the plea agreement after arrest. Referrals from the court represent a growth area for C4RJ in the future.

Offender Age

- 16 and under: 38%
- 17–20: 17%
- 21 and over: 7%

Cases Successfully Completed – 97%

The vast majority of cases close to the satisfaction of all parties. In 2013, two cases were returned, one due to significant mental capacity concerns and the other due to the offender not meeting obligations.

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INSIDE THIS WINTER 2013 ISSUE:
• “Finding Courage” Film Finds a Crowd
• Totally Worth it: A Parent’s Gratitude
• 2013 Supporters
• 2013 Data Snapshots

Communities for Restorative Justice (C4RJ) is a community-police partnership that offers restorative justice to those affected by crime. Restorative justice recognizes that crime is a violation of people and relationships, not just a violation of law. Police refer cases to us. In the aftermath of wrongdoing, our “circle” process includes in the decision-making those affected by crime: victims, offenders, loved ones, supporters, community members, and law enforcement officials.

This newsletter, The Talking Piece, is named for an object (often a river stone) passed around the circle to engage individuals in the deliberations. The person holding the talking piece speaks while others listen. With this newsletter, we are passing the talking piece to you and would love to hear your views on our work. Contact us at info@c4rj.com or by calling 978.318.3447 to relay your thoughts.

Go Green!
Help us save on paper, printing, and mail costs by opting for our e-newsletter instead of our snail mail newsletter. Visit www.c4rj.com and click on the button that reads “Sign up for our e-newsletter.”