COMMUNITIES FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



THE TALKING PIECE



Tom Spencer and C4RJ Chief Case Coordinator Christy Barbee celebrate. Christy wrote the script for the film.



Concord Police Chief William Chase (left) celebrates the premiere with Brady & Haydon, LLP, who sponsored the premiere.



C4RJ co-founders Jean Bell (left) and Joan Turner (center) stand with Executive Director Henry Dane (right) of Dane, Jennifer Larson Sawin (right) after the film.

"Finding Courage" Film Finds a Crowd

ho 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!

Totally Worth It: A Parént's Gratitude

e 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 seque 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!)

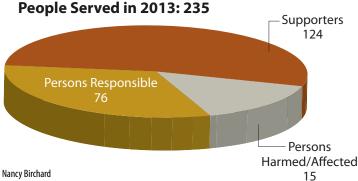
We thank each of you and wish you a season of abundant peace and light.

"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)

.arron 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

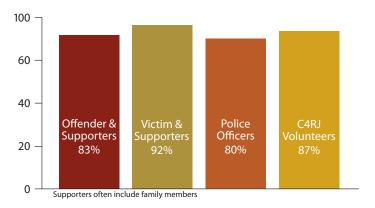
Littleton Scholarship Fund

Loaves & Fishes (Devens)

St. Anne Catholic Church (Littleton)

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:



Offenses Referred in 2013

Arson' Assault

Breaking & entering in the night Civil rights violation Counterfeiting Graffiti

Grand larceny Harassment

Malicious destruction of property

Social host law violation

Minor in possession of alcohol

Shoplifting

Theft from motor vehicle Theft from school **Trespassing**

Unauthorized use of motor vehicle

* 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.

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Anonymous Gifts—28

Anonymous – 18 Anonymous* - 7 Anonymous⁺ – 3

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Gifts were given in memory of Selma Lobel Brec Saalfield

Grant Making Organizations

Acton-Boxborough United Way Concord-Carlisle Community Chest Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation Northwest Suburban Health Alliance

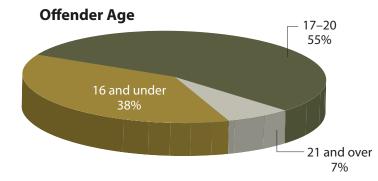
Community Health Network Area 15 The Sudbury Foundation

Educational Institutions

Acton-Boxborough R.S.D. Fitchburg High School Nigerian Legal Delegation **Suffolk University UMass Boston UMass Lowell** University of Southern Maine Westford Academy

In Kind Donations

Cataldo's Gift and Garden Center **Colonial Gardens** Concord-Carlisle Regional H.S. Crosby's Market Debra's Natural Gourmet Carolyn Gold Bev Haas Flaine Inker Kerem Shalom Clyde Kessel Joe Landolfi **Betsy Levinson** Lincoln Public Library R.J. Grey Junior High School Rogers Printing **Ned Roos** Max & Jeremy Rosenzweig **Betsey Wood**



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Cases Successfully Completed – 97%

Alan & Lois Whitney*

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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About C4RJ

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."



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