



HOW DOES **A STABBING AT SCHOOL** BECOME THE
SPRINGBOARD FOR NEW PERSPECTIVE AND OPPORTUNITIES
FOR A TEENAGER WITH A HISTORY OF TRAUMA?

OPEN TO FIND OUT...



Mario's reflection: "What I did to Julian was a huge mistake. It was a very painful experience for me personally. Going through the process with C4RJ was really helpful to me. I learned that under different circumstances, I could have gone to jail and had a criminal record because of my actions... In the future, I am going to think about what I learned with C4RJ to avoid making bad decisions."

MARIO'S STORY

**THE C4RJ RECIDIVISM RATE
IS ONLY 16% AS COMPARED
TO AN OVERALL CRIMINAL
JUSTICE SYSTEM RATE OF AT
LEAST 40%.**

**PLEASE CONSIDER
A GIFT TO C4RJ
BEFORE JUNE 30TH
AT C4RJ.ORG**

Following a disagreement about a \$10 loan, three teens tussled in a school playground. Mario, a soccer-loving high school student with dreams of becoming a lawyer, stabbed his friend Julian. He immediately regretted his actions. Julian ended up at the hospital. Mario ended up at the police station facing a charge of Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon.

Mario had lived through difficult events, moving from South America to New York by himself. Then he moved to Boston because he was told that Boston had less violence and gang activity. His goals were to learn English, become a lawyer, and help others from his country. He was disappointed in himself for veering off track and for letting down his entire family. He had been raised to fear the police, and he was scared to engage with the legal system.

Given Mario's regret about the incident and the camaraderie between the schoolmates, Julian

agreed to use restorative justice to resolve this incident. The restorative justice journey ultimately involved listening, questioning, introspection, understanding, and human connection. Mario engaged in community service, worked with his facilitators to reflect on where he went wrong and how he could make better choices in the future, and wrote a reflection that included an apology to those he had hurt. Through the restorative justice process, Mario learned to resolve conflicts without violence and internalized the idea that police officers are community allies.

Instead of being charged with Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon, through the process of restorative justice, Mario:

- Examined what he did and learned from his mistakes
- Developed a positive relationship with a police detective
- Apologized to people he hurt
- Has a future unburdened by a criminal record

"After 34 years in law enforcement, the biggest gift for me is seeing lives transformed. The restorative justice process is more work, but much more rewarding. I would definitely give this program my blessing and hope to stay involved." Detective Larry Ellison, Police liaison to C4RJ

REFERRING PARTNERS

Police Departments of ACTON, ARLINGTON, BEDFORD, BELMONT, BOXBOROUGH, BURLINGTON, CAMBRIDGE, CARLISLE, CHELSEA, CONCORD, GROTON, HUDSON, LEXINGTON, LINCOLN, LITTLETON, MAYNARD, NEWTON, NORTHBOROUGH, STOW, SUDBURY, WAYLAND, WELLESLEY, WESTON, WINCHESTER, WINTHROP – and the Middlesex County and Suffolk County District Attorney's Offices

**C4RJ IS THE LARGEST AND
MOST TRUSTED PROVIDER OF
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE **WORKING**
**WITH THE MASSACHUSETTS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.****

THANK YOU!

**IT IS THANKS TO YOU, OUR DONORS,
THAT RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IS AN
OPTION IN OVER 25 MASSACHUSETTS
CITIES AND TOWNS. THANK YOU FOR
SUPPORTING US THROUGH 20 YEARS
OF TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF
THOSE AFFECTED BY CRIME.**

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COMMUNITIES FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

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