



Restorative Justice
Louisville
2015 Annual Report



*To bring together the victim,
offender and the community to
make things right.*



*"Restorative Justice has been incredibly empowering.
I've regained control."*

- Victim of robbery

#RestorativeJustice

“Handling crimes using Restorative Justice allows the offending youth to see their victim as a person and realize the full impact of their actions. Allowing them to be part of the plan to fix the harm they caused empowers them to rejoin the community as a productive member.”

Judge Angela Bisig
Jefferson County Circuit Court
Chair
Restorative Justice Louisville
Board of Directors

A Message from the Chair of the Board of Directors

Over the past couple of years, I have had the pleasure of watching Restorative Justice Louisville truly begin to raise the bar for ourselves and for our community. While the external environment for our community remains a very challenging one, I have seen our partners come together with determination and a shared sense of purpose, working effectively to unify our voices for change. What has shone through this year is the true meaning of the word ‘partnership’ leading to the steadfast commitment to restorative justice practices in our community.

I am pleased to report, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Restorative Justice Louisville Board and staff with all of our extended family who participate in working groups, we saw notable successes in 2015. Chief among them was our partnership with Spalding University. Not only are they partnering with us in our evaluation of our program, they have provided a home for Restorative Justice Louisville. Our thanks to Tori Murden McClure, President of Spalding University, and her staff is not enough to express our gratitude for their support and the potential of this partnership. We are also fortunate to continue with several key partnerships which support our work in the Jefferson County community. These partnerships are with the Louisville Metro Mayor’s office, Office of Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods (One Love Louisville), Jefferson County Attorney’s Office, the Louisville Metro Public Defender’s Office, KY Administrative Office of the Courts, Court Designated Worker’s Program and Jefferson County Public Schools.

I would be extremely remiss if I did not mention and praise the wonderful volunteer facilitators who actually facilitate the restorative justice conferences in our community. These dedicated people are the heart of our efforts in the community. We cannot commend enough their dedication to Restorative Justice Louisville and our community.

As we move forward in 2016 and beyond, I am proud of what Restorative Justice Louisville accomplished in 2015 and excited about the future. Our community is strong and vibrant, and together we will continue our efforts to address violence and conflict in our community.

Judge Angela Bisig, Chair
Restorative Justice Louisville



RJL's Story

Restorative Justice Louisville began accepting referrals in the Spring 2011 after one year of planning and development by a group of dedicated, compassionate system representatives and community members. Their commitment came from a shared belief of the fundamental concept of restorative justice being a victim-centered approach which complements the traditional criminal justice system.

The goal adopted for the implementation of the restorative justice practices is twofold:

- To divert youth from the criminal justice system while at the same time providing victims and community members an active, direct voice in the resolution of the case, and
- To hold youth accountable and assist the participants in the conference process to identify and address the underlying factors related to the problematic behavior to develop plans to reduce recidivism.

To accomplish the goals, Restorative Justice Louisville was established and then implemented the restorative practice of Family Group Conferencing. Each restorative practice which maintains the key components of a restorative justice conference are the **story, the impact and the agreement**.

Crime is a violation of people and relationships. It creates obligations to make things right.

The Story

The restorative justice conference process offers a unique opportunity to the involved parties to meet face to face to allow each to tell their story. One such story involves Daryn, a juvenile offender, Mr. Lowe, the owner of a local restaurant, Daryn's family and Mr. Lowe's family.

Not thinking much of it, Daryn took his friend up on a dare to run into a neighborhood restaurant and steal the tip jar off the counter, stealing a total of \$8. The whole incident was caught on tape, leading to Daryn being charged with theft.

Instead of going through the regular court system, Daryn, his family, and the restaurant owner, Mr. Lowe, were offered the opportunity to participate in a restorative justice conference process with Restorative Justice Louisville. Everyone agreed. When the facilitators first looked at the police report, they first thought it cost more for the officer to make the run to the scene than what was taken...and it did. What the facilitators, along with the Daryn and his family, learned was that there was so much more to the incident than the stolen \$8.

After meeting with trained facilitators in the family group conferencing model separately, Daryn, his family, Mr. Lowe, and his family all met together at the restaurant where the incident took place to share their stories.

The restaurant owner sat everyone down at a round table and gestured around the table to outline the circle that the table makes. He explained the importance of the circle in his culture and how it represents wholeness and perfection. The owner stated "many families sit at round tables as a reminder that they are complete as a family and perfect." He shared the importance he places on family.



The Impact

At the same time, the person who was harmed is able to gain assurance the young person understands the impact of the harm caused; find answers to questions; hold the offender accountable.

As the conference process proceeds, Mr. Lowe was able to express to this young man the impact the stealing of the \$8 had on him and his family. He went on to detail to Daryn how over the years his restaurant has been robbed many times; once his daughter was robbed at gun point. These incidents have lead the family to adjust their behaviors, closing the restaurant at different times and always making sure there are multiple family members present. Even more than the behavior

changes, these incidents have led to Mr. Lowe doubting his ability to keep his family whole and perfect. He shared he experienced much concern every day wondering if he could keep his family safe.

The restaurant owner, Mr. Lowe, told Daryn the money he took from him was not his biggest concern, it was the intangible feeling of safety and pride in his restaurant that was taken from him; not just by this young man, but also by others. The owner told the young man he hoped that from now on he would think about the effect that seemingly one small action has on the whole community and on families, like his.

***Justice requires
we work to re-
store those who
have been harmed***

RJL's Impact

Restorative Justice Louisville has been accepting referrals since Spring 2011. It has received over 300 referrals. In 2015, the referrals involved the following demographics:

- 88% of the referrals were youth ages 13 to 17
- 82% were male
- 61% were African American, 37% were Caucasian, and 2% were Asian
- Majority of the referrals originated from the 40211, 40215, 40258, and 40272 zip codes

Of the cases referred, 67% of the cases participated in the conference process with:

- 25% closed successfully where the youth completed an agreement negotiated with the person they harmed
- 25% reached agreements and the agreement was being monitored at the end of the calendar year
- 17% were still in the process of having conference meetings scheduled

Of the cases which did not complete the conference process, the major reasons were one or more of the parties declined to participate in the restorative justice conference process or the person who was harmed could not be reached or did not respond to attempts to contact them.



The Agreement

The final phase of the conference process is negotiating the agreement with all the parties on how the young person can make amends and repair the harm done. In this conference, everyone is asked to discuss what can be done to make things right. When the conference came to this concluding point, Mr. Lowe explained he did not need anything from the boy beyond what he had already given him—Daryn’s honesty and respect to listen to his story. Mr. Lowe only wanted to be heard and a chance to rebuild the circle which

had been broken.

Not all conferences have such poignant stories. But what they do have in common is the ability for the parties to meet face to face to allow the young person to express his responsibility in the incident, for everyone to express how the incident has impacted them, and then to negotiate an agreement on how the harm identified by the parties can be repaired. This follows one of the underlying principles of restorative practices:

“...people are happier, more cooperative, more productive and more likely to make positive changes when those in positions of authority do things WITH them rather than TO them or FOR them.” (*The Restorative Practice Handbook, Costello and Wachtel*)

For restorative justice, then, justice begins with a concern for victims and their needs; it seeks to repair the harm as much as possible, both concretely and symbolically.

RJL’s 2015 Accomplishments

RJL is proud of the accomplishments made in 2015. These would not have occurred without the dedication and support of many people in our community including the members of the RJL Program Advisory Committee and the volunteer facilitators.

- Thirty-one volunteer facilitators were added to our ranks.
- Three individuals have volunteered to assist and support the office with different projects and activities.
- The evaluation for the Juvenile Court Project continues with the partnerships of Spalding University’s Dr. Ida Dickie and doctoral students.
- RJL continues to partner with KentuckianaWorks and other community partners with three (3) additional grants targeting youth and young adults.
- RJL became a partner in One Love Louisville’s National Youth Violence Prevention Network.
- RJL became a member of the Louisville Metro Criminal Justice Commission.
- RJL became a partner with Jefferson County Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative.



RJL Governance



The RJL Board has overall responsibility for the strategies and policies related to the operations of the agency. It includes representatives from the criminal justice system, businesses, local government, and other community organizations. The 2015 **RJL Board Members** are:

Judge Angela Bisig, Chair, Jefferson County Circuit Court

Michelle Tupper-Butler, Vice Chair, Dinsmore & Shohl

Alecia Dimar, Secretary, Yum! Brands

Douglas Morris, Treasurer, DMLO, CPAs

Neville Blakemore, Great Northern Building Products, LLC

Susan Duncan, Secretary, Brandeis School of Law, University of Louisville

J. Price Foster, Board Member, Professor Emeritus (Retired)

David James, Board Member, Louisville Metro Council

Benjamin Lewis, Board Member, Bingham Greenebaum Doll LLP

Miguel Mireles, Board Member, Lincoln Heritage Council BSA

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Bradley Shumaker, Board Member, Middletown Reutlinger

Kevin Swaidner, Board Member, IMI South

Dan Waddell, Board Member, Papa John's International

Thomas Williams, Board Member, Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC

Stephen Mershon, Non-Voting Emeritus Member, Retired Judge

Mike O'Connell, Non-Voting Ex-Officio Member, Jefferson County Attorney



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE LOUISVILLE, INC.

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES,
AND OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS - CASH BASIS

For the Year Ended December 31, 2015

	Unrestricted			Temporarily Restricted			Total
	Admin	Program	Total	Admin	Program	Total	
Revenues:							
Contributions	\$ 16,270	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -		\$ 16,270
Grants	\$ 49,834	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 62,529		\$ 112,362
Total Revenues	\$ 66,104	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 62,529		\$ 128,633
Net Assets released from restrictions	\$ 44,846	\$ -		\$ -	\$ (44,846)		-
	\$ 110,950	\$ -	\$ 110,950	\$ -	\$ 17,683	\$ 17,683	\$ 128,633
Expenses:							
Payroll and Payroll Expenses	\$ 19,358	\$ 58,074		\$ -	\$ -		\$ 77,432
Administrative Costs	\$ 2,178	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -		\$ 2,178
Contractor	\$ -	\$ 700		\$ -	\$ -		\$ 700
Insurance	\$ 1,010	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -		\$ 1,010
Training	\$ -	\$ 305		\$ -	\$ -		\$ 305
Supplies	\$ 28	\$ 84		\$ -	\$ -		\$ 112
Travel	\$ -	\$ 133		\$ -	\$ -		\$ 133
Community Awareness	\$ 542	\$ 1,624		\$ -	\$ -		\$ 2,166
	\$ 23,116	\$ 60,920		\$ -	\$ -		\$ 84,036
Total Expenses			\$ 84,036			\$ -	
Net increase in total net assets			\$ 26,914			\$ 17,683	\$ 44,597
Net assets, beginning of year			\$ 113,338			\$ 3,000	\$ 116,338
Net assets, end of year			\$ 140,252			\$ 20,683	\$ 160,935





RESTORATIVE JUSTICE LOUISVILLE

Please Contact

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To learn more or donate to Restorative Justice Louisville, please visit

www.rjlou.org