



# COMMUNITY JUSTICE INITIATIVES ASSOCIATION

*Fraser Region | British Columbia*

*Annual Report 2013*



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*Crime and Conflict result in harm to people.*

*Restorative justice seeks to heal and right the wrongs, focusing on the needs of the harmed and those responsible for the harm.*

*It encourages accountability, healing and closure for all.*

**OUR MISSION**

*To foster peacemaking and the resolution of conflict in the community through the development and application of Restorative Justice values, principles and processes.*

**OUR VISION**

*We aspire to the achievement of a society where the natural response to conflict and harm is more restorative than punitive, more relational than isolating, and more healing than productive of further harm.*

**OUR VALUES**

*In all of our relationships, our actions will be guided by an ethic of care characterized by safety and responsibility.*

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**Co-Director's Report**

By Sandra Bergen, CJI Co-Director

As fiscal year 2013 draws to a close, so does a professional partnership and a tremendously gratifying and meaningful career. Little did I know that the temporary job I began in February 1987 would last for nearly 26 years. Or that I would have the privilege of being the co-director of a small agency that has made a significant contribution to the development of restorative justice theory and processes, nationally and internationally, since its inception in 1985.

I have been inspired by the people I have met through my work with the Victim Offender Mediation Program. People who have suffered incredible harm and have responded with resilience and compassion. People who have caused harm who have worked hard to become contributing members of society who are committed to ensuring they have no more victims. Colleagues who believe that people can change and who devote their lives to assisting and encouraging those changes.

There are so many names and faces that come to mind as I think about the highlights of the last 26 years. People who have become particularly dear to me. Members of an amazing, extended family. I can't begin to name all of you. I can only hope you know who you are and that I have been able to convey to you the degree to which you have inspired me and enriched my life.

How privileged I have been to do work that I love in an environment where co-workers feel like family. Where it was a joy to walk in the door in the morning because of the special people who worked alongside me. Where it truly seemed that God sent the right person at the right time to contribute his or her gifts to the agency and to the people touched by CJI's work.

There have been notable others along the way, but, most recently, those wonderful people at CJI include Dan Basham, Rose Wilson, Jennifer Siemens, Aaron Lyons and Susan Underwood. And, of course, Dave Gustafson, who believed in me, who offered me that 'temporary' position at CJI and who has been my supportive, encouraging, inspiring co-director for all these years. Thank you to all of you.



Sandi Bergen  
Co-Director Administration



Dave Gustafson  
Co-Director Program Development

## Educating for Peacebuilding

By Dan Basham, Program Coordinator

The Educating for Peacebuilding program is committed to educating and training students, staff and parents of the Langley School District in the values and principles of Restorative Action. Based on restorative justice, Restorative Action in schools focuses on peacefully resolving conflict by involving in dialogue the people directly affected by the situation.

One of the ways that we teach young people about Restorative Action is to analyze current situations and discuss different ways to fix or repair the harm caused by people's actions. In a recent training with some grade seven students, we talked about the Vancouver hockey riots. The students identified the physical, emotional and property harm that was caused during the riots. They discussed ways to fix the situation which included having the people responsible pay back for the damage they caused and making sincere apology to the victims. The students also recognized some of the complexities involved. For example: when people don't take responsibility for their actions, the need to use the criminal justice system to hold people accountable increases. It is interesting to note that even at a young age students understand the straightforward and common sense approach of Restorative Action.

Something that most schools are dealing with more frequently is the role that social media plays in conflict situations. It is not uncommon for students to post extremely damaging video on the internet. I have worked on several of these type situations over the past year. The only positive aspect to this phenomena is that once a video, picture or text is posted, the school can access it for evidence so the wrong doers cannot deny responsibility. The much more negative side is that many people within the students' social network and beyond are able to view the video creating much more harm. Langley School District

is doing a tremendous job of educating students about the risks and harm that social media can cause. This work needs to continue especially with our younger students because it is such a quickly evolving technology.

The work being done in elementary schools has increased quite a bit over the last year with more peace circles and Restorative Action training. Most of the elementary schools that we are supporting are looking at ways to expand the role of students trained in Restorative Action to help create some real positive change. They have asked for training of students to become playground problem solvers. This would benefit the trained students with problem solving skills and also help to create healthy connections between the older and younger students in the school.

Many thanks to Langley School District for their major financial contribution to the Educating for Peacebuilding Program. The District has steadily increased their support over the 12 years since the program was started in 2000. We continue to work towards more restorative practises in all of our elementary and secondary schools in the Langley School District. This is an ongoing training and education project that will continue to help our students resolve conflicts peacefully through Restorative Action values and principles.

Many thanks to Coast Capital Savings Community Investment for providing significant funding again this year to our program. This is the sixth year that they have financially supported us and I truly appreciate their ongoing contribution.

Other funding sources that we sincerely thank include the Edith Lando Foundation, TD Bank (Walnut Grove), and the Langley School District Foundation.

## Congratulations to the 2012 Educating for Peacebuilding Scholarship winners

In June 2012, Community Justice Initiatives announced the recipients of the Educating for Peacebuilding scholarships: Lucy Clarkson, Langley Fine Arts School; Aidan Wiens, Aldergrove Community Secondary School, and Sola Park, R.E. Mountain Secondary School. All three deserving student mediators have been active members of their school's Restorative Action team and have been a positive influence with their peers. They have embraced the values and principles of Restorative Action and have integrated them into their school and personal lives.

**Lucy Clarkson:** "I have been involved in Restorative Action for 3 years and have been trained to carry out mediations, initial meetings and peace circles. I have also worked with young students teaching them mediation skills, mentoring them, giving them feedback and positive direction. I bond with the students, mentor them and act as a confidant and mediator. I learn more and more about conflict and the principals of Restorative Action every day."

**Aidan Wiens:** "In high school conflict is inevitable. That is why I believe strongly in the Restorative Action program. It offers a non-punitive opportunity for peace and closure. The program is

gaining support within my school from teachers, administration and students. A program in place that restores relationships is a great comfort even for those not quite comfortable seeking mediation. There is still a long way to go for it to become the primary solution, but the difference in attitude towards the program is undeniable."

**Sola Park:** "From the training I have learned so many things that I can use when I am around with people. Positive words, the effectiveness of body language and soft tone of voice comfort others...we were able to mediate small to big conflicts between high school students."

It was with a genuine sense of gratitude that we awarded these three young women with the CJI Educating for Peacebuilding scholarships; gratitude for the positive influence they have had in their schools which will continue to impact many others that come into their lives.

## Victim Offender Mediation Program

By Dave Gustafson, CJI Co-Director

It has been another remarkable year for the Victim Offender Mediation Program (VOMP). Originally funded as a two year "Pilot Project", in 1990, outcomes were so positive they often astonished even those of us who had conceived of and developed the project. As a result, that two year "Pilot" phase was extended. We've now been delivering services to victims, offenders, their kin and communities continuously, for 23 years. And we are still often quite moved and astonished at the outcomes.

Sandi Bergen alluded to this in her report this year, and Fraser Simmons, in his report as Board Chair, specifically mentioned the unforgettable story presented by two mothers at our Annual Dinner, last Fall. I had chosen, earlier, to highlight this same case, especially given that Supriya Deas had given me her permission to use her article however I saw fit. VOMP staff worked on many truly memorable cases this past year and, in a number of these, have had the joy of witnessing deeply healing outcomes which touched and assuaged grievous pain and loss. The mothers, former MP Dona Cadman and Supriya, whose story follows, have become devoted friends. They are currently engaged in writing a book together which will flesh out the story CJI members and supporters heard at the dinner, which was reported in B.C.'s major media, and which appears here. I can think of no better way to report on program outcomes than to reprint Supriya's article as an example of what can and does happen in a significant percentage of the cases referred to us. Profound thanks to the participants in the approximately 70 cases we worked on last year, as well as to those who refer cases from the victim service and correctional service communities, and to all of you who enable these degrees of healing to occur by assisting CJI to provide the ways and means.

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### We're in This Together

by Supriya Deas

Two mothers, that's what we were... two mothers, alone with our pain. Not to say we didn't have people around us, we did. When the jury went into deliberation we could hear the quiet chatter of the reporters, police officers, family and friends echoing in a void we could not touch.

And then, one by one the people disappeared up the hall, looking for coffee and a bite to eat. In the awkward silence the victim's mother and I found ourselves standing alone on opposite sides of the corridor. I went over to her; the one whose son my own had killed.

They were only sixteen ... the thoughts in my mind went round and round, searching for some understanding, some reason why life had taken our two sons so young. Holding out my arms I approached the fragile woman with caution.

"We're in this together," I whispered.

The grieving mother hugged me back and then quickly released my

embrace. "I must go," she whispered. "My family will be coming back soon and they won't understand."

Within the hour we were called back into the courtroom and the judge announced the verdict.

"Guilty", he said. "Ten to life."

That night I cried myself to sleep. Brutal scenes from prison movies and stories of rape and violence flashed through my mind as the relentless sobs racked my body with grief. Towards morning I had a dream. The victim's mother was leaning over my bed compassionately holding out her arms to give me a hug.

'We're in this together,' she said, and I awoke with my arms reaching high in the air.

It was almost twenty years later before I saw the woman again. She had come for my son's parole hearing and was waiting for the proceedings to begin. Over the past several months, a mediator from the Restorative Opportunities Program had been helping my son communicate with her and her daughter through a series of letters. When the daughter agreed to meet with my son, two ladies from the program filmed their healing exchange and then brought it to my house for a private viewing. They also showed it to the victim's mother who lived across the country, near her daughter.

After watching the video, the victim's mother was so touched by the changes she saw in my son that she offered to speak on his behalf at his parole hearing. She also asked to meet privately with us after the hearing. It was during this time that the two Restorative Opportunities mediators helped the victim's mother and my son speak openly about the horrible night he killed her son. After so many years of keeping it all inside, my son was finally given the opportunity to express how sorry he was and offered to answer any and all questions the woman needed to ask. After a couple hours of frank discussion she turned to face me.

"And I want to apologize to you." she said. "Apologize to me?" I asked, rather shocked by her offer.

"Yes" she said. "I was so angry and hurt that I think I treated you poorly during the trial."

She looked relieved when I told her my only memory of her was our short exchange in the hallway outside the courtroom while waiting for the verdict to come in. I shared with her that, "I cried myself to sleep that night and towards morning I dreamed you were leaning over my bed to comfort me. 'We're in this together,' you said kindly, and when I awoke I was reaching up to hug you. I have no memory of your treating me poorly. In fact, I've been praying for you all these years that someday you might find forgiveness in your heart so you won't have to hurt so much anymore."

Just then, the victim's mother pulled out a plastic bag she'd been holding on her lap.

"I brought you a gift" she said, passing it to my son across the large oval table.

"A gift?" he replied, his wide-eyed surprise impossible to conceal.

"Yes, it's a dog," she said, as he pulled the small stuffed animal out of the bag.

"A dog Isaac! Just what you always wanted!" I said, recalling our prison visit conversations over the years.

"And when you get out I'm going to buy you your first real dog." the woman promised. Then, quite unexpectedly, she pushed back her chair and went around the table to embrace my son. Without a moment's hesitation he stood up to accept her hug. Before going back to sit down, the woman whispered something in my son's ear.

As the meeting came to a close the woman asked if she could continue to contact us to which of course, we both heartily agreed. Once everyone was gone I asked my son what the woman said to him while they were hugging.

Turning the little dog over and over in his hands he replied quietly, "She said, 'I forgive you.'"



Supriya Deas



Dona Cadman

## 2012/2013 VOMP STATISTICS

April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013

New Referrals accepted . . . . .	47
Active cases in process as of March 31, 2013 . . . . .	78
Victim Contacts . . . . .	1133
(telephone, written, in-person; includes support, therapy and after care)	
Offender Contacts . . . . .	229
(mainly in person at institutions; also includes telephone and written contacts)	
CSC Contacts. . . . .	1046
(case-relevant telephone, written and in-person contacts with various Corrections Service Canada personnel)	
Other Contacts . . . . .	462
(directly related to active cases)	
Face-to-face Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue meetings . . . . .	11
Cases which underwent significant work. . . . .	22

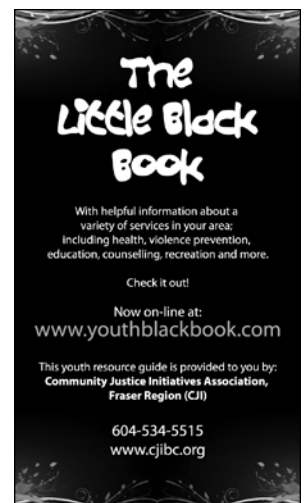
## The Little Black Book

The Little Black Book website (found at [www.youthblackbook.com](http://www.youthblackbook.com)) is the online version of our successful youth resource guide. The website version, now in its third year, continues to provide youth ages 13-18 years of age with helpful information about a variety of services including: health, violence prevention, education, counseling, recreation and more. It focuses on Langley, Surrey, Delta and White Rock, and is now expanding further into the Fraser Valley and greater Vancouver areas.

The Little Black Book website is an essential and beneficial tool for youth in our communities and is in great demand from schools, youth and community organizations. Each year CJI distributes over 10,000 information cards to schools and community groups. This

card includes the Little Black Book web address, important emergency phone numbers, and serves as a reminder that the Little Black Book list of resources are still available and only a click away.

CJI gratefully acknowledges The City of Surrey and Pacific Community Resources for the generous financial support of The Little Black Book website for 2012/2013.



## Training and Education

By Aaron Lyons, Training and Education Coordinator

This has been an exciting year for the Training and Education Program – and for restorative justice in British Columbia, Canada, and abroad.

CJI was honoured to be the recipient of a generous grant from the BC Ministry of Justice to deliver a series of training opportunities for leaders and representatives of each of the BC Community Accountability Programs. The purpose of the initiative is to deepen and enhance the capacity of community justice service providers in BC, increasing the skill of staff and volunteers to accept increasingly diverse and complex referrals. A 4-day course, entitled *Inviting Dialogue: Restorative Justice and Victim Offender Conferencing*, combines reflection on emerging research and theory in the field with intermediate to advanced facilitation training. During the fiscal year *Inviting Dialogue* was successfully delivered to restorative justice practitioners in the Lower Mainland/Sunshine Coast, Vancouver Island Region, Okanagan, and Kootenays – with training for Northern BC participants poised to begin at the time writing. I have been thrilled and humbled to collaborate in the delivery of this initiative with BC restorative justice luminaries Alana Abramson of North Shore Restorative Justice Society and Gillian Lindquist of Victoria Restorative Justice Society; Award-winning facilitator Alan Edwards, with Correctional Service of Canada's Restorative Opportunities Program for Serious Crime (based in Edmonton); and with BC Restorative Justice Coordinator Catherine Borgen (Ministry of Justice, Victim Services and Crime Prevention Division), whose insightful and creative leadership has been instrumental in bringing about this opportunity for restorative justice in BC. A quote from a recent training participant states "We need more of this! Thank you for your wonderful energy and fantastic work. This was valuable not only for restorative justice but life!"



Leadership staff at the Integrated Service Center for Reconciliation, Hong Kong

Restorative justice principles are reaching a broader Canadian audience than ever this year, thanks to a partnership between CJI and the Crisis and Trauma Resource Institute (CTRI) - a national training organization based in Winnipeg. Through CTRI's well-attended public workshops, CJI curriculum was delivered to a wide spectrum of organizational and community professionals in several cities throughout Canada in 2012/2013. Participants in these workshops bring vital elements of their learning back to their organizations – planting the seeds for the imaginative forward movement of restorative justice as it relates to organizational settings in Canada.

Over the years, CJI training courses have been sought after both within and outside of North America. In November this year, I had the opportunity to travel to Hong Kong to deliver a series of workshops for about 40 front line staff of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong, one of the city's largest social service providers. The workshops centred on restorative justice principles in school classrooms, restorative justice in the workplace, and finally a two-day customized course entitled *Working Restoratively with Victims of Crime*. In a field that has sometimes strayed from its own core principles by mirroring the offender-centric outlook of dominant criminal justice processes, the foresight of Hong Kong's restorative justice advocates to invest in this topic is truly commendable. CJI is grateful to Mr. Keswick Chuck of the Integrated Service Centre for Reconciliation for his vision – and for his invitation, translation, and warm hospitality in Hong Kong.



Hong Kong social workers practicing their new skills

I am encouraged to see the continued unfolding of CJI's leadership role in restorative justice education. I also look forward to another year of possibility, both within the Training and Education Program, and within the field of restorative justice as a whole.

## Restorative Justice is the LAW

Community Justice Initiatives Association and Heartspeak Productions released a film titled *Restorative Justice Is The LAW* in August 2012. Supported by findings from neurobiology, corrections and Constitutional and international law, the film illustrates that there are obligations and opportunities to respond restoratively at every level of the justice system and that the public interest is served when the processes meet human rights obligations and satisfy sentencing objectives set out in the criminal code. It is made clear that a collective dedication to social justice, unalienable human rights and citizen participation in the legal system are as vital to implementing restorative justice as understanding our interconnectedness and creating the conditions for healing in our communities. The film was funded by The Law Foundation of British Columbia. The film is available for online viewing and purchasing at [www.heartspeakproductions.ca/restorative-justice-is-the-law/](http://www.heartspeakproductions.ca/restorative-justice-is-the-law/)

## Board Chair's Report

By Fraser Simmons, CJI Board Chair

Life offers us few opportunities to have a significant and lasting impact on others. Even rarer are opportunities to radically transform lives for the better. Yet this is the day-to-day work of CJI. After a quarter century of teaching peaceful approaches to resolving conflict and bringing peace and healing to those affected by serious crime, the CJI team is still going strong and still inspiring those whose lives it touches.

One of the many stories of CJI's remarkable work was told at the fundraising event in November 2012. Twenty years earlier, Dona Cadman's son, Jesse, had been murdered by Supriya Deas' son, Isaac. At the fundraiser, Dona and Supriya shared their story of how CJI's Victim Offender Mediation Program (VOMP) had brought them together and helped transform them from adversaries to two mothers sharing a journey together to promote restorative approaches.

The Board members want to acknowledge the challenges CJI faced this year, including an expanding workload and the departure of Sandi Bergen. Everyone on staff pitched in to respond to the increased demands and cover new responsibilities. Susan Underwood was added on a part contract basis to help with VOMP.

The CJI Board members were pleased to have Mark Hughes join us. Mark brings practical criminal justice experience and a new perspective to our discussions. All the Board members look forward to continuing to work with CJI staff on the visioning exercise and succession planning, and to broadening our community outreach and fundraising opportunities.

### Board of Directors 2012/2013

<b>Fraser Simmons</b> Retired; Senior Manager National Parole Board; Counsellor and Psychology Instructor	<i>Chair</i>	<b>Jeff Christian</b> Independent Consultant in Criminal Justice, Human Rights and Corrections; Past Chair of Kent Institution; Retired Correctional Services Canada employee	<i>Director</i>
<b>Fae Chato-Manchuk</b> Retired; Vice Chair of BC Parole Board; Group Therapist – female & male offenders	<i>Vice Chair</i>	<b>Vic Derksen Siemens</b> Self Employed Contractor; Agriculturalist	<i>Director</i>
<b>Alison McVeigh</b> School Trustee, Langley School District; Self-Employed	<i>Secretary</i>	<b>Dan Bennett</b> Self Employed; Realtor	<i>Director</i>
<b>Scott Nichols</b> Business Office Manager	<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>John Unrau</b> Retired; High School Teacher; Hospital Chaplain; Pastor	<i>Director</i>
		<b>Mark Hughes</b> Business Client Manager	<i>Special Advisor</i>

### Staff 2012/2013

<b>Sandra Bergen</b>	<i>Co-Director Administration, VOMP Mediator &amp; Trainer, retired December 2012</i>	<b>Aaron Lyons</b>	<i>Facilitator, Trainer, VOMP Mediator</i>
<b>David L. Gustafson</b>	<i>Co-Director Administration, VOMP Mediator &amp; Trainer</i>	<b>Dan Basham</b>	<i>School Program Coordinator</i>
<b>Susan Underwood</b>	<i>VOMP Mediator, Contract Staff</i>	<b>Rose Wilson</b>	<i>Administrator</i>
		<b>Jennifer Siemens</b>	<i>Office Manager, Bookkeeper</i>

CJI's 2012/13 Staff (left to right):  
Dave Gustafson, Dan Basham,  
Sandi Bergen, Aaron Lyons,  
Rose Wilson, Jennifer Siemens,  
(inset) Susan Underwood



## Community Support

The continued support of individuals, organizations, foundations and community groups helps sustain CJI's programs. The Board of Directors and Staff would like to acknowledge and extend appreciation to these contributors:

BC Ministry of Justice  
Coast Capital Savings  
Community Investment  
Correctional Service of Canada  
Edith Lando Foundation  
Langley Mennonite Fellowship  
Langley School District #35

Langley School District  
Foundation  
Law Foundation of British  
Columbia  
Pacific Community Resources  
Society  
TD Bank (Walnut Grove)

## November 2012 Fundraiser

Community Justice Initiatives' (CJI) Fundraiser Dinner on November 2, 2012 was a great success! Dona Cadman and Supriya Deas, the main speakers, shared their stories and involvement with CJI in the aftermath of a murder involving both of their sons.

Dona and Supriya first met in a courthouse under the most difficult of circumstances. Dona's son, Jesse, had been murdered by Supriya's son, Isaac. Many years later, in a meeting facilitated by staff from CJI's Victim Offender Mediation Program, they spoke again. Dona and Supriya's telling of the story of their journey from the pain and anguish of losing a son and of being the parent of a teen who has committed a violent offence, to a place of healing, hope and peace was moving and inspiring.

Thank you to everyone who was in attendance for your amazing financial support. We also want to thank the many sponsors who supported this event with donations of goods and services. We are very grateful for your generosity.

## Quotes

### From a trauma survivor who participated in the Victim Offender Mediation Program:

*"CJI and their Restorative Justice programs put me on the path to peace. VOMP guided me through a peaceful conversation that enabled me to get answers to questions long unanswered. I was able to ask why it happened to me, and for the very first time, I was given reasons. Those reasons gave me understanding, with understanding...came peace."*

### From school personnel after participating in training conducted by Educating for Peacebuilding staff:

*"The whole school model of restorative practice - social responsibility is basic to everything we do at school. It was a good reinforcement/reminder in September about the importance of creating a sense of community in the classroom where children feel safe to express their feelings."*

### From a student:

*"Thank you for giving me the chance to be a part of this and learn so much. It has made me look at life in a completely different way and it's because of this (training)."*



(left to right) Sandi Bergen, Supriya Deas, Dona Cadman, Dave Gustafson

### Auction Donors:

Cactus Club Café – SouthPoint	Cathie Douglas
John & Marlene Unrau	Ho-Ming Chan
West Central Building Supply	Langley Chrysler
BC Lions Football Club	Krause Berry Farms
Fraser River Safari	

