



Bringing People Together

Our Vision

Partners in Restorative Initiatives envisions a community in which restorative principles and values are known, respected and utilized to build relationships, repair harm, and strengthen communities.

Our Mission

Partners in Restorative Initiatives works to implement restorative practices in schools, communities and the justice system through advocacy, education, training and facilitation.

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Annual Report

January 1 – December 31, 2014

Partners in Restorative Initiatives

Dear Friends,

In spring 2014, Partners in Restorative Initiatives put on our most successful restorative practices conference ever at the Rochester Institute of Technology. We received rave reviews on the quality of the major presenters and the variety and content of the breakout sessions. We extend a wholehearted thank you to our local and national presenters, our colleagues at RIT, and all the wonderful volunteers who took the time to make this conference such a success.

The summer was filled with a large number of peace circle and community conference training programs for city and suburban schools which kept Jeanne Carlivati and the members of the education/schools committee very busy. Their activities continued into early fall with a major roll out of restorative practices at Northeast Middle School and Northwest High School at the Douglass Campus. A growing awareness on the part of the community and local school personnel has highlighted the need to use restorative practices to build relationship with students, parents, teachers, and administrative staff in our schools.

We hope you will take a moment to read our revised Mission and Vision Statements to the left of this message. We feel they more clearly reflect the message and the spirit of Partners in Restorative Initiatives. We have also shared Our Values in this report which we hope give the community our assurance that everything we do is grounded on sound principles.

We welcome your feedback on this Annual Report and look forward to continuing to serve the Greater Rochester and Western New York area.

Peace,

Kathy Sweetland,
Board President

Our WORK

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

- Partners in Restorative Initiatives continues its long-standing affiliation with the Rochester Restorative Youth Diversion Collaborative, meeting with representatives of local agencies and the Rochester City School District monthly to identify alternative responses to schools addressing youth who are involved in school discipline, criminal behavior and other transgressions. The collaborative is exploring the use of non-retributive sanctions to address recent studies focusing on the devastating consequences of 'zero tolerance', which use punitive suspensions and sanctions that increase the likelihood of future incarceration. With the imminent change in the age of criminal responsibility, the group is working to help shape the options available to our youth and to encourage the use of restorative initiatives in school disciplinary practices.

In an effort to expand the resources available to the Courts Program, our community conference facilitators affiliated with the Center for Dispute Settlement this past summer. Under the name Monroe County Restorative Community Conferencing Program, the work of the group continues to be supported by Partners in Restorative Initiatives under an agreement that fosters a collaborative working relationship among community organizations that share a common cause.

The NYS Public Defenders Association has approached Partners in Restorative Initiatives to explore the possible development of a program that addresses the plight of our returning military personnel who sometimes become involved with the criminal justice system. A working alliance between the NYS Public Defenders Association, the Monroe County Restorative Justice Community Conferencing Program, the Center for Court Innovation, and Partners in Restorative Initiatives has been established. The group's next step is to meet with essential local stakeholders to discuss the feasibility of such an initiative.

President

Kathy Sweetland

Vice-President

Mary Reed - January - June
Ed Minardo - June - December

Secretary

Jeanne Carlivati

Treasurer

Russ McDonald

Member at Large

LaVerne McQuiller Williams

Board of Advisors

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Maria Casapini
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Gail Ferraioli
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Turi Gilbert
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Ann Howard
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William Keller
Cordula Kennell
Kit Miller
Joan Mitchell
Jim Mulley
Alan Newton
Kirby Trask
Sherry Walker Cowart
Tim Weider

Staff

Executive Director

Carlos Garcia - January - June

Office Manager

Michelle Woodworth

Bookkeeper

Linda Flannery

RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY WORK

• Our work with Project HOPE's drug free streets initiative, Project INSPIRE, continued with several training opportunities provided for neighborhood residents throughout the spring and summer. Project HOPE attempted to secure additional local funding without success and the program began to wind down during 2014 as the grant funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation was due to end in the fall. Subsequently Project HOPE was successful in obtaining a six month extension of the grant from October 2014-March 2015.

Partners in Restorative Initiative's participation in Facing Race, Embracing Equity initiative continued throughout the year and led in the fall to our engagement with a newly formed Community Task Force on School Code and Climate. We are involved with the task force's Professional Development workgroup which is exploring the learning opportunities that need to be provided to school personnel in the coming years.

RESTORATIVE SCHOOL WORK

• Partners in Restorative Initiative's education/schools program achieved some major milestones this year. With two contracts with the Rochester City School District in hand and nine certified trainers onboard, the board was able to pay our certified trainers a small stipend for their work in our training program beginning in July 2014. We are pleased to be able to give back to our trainers in this way after they have dedicated so many valuable hours of their time to restorative practices.

The awarding of the RCSD contracts, which include both staff and student training and the provision of ongoing donor support, served as the catalyst that allowed us to pay our certified trainers. These accomplishments strengthened our ability to respond to the ever-increasing requests for restorative practices in local and regional school districts.

Members of the education committee also collaborated with the planning team from the University of Rochester's Warner Graduate School of Education in planning

for the implementation of restorative practices at East High School beginning in September 2015.

Our training program in the summer of 2014 proved to be just as busy as past summers. Funding from a local foundation made it possible for us to provide comprehensive circle training for a number of school psychologists and social workers from RCSD. Circle training for staff and students at Young Women's College Prep Charter School and staff training at Rochester Career Mentoring Charter School and #17 School were each funded by a family foundation.

Significant training for students and staff in peace circles, academic circles, community conferencing, and restorative discipline occurred for Churchville Chili Central School. Training for administrators and support staff from Honeoye Falls-Lima School District was provided. Brockport Central Schools engaged in community conference training for administrators and support staff. Requests from more than ten schools were received for either a conflict circle with a particular classroom or group of students or a formal community conference for more serious wrongdoing.

Members of the education committee were asked to provide: circle training for the staff at Oswego BOCES; an overview of restorative practices for support staff at Clifton Springs; a circle experience for a group of student mentors at York Central; a review of how to use a peace circle for staff from RCSD; and a presentation to a group of graduate students and staff from the Warner Graduate School of Education on the importance of restorative practices.

We continue to support and collaborate with Avon Central School District which is in its 10th year of instituting restorative practices. In fact, two certified facilitators from Avon Central provided training in Family Group Decision Making at Partners in Restorative Initiatives for the first time this past summer.

**2014 RESTORATIVE PRACTICES
CONFERENCE**

• Partners in Restorative Initiatives brought several of the most highly regarded practitioners in the field of restorative

practices to our Transformations: Empowering Youth and Communities through Restorative Practices conference at Rochester Institute of Technology. Participants at the conference came from the Greater Rochester area and Upstate New York to learn about and embrace the expert guidance offered by sujatha baliga, director of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency's Restorative Justice Project; Kay Pranis, who along with Carolyn Boyes-Watson, co-wrote Heart of Hope and Circle Forward: Building a Restorative School Community; Lauren Abramson, executive director of the Community Conferencing Center in Baltimore; and Carolyn Boyes-Watson, director of the Center for Restorative Justice at Suffolk University.

Planning for the conference involved many months of diligent work by a host of dedicated volunteers including: Mary Reed who chaired the group that identified and recruited our speakers, Katherine Schaefer who chaired the planning committee, Vicki Burns who lined up volunteers to work at the conference, and LaVerne McQuiller-Williams who served as our on-site liaison at RIT, as well as Bob Insull, Jeanne Carlivati, and Ed Minardo who served on both committees. Our office manager Michelle Woodworth managed all the logistics ensuring that our guests were accommodated comfortably and worked with LaVerne to make sure that all the conference arrangements were in place. We were especially proud of the work provided by volunteer Debbie Clune who served on the planning committee and developed the conference program with the help of graphic designer Maia VanOrman.

Sponsorships for the conference were provided by the Marian and Max Farash Community Foundation; the College of Liberal Arts and the Department of Criminal Justice at Rochester Institute of Technology; The Mediation Center; the School of Health and Human Services and the Center for Civic Engagement at Nazareth College; St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish; the Department of Criminal Justice at SUNY Brockport; Rochester Hearing and Speech Center; the Dean of Students Office at the University of Rochester; Accelerated Mailing Services, Inc.; Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society (Roc/ACTS); and Clarity Mediations.

We are deeply indebted to our volunteers and donors for the success of the conference, our education program, our community initiatives, and our restorative justice programs. Without them, we would not be able to bring restorative practices into the lives of so many people.

Integrity

We adhere to an internal system of principals which helps individuals think and behave in a moral and ethical manner.

Inclusivity

We offer a welcoming space in which all voices can be heard.

Listening

We encourage people to listen well and make a genuine effort to hear each person's story.

Voluntary Participation

When each participant comes voluntarily to a circle, the integrity of the process is maintained.

Honesty

Each person in a circle is asked to speak honestly from their own experience, not that of others.

Respect

We respect each participant in a circle and hold each one in high esteem.

Confidentiality

We demonstrate mutual trust in a circle by keeping what is shared confidential and by not sharing information outside of the circle.

Accountability

We help participants accept meaningful and tangible responsibility for their actions.

Donors

Partners in Restorative Initiatives could not exist without the financial support of our donors. We would like to thank those who donated in 2014.

Individual Donors

Wilbur & Anne Bontrager	Jonathan Leon
Steve & Vicki Burns	Madge Ludwig
Jeanne Carlivati	Bernadette Mack
Ben & MJ Ebenhack	Vicki Meek
Richard Grant	Joan & Peter Mitchell
Fred & Judith Halley	Edward Nowak
Ann Howard	Mary Reed
Todd & Sandra Jantzi	Pamela Rodriguez
William Johnson	Sylvia Rose
Sue & Victor Klassen	Marjorie Sexton
Norman & Donna Leder- man	Dan Thompson Bernadette Weider

Organizations

Rochester Mennonite Fellowship
Farmington Friends Meeting
Spiritus Christi Church
United Way
Rochester Area Community Foundation
Joseph & Irene Skalny Charitable Foundation
Mt. Olivet Baptist Church
Rise Up Rochester

2014 Restorative Practices

Conference Sponsors

Rochester Institute of Technology, College of Liberal Arts
and The Department of Criminal Justice
Max & Marian Farash Charitable Foundation
Rochester Hearing and Speech Center
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish
Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society
Nazareth College, Center for Civic Engagement and
the School of Health and Human Services
Maria Casapini
The Mediation Center
Divorce and Family Mediation
Julie Mersereau Esq.
Greene Mediation Group, LLC
Peace of Christ Parish
Gail Ferraioli, Clarity Mediations
Accelerated Mailing Services, Inc
University of Rochester Office of Dean of Students
The College at Brockport, Department of Criminal Justice

Get Involved

Be part of a growing number of people dedicated to safe and peaceful communities through building respectful relationships, resolving conflict, repairing harm and promoting healing. We need volunteers to help us with the work of Partners in Restorative Initiatives by:

- **Serving on committees: Finance, Marketing and Communications, Schools, Courts, Community Outreach. Committees typically meet monthly.**
- **Helping in our office**
- **Becoming facilitator/trainers, especially to support work in schools and the community**
- **Supporting our newsletter – writing, photography**
- **Working on special events**

All volunteers receive our monthly newsletters, information about restorative practices in the community, invitation to special events and the opportunity to participate in the trainings offered by Partners in Restorative Initiatives.



United Way
Designation #2486

Financial Summary

Fiscal Year January 2014 – December 31, 2014

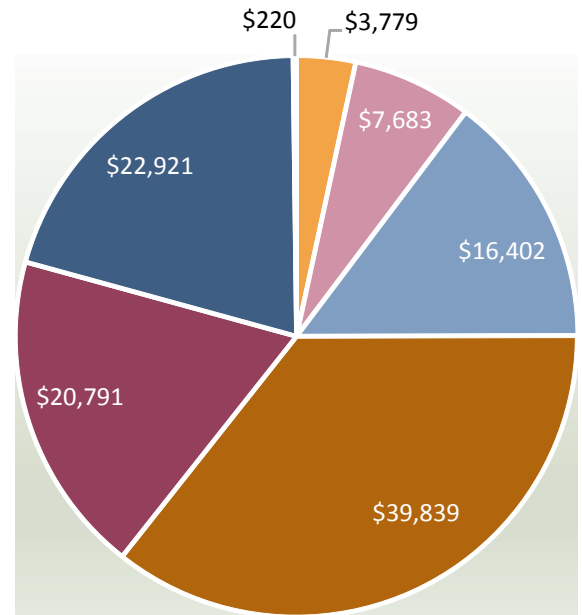
Income

Individual donations	\$3,779
Organizational donations	\$7,683
Grants	\$16,402
Programs & Training	\$39,839
2014 Conference	\$20,791
ED Compensation Fund	\$22,921
Other Income	\$220
TOTAL	\$111,635

Expenses

Salaries, Contracts, Employer Tax	\$68,101
Program expenses	\$6,978
Operation expenses	\$11,811
2014 Conference	\$8,370
Other Expenses	\$2,514
Insurance	\$5,364
Professional CPA Services	\$2,850
TOTAL	\$105,988
Net Income	\$5,647

INCOME CHART



Cash Balances as of December 31, 2014

Checking	\$25,000
Savings	\$147,884
Fixed Assets	\$11,264
Total Assets	\$184,148

Liabilities and Equity

Current Liabilities	\$18,249
Equity -opening balance	\$33,645
Deferred Income for 2014	\$75,484
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$51,960
Net Income	\$4,808
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$184,148

Grants Received

RACF Next Gen	\$1,000
Skalny Family Fund	\$10,000