

## What participants have said about Restorative Justice:

“Very helpful to understand other points of view and how everyone felt at the time.”

*-Victim of a Crime*

“It helped me solve and have something to say, instead of having a judge do it for me.”

*-Juvenile Offender*

“Each person was able to give their side of the story.”

*-Family Member of a Victim*

“It gives the kids a chance for kids to think about their mistakes before the situation gets worse.”

*-Family Member of an Offender*

“Having to pay the money and face the victims was hard, but very worth the end result.”

*-Family Member of a Offender*

“I hope this program will be continued and expanded.”

*-Victim of a Crime*

**In the first year of the program:  
100% of participants  
reported the program was  
helpful in their case.**

**restorative  
justice**  
community center  
P.O. Box 2783  
Silver City, NM 88062

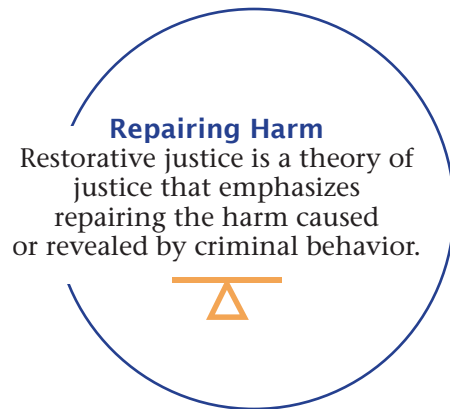


**Giving Voice  
Repairing Harm  
Restoring Relationships  
Bringing Balance**

Restorative Justice combines new and old approaches to creating and building the common link that bonds a community. The practices provide balance so all voices may be heard, and open the way for empowerment, transformation, and restoration.

**P.O. Box 2783 • Silver City, NM • 88062  
505 534 0336 • RJCC@RJNM.ORG**

The Restorative Justice Community Center (RJCC) of Southwestern New Mexico is a community-based effort introduced in Grant County in July 2004 to provide a balanced way of responding to crime by involving those affected by and involved in crime along with the community in finding ways to repair the harm.



### Three principles form the foundation for restorative justice:

- 1 Justice requires that we work to restore those who have been injured.
- 2 Those most directly involved and affected by crime should have the opportunity to participate fully in the response if they wish.
- 3 Government's role is to preserve a just public order, and the community's is to build and maintain a just peace.

### Restorative Justice Practices:

The principles of Restorative Justice inform all these practices, which involve face-to-face meetings of those involved and affected by crimes, and are facilitated by specially trained staff. The focus is on taking responsibility and putting things right.

**Mediation** allows those involved in and affected by a crime to meet face-to-face with a trained mediator who helps the parties decide together what will best repair the harms done.

**Community/Group Conferences** are meetings of the people involved in and affected by a crime along with members of their families and/or community and a trained mediator.

**Community Justice Circles** are a way of building community that may or may not focus on the specifics of any one crime. A Community Justice Circle involves people from many parts of the community. The underlying assumption of the circle process is that the responsibility for dealing with crime lies with the larger community, not just the persons and families directly involved or affected by a crime.

### Outcomes of Restorative Justice:

Those affected by the crime face those who committed the crime, allowing them to:

- express the impact on themselves,
- get answers to questions no one else can answer,
- gain closure and move on.

Those who committed the crime:

- take responsibility for their actions,
- are accountable to the community,
- make written agreements,
- gain support in making things right.

The community is involved in the process of restoration and justice.



### Restorative programs are characterized by four key values:

**Encounter:** Create opportunities for all parties, and community members who want to do so, to meet to discuss the crime and its aftermath

**Amends:** Expect offenders to take steps to repair the harm they have caused

**Reintegration:** Seek to restore victims and offenders to whole, contributing members of society

**Inclusion:** Provide opportunities for parties with a stake in a specific crime to participate in its resolution