

Current Staff Positions

Administration

Robert Peters, Acting Director
Timothy Boenne, Assistant Director
Billi Beery, Financial Manager
Brittany Welles, Administrative Assistant

CMP

Charity Ortman, Coordinator

CSRP

Fred Koeppel, Coordinator
Becky Elias, Caseworker
Jeff Fater, Crew Supervisor
Mike Stellingwerf, Crew Supervisor

FMP

Kristin Brandon, MSW, LCSW
 Coordinator

GPIP

Susanne Walker Graham, MSW
 Coordinator

SSP

Fred Koeppel, Coordinator
Becky Elias, Caseworker
Jeff Fater, Crew Supervisor
Mike Stellingwerf, Crew Supervisor

VIP/SVIP/AVIP

Becky Elias, Coordinator

Volunteer Services

Billi Beery, Coordinator

VORP

Connie Caiceros, Coordinator
Anne Lehman, Caseworker
Charity Ortman, Caseworker
Kelly Neff, Caseworker

Program Volunteers

Amy Bjornsted
Angie Wireman
Anne Cabbage
Anne Karn
*Bob Peters**
Eileen Yoder
Emily Chalupa
Frances Ringenberg
Freda Nolen
Glenda Hurst
*Glenn Cobane**
Grace Goorhouse
Herman Washington
Isaac Beachy
Jeff Newcomer-Miller
Jennifer Kalb
*Jolene Von Gunten**
Joyce Hoffman
Kelly Miller
Kelly Neff

Lorrie Bjornsted
Marlane Huber
Matt Tschetter
Megan Yoder
Merritt Lehman
Michael Swallow
Morgan Kraybill
Patrick Kakanu
Rachel Friesen
Rachel Koontz
Rosemary Marcon
Sarah Thiessen
Teresa Cataldo
Terry Berg
Tom Bjornsted
Tonda Hines
Tony Hurst
Virgil Claassen
Ximena Medellin

*Volunteers in more than one capacity.



Contributors

07/01/08 – 06/30/09

Anne Cabbage
 Assembly Mennonite Church
 Bob and Geraldine Peters
 Dawn Buckwalter
 Eldon and Donna Balko
 Ethel K. Umble
 Eva Mancewicz
 First Congregational UCC
 George A and Arlene Mark
 Gordon and Phyllis Hostetler
 Harold and Catherine Hartman
 Hively Avenue Mennonite Church
 James W. Rieckhoff
 Kathryn Meyer Reimer
 Kristin Brandon
 Mark and Rebecca Duesenburg
 Marvin and Norma Riegsecker
 Mennonite Foundation
 FBO Steve and Anne Herendeen
 Merritt and Dierra Lehman
 Michael and Marlane Huber
 Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey K. Church
 Nancy Lefever
 Richard Stout
 Ruth Ann Gardner
 Teall Tax Service
 Tim and Joyce Boenne
 Tim and LeAnn Balko
 Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Elkhart
 Virgil and Louise Claassen
 Welch Packaging

Current Board of Directors

President

Teresa Cataldo, Attorney

Secretary

Jolene Von Gunten
 Former VORP Caseworker, Volunteer

Treasurer

Virgil Claassen,
 Retired Director of Business and Finance
Anne Cabbage,
 Pastor, First Congregational Church, UCC

Tonda Hines

Title I-Parent Support & Elkhart City Councilwoman

Jennifer Kalb

Teacher, Goshen Community Schools

Merritt Lehman,

President, Lehman Financial Group

Michael Swallow,

Marshal, Bristol Police Department

Herman Washington,

Pastor, Full Gospel Fellowship

2009-2010 Budget

Revenues

Indiana Department of Corrections	\$ 170,000
Client Fees	\$ 185,300
Elkhart County Commissioner's Grant	\$ 25,000
Indiana Criminal Justice Institute	\$ 5,000
Elkhart City Parks	\$ 15,000
Office of Family & Children Services	\$ 2,500
Drug Free Community Funds	\$ 9,928
Foundations & Private Contributions	\$ 106,750
Courts	\$ 15,125
Elkhart City Downtown	\$ 7,500
Miscellaneous Funding Sources	\$ 2,475
Total Revenues:	\$ 580,578

Expenditures

Salaries, Wages & Benefits	\$ 445,466
Electronic Monitoring Services, Drug & Alcohol Screen Testing	\$ 21,500
General Operating	\$ 113,612
Total Expenditures:	\$ 580,578

Website Address

www.centerforcommunityjustice.org

Center for Community Justice

2008-2009 Annual Report

Over 25 years ago, a group of enlightened citizens brought to Elkhart County a philosophy based on the belief that the justice system could do a great deal more in healing the injuries caused when one person violates the life space of another individual. This philosophy has been the underlying basis for the programs offered at the Center for Community Justice.

This past fiscal year has again been one where many positive things have happened to the clients that we serve. In this annual report, we have listed the various programs and statistics indicating the accomplishments of our programs. We have served over 5,400 people, and a large percentage of these individuals have moved from criminal activities to become productive citizens, contributing to the building of this community. Our dedicated staff has worked diligently in order to achieve our goals, and as citizens, we are all better off because of their hard work.

Due to not receiving 2009-2010 grant funds from the Indiana Department of Corrections to support the Home Incarceration (HIP), Community Transition (CTP) and Juvenile Reparation (JRP) Programs, CCJ's budget for the new fiscal year has decreased by 57%. In addition to releasing staff in the programs that have been transitioned to the Elkhart County Community Corrections, we have also made significant cuts in administrative personnel. The office space that was used to house our HIP, CTP and JRP programs has been leased to Elkhart County Community Corrections which will generate some rental income.

Financial support from organizations and individuals is crucial in these economic times. For information on how you can help by making a contribution or by volunteering your time and talents, please visit our website at www.centerforcommunityjustice.org.

Bob Peters Acting Director



Photo Courtesy of Jesse Beery



Office Location

121 South Third Street
 Elkhart, IN 46516
 Phone (574) 295-6149
 Toll Free (800) 318-6159
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Mission Statement

The Center for Community Justice serves Elkhart County by providing programs, based on the principles of Restorative Justice, which strengthen community safety, provide support and compensation for victims, aid in the restoration of offenders, and promote reconciliation among victims, offenders and the community.



Programs and Services



Community Mediation Program (CMP)

Since 1999, CMP has provided mediation services to members of the community who are involved in small claims litigation. With the help of a mediator, parties work through their dispute to find a mutually satisfactory solution without/avoiding the need for trial. Mediations frequently include landlord/tenant, business/customer, employer/employee or interpersonal disputes. CMP staff is also available to facilitate mediations for the community and businesses outside of the court and is developing a sliding fee scale.

	07/08	08/09
Total persons served:	229	218
# of mediations:	97	97
% reaching agreement:	62%	66%
# of trials avoided:	60	64

Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP)

Since 1978, VORP has worked to empower crime victims and to hold offenders accountable for the harm they caused. The VORP process assists the parties in identifying that harm and creating a contract through which reparation can be made. If the victim wishes, this process may involve a face-to-face meeting between the victim and offender, facilitated by staff and volunteer mediators. Staff then monitors the fulfillment of all contracts.

	07/08	08/09
Total persons served:	1,251	1,641
# of negotiated contracts:	205	249
# of mediated contracts:	40	47
% of meetings resulting in contract:	100%	100%
# of contracts fulfilled:	187	200
Successful contract completion rate:	73%	78%
CSRP hours worked at victims' request:	259	408
Restitution paid to victims:	\$103,777	\$125,293

Guided Family Intervention Project (GFIP)

Since 2002, GFIP has been providing both the framework for families to identify underlying family issues and the necessary structure required to empower lasting change with juvenile status offenders and their families. As an alternative or diversionary opportunity, families engage in affordable and accessible counseling services utilizing a brief, solution-focused family therapy model implemented by a Master's level clinician. This effort has been effective in reducing or eliminating the client's further involvement in the juvenile justice system. This year, GFIP launched an addition to the program to include counseling services for all members of the community with fees based on a sliding scale reflective of household income.

	07/08	08/09
Total persons served:	153	98
Probation / Prosecutor:	265	177
% of cases closed successfully:	77%	66%
% of cases closed unsuccessfully:	23%	34%

Volunteer Services

Community Service Restitution Program (CSRP)

Since 1979, CSRP has provided an opportunity for judges in Elkhart County to give offenders community service instead of idle jail time. Staff interview clients, place them in government or non-profit worksites and monitor their progress as they make real and symbolic restitution to the community.

	07/08	08/09
Total persons served:	1027	1340
# of worksites:	193	200
# of service hours worked:	44,203	42,342
Successful completion rate:	67%	74%

The Center values the contributions of community members who give their time and talents to support our mission. Their efforts are indispensable; specific programs and the agency as a whole simply could not function without them. They provide an essential link between the vision of the Center and the community we serve. The Volunteer Coordinator, a staff position since 2002, matches the unique abilities of willing individuals with vital roles within the agency.

	07/08	08/09
# of volunteers:	36	38
# of volunteer hours:	351	444
# of interns:	5	6
# of intern hours:	1615	1922

Family Mediation Program

The Family Mediation Program (FMP) began as a pilot program in cooperation with Superior Judge David Bonfiglio in June, 2008. Mediation is provided for families who are working through issues of divorce and custody based on a cooperative parenting model. Mediation provides the opportunity for parents to devise a framework to resolve logistical and emotional issues that adversely impact their children.

	08/09
Total Families served:	75
# of successful cases:	65
# referred back to court or other services:	10
% Success rate:	87%



Over 5,400 Clients Served



Adolescent Victim Impact Panel (AVIP)

Since 1999, AVIP has provided an opportunity for volunteers to present their stories of the consequences of drinking or using other drugs and driving to young people who have committed an alcohol or drug-related offense. The panel brings substance abuse and safety to the forefront, encouraging parents and teens to discuss these difficult issues. AVIP also presents panels to schools, driver education classes and other organizations as requested.

	07/08	08/09
Total persons served:	371	352
# of presentations:	7	6
# of adolescents served:	187	175
# of parents served:	184	177

School Suspension Project (SSP)

In September, 2005, the Center started SSP. Staff work with juveniles that are on probation and suspended or expelled from school. As a consequence to being suspended or expelled, a probation officer can send the juvenile to the Center to perform 6 to 8 hours of community service for every day the probationer is not in school. The Center will continue to work with the juvenile probation department and area high schools on this program.

	07/08	08/09
Total persons served:	82	60
Total worksites served:	10	5
Total hours worked:	2,358	1,855

Victim Impact Panel English & Spanish (VIP)

Since 1993, VIP volunteers, consisting of victims, family members or offenders who have caused driving accidents while impaired, speak of the consequences of impaired driving to people who have been charged with driving impaired offenses. The goal of this program is to help make our community's roads safer and to change participants' thinking about driving while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

	07/08	08/09
Total persons served:	1005	961
# of presentations:	17	18
# of offenders:	873	822
# of guest attendees:	132	139

Community Transition Program

In July, 2003, the Center assumed responsibility for Elkhart County's Community Transition Program. CTP helps individuals make a successful transition from life behind bars to life in our community. CTP staff provides supervision and assistance while encouraging clients to develop the skills and self-confidence to face their unique challenges. Staff work with clients to ensure their short-term needs - food, shelter and employment - are met. They also support clients as long-term issues and goals are addressed including addictions, mental health and creating a support network.

	07/08	08/09
Total clients served:	89	117
# discharged from program:	99	93
# of successful completions:	86	84
# of unsuccessful completions:	13	9
# of prison days diverted:	7,458	7,258
Taxpayers' savings from prison:	\$335,610	\$486,286
days diverted (at \$45 per day):		

Home Incarceration Program (HIP)

Since 2000, HIP has provided a local alternative to incarceration. Staff guide clients through a process of examining risk factors to avoid further involvement in the criminal justice system. The goal of the program is to impact the daily lives of clients by helping them understand the consequences of negative behavior and the rewards of living productive crime-free lifestyles.

	07/08	08/09
Total persons served:	468	576
# of adult clients:	303	444
# of juvenile clients:	165	132
# discharged from program:	317	436
# of successful clients:	205	314
# of unsuccessful clients:	112	122
Successful completion rate:	65%	72%

Juvenile Reparation Program (JRP)

Since 1988, JRP supervises chronic and serious juvenile offenders while they develop and execute a plan to redirect their lives. Offenders are challenged to "make things right" by making reparations to their victims, the community, and themselves. Offenders are empowered with decision-making skills and learn from the direct effect of those choices. Most clients spend approximately six months working through this process with the close support and supervision of program staff.

	07/08	08/09
# of juvenile offenders served:	25	27
# of service hours worked:	811	529
Restitution paid to victims:	\$3,658	\$903
Successful completion rate:	68%	57%
# of new crimes while in program:	4	2

Student Interns

Julia Gingrich	VORP
Brent Handfield	VORP
Sara Hoefler	VORP
Stephanie Sidener	GFIP
Alison Yoder	CTP
Laura Sharp	CTP/HIP