Designing Restorative Responses

One Size Does Not Fit All

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Two Canadian Success Stories

• RestART – a restorative response to the problem of graffiti in Vancouver

• North Vancouver Restorative Justice Society
  – Restorative response program for youth and adults
Two Approaches

• Model Driven
  – Use of one model
  – Volunteers trained in one model
  – Preparation with participants includes
    • Suitability screening
    • Explanation of model
    • Preparation for participation in the model of choice

• Values based
  – A variety of approaches available
  – Volunteers provided training where they are experiencing RJ and spend time exploring values, self-awareness, and a variety of tools
  – Initial meetings with participants are exploratory in nature
Volunteer Training

• Values & Philosophy of Restorative Justice
• Facilitation Skills, Case Development, and Process Design
• Empathic response and active listening
• Case preparation
• Victim-Offender Mediation, Conferencing, Conciliation
• Stress management, self-awareness
• The contemporary criminal justice system
• Multicultural issues
• Victimization and Trauma
• Spirituality
• Suicide Awareness
• Mental Health
Exploratory Meetings

• What happened?
• How were you and those you care about impacted (physically, emotionally, spiritually, financially, mentally)?
• How do you feel about what happened?
• What has happened since?
• What do you need to be able to start to heal from this?
North Vancouver Restorative Justice Society

Our belief statement....

• Restorative justice responses involve an individualized approach to crime and conflict which is based on a set of values and principles that seek to include victims, offenders, and communities of care.
Restorative Justice Practices
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Graffiti in Vancouver
Objectives:

• To utilize processes based on the values and principles of restorative justice to...
  – bring together varying perspectives in dialogue
  – raise awareness about the impacts of graffiti
  – facilitate reintegration, acceptance and connection for youth
  – encourage collective responsibility in finding solutions to illegal graffiti in Vancouver
Stakeholders

- Illegal graffiti writers (youth & adults)
- Art community
- Victims (business, local transit authorities)
- Police – Antigraffiti Unit
- Local business representatives
- Community and social service resources
- Legal graffiti-style artist mentors
- Restorative justice advocates
- Academics
- Volunteers who care about youth and community
Objectives:

- To increase youths’ skills and channel these abilities and talents towards legal opportunities.

- To utilize a creative, interactive, experiential approach to learning and community building.
How does it work?

• *Interviews and commitment secured with youth and stakeholders*

• *Other referrals made, if necessary*

• *Other tasks related to their offense completed (apology letters, graffiti clean-up, victim reconciliation)*

• *Four-day RestART workshop, which includes the production of a mural on a public wall commissioned by the city.*
Workshop Topics

- Defining and conceptualizing graffiti
- Victimization – the impacts of graffiti on the writer, property and business owners, and the community
- Addiction
- Empathy
- Self-esteem building
- Communication
- Cooperation
- Community-building
- Mural planning
- Legal graffiti opportunities
- Mural production, budgeting, and talent development
Giving Back to the Community
Restart Successes
Additional Outcomes

- Low recidivism
- Self referrals and subsequent participation in Restart by past participants
- Word of mouth
- New and improved relationships between all stakeholders
- Employment opportunities
- Facilitation training
- Advisory board opportunities
- Feature in Wall-to-Wall: A Tour of Mural Art in Vancouver, a book that was published by the City of Vancouver
Thank you and questions...
Resources – on graffiti

• Bombing Science, [www.bombingscience.com](http://www.bombingscience.com)
• Pure Graffiti, [www.puregraffiti.com](http://www.puregraffiti.com)
• Visual Orgasm, [www.visualorgasm.com](http://www.visualorgasm.com)
Resources – on restorative justice

- Centre for Restorative Justice, Simon Fraser University: [www.sfu.ca/crj](http://www.sfu.ca/crj).
- St. Leonard’s Society of Canada (over 60 restorative justice web sites listed): [www.stleonards.ca/biblio/bilbio.htm](http://www.stleonards.ca/biblio/bilbio.htm).