

Benefits of Being a Victim-Offender Conference Facilitator

As a Victim-Offender Conference Facilitator you will receive much satisfaction from the reconciliation and healing that occur between parties who may have considered themselves adversaries.

Managing your own case load, you will have responsibility for working with victims and offenders on your flexible, but timely, schedule. As a Facilitator you will:

- Understand the challenges and opportunities associated with victimization.
- Learn to value different kinds of personalities/ cultures.
- Facilitate dialogue between victims and offenders.
- Assist victims and offenders in identifying options for addressing the harm.
- Have flexibility in determining your volunteer hours.
- Help make our communities safer through lower recidivism rates.
- Fine-tune your interpersonal communication skills.

What our volunteers say:

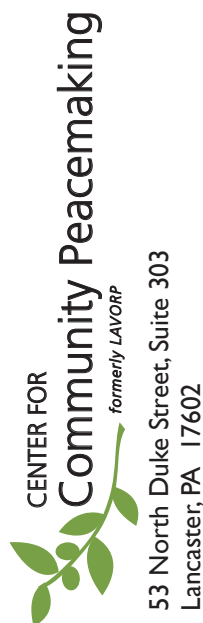
“I have attended many workshops and seminars. This is the best ever.”

“Keep up the great work.”

“The first night’s role play convinced me that the process works – and you trusted us to make it work. Thanks so much for your excellent leadership.”

“After working with many cases, I still get ‘goose bumps’ when I see the transformation that comes over victims and offenders at conferences.”

“Appreciate the new knowledge I gained and feel that I have made some valuable friends and connections.”



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Volunteer as a Victim-Offender Conference Facilitator

Our Mission

To foster peacemaking and the resolution of conflict through the teaching and implementation of Restorative Justice values and principles.

**BUILDING COMMUNITY...
PEACE BY PEACE**

VOLUNTEER AS A FACILITATOR

What the Center for Community Peacemaking Is and What Facilitators Do

“Do Justice – Love Mercy” ~ Micah 6:8

The Center for Community Peacemaking is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that practices Restorative Justice. Crime is a violation of people and interpersonal relationships. Violations create obligations and an obligation is best addressed by making right the wrong. While the justice system deals with the legality of a crime, Victim-Offender Conferencing addresses the harm that comes to the victim, offender and community.

Impartial Facilitators empower victims and offenders to take unique and highly active roles in the justice process. They lead face-to-face meetings between victims and their offenders. Facilitators apply their training and skills to help both those harmed and those responsible for the harm to talk about the incident, address the harm that was done, and build trust to resolve realistic and brighter futures for both.

Victims

Facilitators manage a process that encourages victims to tell offenders how it feels to experience the shock, anger, sadness, and life-altering experience of crime. Victims explain the impact of the crime, which offenders rarely get to understand. Those harmed get answers to their questions about the crime from those directly responsible for it. Victims work toward closure in face-to-face meetings in an emotionally and physically safe setting.

Offenders

Facilitators help offenders face the real human and financial effects of their actions. Facilitators encourage offenders to accept responsibility for the harm they have caused, learn the impact of their actions, take steps “to make things right,” and return to the embrace of their families and communities.

Successes

Trained Facilitators make a difference. Victim-Offender Conferences have a 95 percent success rate. Offenders are 50 percent less likely to commit another crime.

CCP FACILITATOR TRAINING

Instruction

The Victim-Offender Conference 28-hour volunteer training program is comprehensive and challenging, and is recognized by human services providers in the community as superior. It is led by qualified instructors and guest speakers.

Training includes lectures, large and small group discussions, role-playing, evaluations, “hands-on” apprenticeships, and other activities designed to help volunteers to be top-notch Facilitators.

Preparation

Victim-Offender Conference Facilitator training includes:

- Active listening skills
- Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) concepts
- Diversity issues in mediation
- Facilitator responsibilities
- Juvenile Justice System
- Offender accountability
- Offender mindset
- Overcoming concerns
- Restorative Justice vs. Traditional Justice
- Victim experience/empathy
- Victim restoration
- Role playing with experienced Facilitators
- Mentoring during initial case work

Fees: For those who become Volunteer Facilitators the fee is \$95 for the course. If taking the course for professional growth, the fee is \$250.

Background Checks: Upon completion of training, volunteers will be asked to apply for a Criminal Background Check and a Child Abuse Clearance.

Qualifications: Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, willing to work with people of other cultures, organized, patient, impartial, committed and have good people skills.

Interested in Volunteering?

Visit www.ccp.org and peruse the web site.

Then click on “Volunteer Opportunities” for training dates and instructions.

Other Programs of the Center for Community Peacemaking

- Making Peace (*Strategies in Conflict Resolution for Youth*)
- Circles of Support and Accountability (*Reducing Reoffending of Sexual Offenders*)
- Peacemaking Circles (*Resolving Conflict in Various Community Settings*)

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The Center for Community Peacemaking “...takes a holistic, system-wide view of the social situation, includes all players in solutions, affirms the dignity, worth and uniqueness of every human involved and their capacity for growth and change; its dynamic is strength-based and empowering.”

~*The Journal of Religion and Spirituality in Social Work*



CENTER FOR
Community Peacemaking

formerly LAVORP

53 N. Duke Street, Suite 303

Lancaster, PA 17602

Phone: 717-397-2404

Fax: 717-397-5502

Email: voc@ccp.org

www.ccp.org