



“MAKING THINGS RIGHT”

March 2009

2009 ANNUAL DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION
WILLOW VALLEY RESORT/CONFERENCE CENTER
APRIL 16TH - REGISTRATION DEADLINE – APRIL 10TH
(See Page 3 for Silent Auction Details and Page 4 For Dinner Reservation Form)

Jon Singer, Executive Director
Ken Nissley, Case Manager
Carol Steffy, Administrative Asst.



Dave Mueller, Director, JP

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (2009 Annual Dinner)

The Board of Directors of LAVORP has established the *Restorative Justice Achievement Award* to be given annually to that individual or organization whose contributions have significantly impacted the advancement of the knowledge and practice of Restorative Justice principles in Lancaster County.

The 2009 recipient will be the Lancaster County Juvenile Probation Department. Accepting the award will be Dave Mueller, Director.

LAVORP has been closely associated with Juvenile Probation since 1995 when the late President Judge Richard Eckman authorized referrals to LAVORP and Earl Stoudt was Director. LAVORP is proud to be in partnership with Juvenile Probation. Without the close relationship between LAVORP and Juvenile Probation, Restorative Justice would not be as well known as it is today.

Please join us and 300+ others at the Willow Valley Conference Center on April 16, 2009, to learn more about Juvenile Probation’s contribution to Restorative Justice in Lancaster County. See Page 4 for Reservations



Master of Ceremonies

Ron Martin is a member of WGAL’S News 8’s award-winning team. He co-anchors “News 8 at 5” and “News 8 at 6” with Kim Lemon and “News 8 at 11” with Janelle Stelson.

Ron was born and raised in York, where he attended city schools and graduated from William Penn High School. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Throughout his college career, he served as a desk assistant for NBC News in the nation's capital.

Upon graduation, Ron became a reporter for WSBA Radio in York. In the 1980s, Ron joined WHP-TV as a reporter and fill-in anchor.

He later became a member of the News-Center 8 team, initially working out of WGAL's Harrisburg newsroom. Ron then returned to his hometown to oversee coverage out of the newly opened York newsroom. While continuing his job as a reporter, Ron became a weekend anchor and then assumed his weeknight anchor position.

“Do Justice- Love Mercy”
Micah 6:8



Keynote Speaker

Howard Zehr is a Professor of Sociology and Restorative Justice, Conflict Transformation Program at Eastern Mennonite University. Prior positions were with the Office on Crime and Justice, MCC and Founder/ Director, Elkhart County, Indiana Center for Community Justice, organized in 1978, the first United States Victim Offender Reconciliation Program.

Howard has presented numerous lectures, workshops and trainings on victim offender conferencing, restorative justice and other criminal justice issues internationally. He is the author of many articles and books, being particularly noted for **Changing Lenses, The Little Book of Restorative Justice and, Transcending: Reflections of Victims of Severe Violence**, the latter which features Howard’s work as a professional photographer.

Howard holds a Ph.D. from Rutgers University and describes himself as “one of early formulators of the Restorative Justice philosophy.” Please join us for his talk on “*Deep and wide flows the river Restorative Justice - What it is, why it ‘works,’ what we can learn from it.*”

Missouri Supreme Court Judge Endorses Restorative Justice

(Cites Evidence of Less Reoffending)

No politician ever got into trouble for wanting to build more jail cells or enacting tougher criminal punishments. Few prosecutors ever were punished for seeking a maximum sentence, nor judges for throwing the book at a defendant.

Locking up convicts — the longer the better — has been seen as a sure way to promote political careers, protect job security and pacify communities fearful of crime.

That may be changing. A new kind of “truth in sentencing” movement is underway. It is based on the premise that it isn’t how long a criminal defendant spends behind bars that’s important, but whether the community is safer if he’s put in prison.

There’s mounting evidence that being “tough on crime” — especially regarding *non-violent offenders* — actually makes communities *less* safe.

Missouri Supreme Court Judge Michael Wolff, who chairs the state Sentencing Advisory Commission, is a leading evangelist for what he calls “evidence-based sentencing.” That’s when judges use hard data on a criminal convict’s risk of reoffending as a key element in the decision whether to mete out jail time.

In a speech last year at New York University Law School’s Brennan Center of Justice, Mr. Wolff noted that 50 percent of inmates in Missouri prisons are non-violent offenders. Working with researchers at the Missouri Department of Corrections and the Department of Probation and Parole, he collected data on offenders convicted of non-violent felony theft.

The data show that 45 percent of those sent to jail or prison — even for

as little as 120 days — reoffend. But only 19.1 percent of those sentenced to probation or community service commit additional crimes.

“There is a strong case to be made that the large increase in prison population has made us less safe,” Mr. Wolff said. “If we put non-violent offenders in prison with violent offenders, the non-violent do seem to learn from the violent.”

If the public thinks “rationally about what’s in our own best interests — i.e. public safety,” he added, we should “pay particular attention to which sentences work to reduce recidivism.”

Progressive judges and corrections officials aren’t the only ones taking notice. Grass-roots community groups, religious service organizations and a growing number of civic-minded lawyers have become involved in the movement that diverts non-violent offenders from the conventional justice system, often soon after they are charged.

The concept is called “restorative justice” and it gives offenders a chance to face the community directly — and especially their victims — to accept responsibility for their actions and make amends.

In Springfield, Mo., Greene County Prosecutor Darryl Moore, a longtime prosecutor with a no-nonsense reputation, has built a restorative justice program for non-violent adult offenders — in both misdemeanor and felony cases.

Mr. Moore is convinced such programs make offenders “more accountable” and, above all, that they give victims “a greater satisfaction.” He’s working state lawmakers on legislation that confirms the authority of prosecutors statewide to engage in restorative justice and that protects community groups that participate.

As if keeping the public safer wasn’t reason enough to explore these programs, an added bonus is that restorative justice programs cost less

than locking up a person in prison. The inconvenient truth in sentencing is that the public may be safer when non-violent offenders are kept out of prisons.

*Published on Friday, January 23, 2009
by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

2009 SPRING TRAINING DATES

If you’ve been putting off taking LAVORP’s Volunteer Facilitator Training, now is the time to mark your calendar. Dates are as follows:

Tuesday, April 14th - Orientation

6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.

Friday/Saturday, April 25th & 26th

8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Sunday, April 27th

1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Saturday, May 2nd

8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Sunday, May 3rd^h

1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

To learn about LAVORP’s Restorative Justice Program and the benefits of becoming a volunteer, visit us at www.lavorp.org and click on *Volunteer Opportunities*. Then call 397-2404 to arrange a time to meet with the Executive Director.

Annual Dinner to Feature Victims and Offender

As has been customary at the Annual Dinner, the 2009 Annual Dinner will feature victims and an offender who reconciled through LAVORP.

Moderated by Ron Martin, Master of Ceremonies, this year’s vignette will feature a young adult who, as a juvenile, stole and damaged vehicles taken from a used car dealer.

Come and learn how the victims and offender (and mother) became friends and the offender has become a regular customer of the victims!

Always a heartwarming part of the dinner, this year will be no exception.

Contributors

LAVORP is grateful for the support of the following that have made contributions during the period November 14th through February 12th.

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Strasburg Mennonite Church
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www.lavorp.org

SPEND YOUR NEXT VACATION IN ECUADOR!!

The LAVORP 2009 Annual Dinner
(April 16th) Will Feature
The Third Annual
SILENT AUCTION!
DON'T MISS OUT ON A CHANCE
FOR A ONE-WEEK STAY FOR 7
IN A VACATION HOME IN THE
ANDES MOUNTAINS OUTSIDE
OF QUITO, ECUADOR
(LODGING ONLY). FOR A
TRAVALOGUE VISIT
WWW.LAVORP.ORG
AND CLICK ON "EVENTS"

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED!!

Barbie Dorsey, Chair, is asking for your help.

First, is there something you can provide for the auction that would have appeal to the attendees and have a retail value of \$25 or more (art, gift certificates for dining, etc., jewelry, pottery, time share, vacation spot, collectibles, etc.)? Not sure what to donate? How about those gifts that you just can't find a use for. Re-gift them to the Silent Auction!

Second, through your personal contacts are there businesses that you know whom you could make direct solicitations for a contribution to the Auction?

Third, Barbie is in need of some volunteers to contact various businesses, etc. (ones that you won't be calling on), to ask for donations for the Auction. The nice thing about this is that you don't have to figure out who to contact. Barbie has a ready list of those who have already given items to other Auctions

If you are able to assist Barbie and LAVORP, please call the LAVORP office and we will have Barbie get in touch with you about delivery or pick-up arrangements. If you wish, you can drop off your items at LAVORP (call first, please), 53 N. Duke St., Room 303, Lancaster.



Room 303
53 N. Duke Street
Lancaster, PA 17602

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LAVORP'S ANNUAL DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

APRIL 16, 2009

***** Dinner Reservation Form *****

Willow Valley Resort and Conference Center

Silent Auction: 4:30 P.M. - Dinner: Registration: 6:00 P.M. – Served 6:30 P.M.

Name(s) _____

Phone Number _____

Address: _____

Zip _____

Dinner:

_____ Table(s) Sponsor @ \$200 per table of 8*	\$_____
_____ Gold Sponsors @ \$50 each *	_____
_____ Silver Sponsors @ \$40 each*	_____
_____ Bronze Sponsors @ \$30 each*	_____

Please accept my/our regrets and this contribution for the great work that you do. _____

Total Enclosed \$_____

* To help others learn how lives are changed and communities made safer through LAVORP's peace work, please be a Table Host and invite some friends, family, and/or co-workers to join you. If you wish, sponsor them or ask your guests to go "Dutch Treat." Please write guests' names, addresses, and phone numbers on a slip of paper and include it with your Registration.

Send Registration Form and check to: LAVORP- 53 N. Duke St., Room 303, Lancaster PA 17602, by April 10, 2009