

CHILLIWACK RESTORATIVE JUSTICE



2023/24 ANNUAL REPORT

www.restoringjustice.ca



OVERVIEW

We engage with the community to repair and prevent harm and conflict through restorative circles and interactive teaching.

We believe in accountability and connection. We want to repair harm and establish a culture of restoration and reconciliation in our schools and communities.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Chair: Edna Warick

Board Vice Chair: Mike Straiton

Secretary: David Swankey

Treasurer: Kelly Velonis

Directors: Erik Johnson

Dan Bibby

Alyson King

Brian Martin

Ex Officio: Darlene Wahlstrom (Victim Services)



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

As Chair of the Board, I am pleased to welcome you and thank all of you for coming together as a community in support of Chilliwack Restorative Justice. I would like to recognize and acknowledge the contributions of so many to the important work that we do. This is our opportunity to share with you some of the achievements and works in progress that we have addressed this past year, 2023-2024.

As you know, Chilliwack Restorative Justice has been providing services for 25 years to the communities of Chilliwack, Agassiz, Harrison, Hope and Boston Bar, though primarily within the Chilliwack area. Twenty-five years is indeed something to celebrate, which we did earlier this spring at our 90's Gala.

The Restorative Approach to justice is fundamentally about a "relational world" and how we connect together as individuals within a community. This approach is not just a practice or set of procedures but a "philosophy", or lens about ways that we relate to each other in a social democratic system.

I want to acknowledge the tremendous effort and dedication of the TEAM that makes this happen.

Thanks to the Board Directors for guiding the ship. Continuing Directors are Mike Straiton, Kelly Velonis, David Swankey, and Dan Bibby. This year we welcomed Alyson King and Erik Johnson. New Directors being voted in today are Brian Martin and Leah McIntyre. Thanks to those who left us this past year: Sherry Mumford, Malcom Strybos, Janit Doyle, and Emily Masse.

Thanks to the dedicated staff team who made everything happen. Thanks to our Executive Director,

Steve Roukema, for his vision, passion, enthusiasm and energy. He is an endless source of ideas! I would like to acknowledge the work of Rose Yan who continues to coordinate the Circles program with skill and finesse. Kate Fitzner took on the key role of bookkeeper and kept the office running. Danielle Otermat off on leave right now, organizes and works with our school partners in SD#33.

Leah Mammel connects with our community and helped make the gala a big splash. Melanie Baumstark, in a new position this year supports the mentors in the Circles program. Thanks to the bike Shop staff: Alecia Kasper (Sales Coordinator), Mark Stewart (Head Bike Mechanic), Dale Kropp (Mechanic) for creating such an inviting and dynamic space.

Thanks to the team of Volunteer Facilitators who dedicate their time and expertise to navigate the Restorative Circles process of healing and repairing harm. Thanks also to the Bike Shop volunteers for their time.



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

I would like to acknowledge our key community partners who collaborate and support our work: The City of Chilliwack for their generous financial support including the office space we inhabit; Chilliwack SD#33 for their contributions and partnerships in the Schools program; the RCMP who are committed to the Restorative Justice process.

Thank you to all the supporters, donors and sponsors for your generous contributions.

It has been a busy, productive and sometimes challenging year as we grow, and undertake new initiatives.

Our Restorative Response program (Circles), the fundamental core of Restorative Justice, is focused on repairing harm by restoring relationships, making reparation and helping to build a community of well-being. We are committed to reviewing our program to determine the program impact for the clients we serve. We want to not only prove through our evidence that the outcomes are being met but also to help in the pursuit of continual improvement.

Our Schools Program developed and delivered in partnership with Chilliwack School District #33 is in its 3rd year of implementation. This year we have been able to expand the number of schools thanks to the contribution of SD#33. Our work in classrooms is designed to help students learn and develop skills to navigate the complexity of their worlds.

This past year (Sept 2023) we launched our storefront Restorative Cycles program, the Bike Shop.

For a number of years lost or stolen bikes received from the RCMP were sold in an annual fundraiser. We were grateful to the United Church for donating a space to store, refurbish and sell the bikes. In spring, we were informed that the building was being torn down so we moved to a new location. We are currently in the process of reviewing our first year of operation as a storefront.

Our fundraising included our second year of organizing Operation Red Nose as well as the Spring Gala event. We reviewed our Strategic plan and completed two Policy/Procedure Manuals, Operations and Administration. The Board engaged in a day long Board Development Workshop to clarify and help guide us in fulfilling our fiduciary roles and responsibilities. A Governance Framework was developed and approved. The restructuring of our Board committees ensures alignment with our Strategic Plan goals.

In closing, I would like to thank all the members and supporters of Chilliwack Restorative Justice who contribute to the very important work we do to help make our community a stronger, safer place. I am honoured to be a part of the team.

Edna Warick



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

GROWTH

My third year as Executive Director proved to be a year of growth with strengthened and new partnerships, an increase in volunteers, and funding initiatives to meet the need for restorative action in the UFVRD. Celebrating our 25th year, Chilliwack Restorative Justice experienced growth at the staff level as we went from 2 fulltime and 1 part time Coordinator to 3 full time and 2 part time Coordinators. In addition, we had 3 part time staff on permanent contracts, and 9 staff on temporary contracts. For most of the 2023/24 fiscal year, Chilliwack Restorative Justice had 18 (including me) people on the staff team to complete and grow the restorative impact necessary to build a safer city and fulfil the goals set as a non-profit, charitable organization

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Our continual three-year plan that began in 2022 has allowed the board and staff to stay focused on what is important to the mission and vision of Chilliwack Restorative Justice. With a focus on growth and financial stability, we continue to engage with the community to repair harm and prevent crime and conflict through restorative circles and interactive teaching. Our community presence has grown, and more students are learning the value of restoring relationships. Building a safer city through proven methods of restorative action will continue to be successful with the support of volunteers, donors, and organizations within the Upper Fraser Valley Regional District.

SCHOOL RESTORATIVE RESPONSE

The continuation of the School Restorative Response program in September 2023 allowed our School Coordinator, Danielle, to be in 15 schools to provide students with an opportunity to learn how to deal with conflict in classroom settings in 460 Peace Circles. The partnership with School District 33 has developed well and we look forward to building on what has been established to more schools in Chilliwack.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RESTORATIVE RESPONSE

As the foundational program of our organization, Restorative Response has increased in referral rate with Rose as the Coordinator. A more efficient process of documents in and out of the office with volunteers and staff has allowed us to complete circles with confidence. An increase in trained Facilitators has prepared us for more restorative circles to be completed in a professional and timely manner, and for the community to know that restorative justice works to create a safer city. The pilot program, Restorative **Mentorship**, continues to provide community opportunities for those involved in restorative circles! In January, we hired Melanie on a part time, one year contract to build the program to the success it is today with the volunteer Mentors.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

This past fiscal year, Chilliwack Restorative Justice has made significant strides in enhancing community safety and engagement, led by Kate as the part time Community Coordinator. Our participation in summer community events further raised awareness about restorative justice practices. We successfully completed our second year of Operation Red Nose, offering safe rides during the holiday season and are thankful for the efforts of Leah to lead over 80 volunteers. The 25th Anniversary Gala was a milestone, celebrating our legacy and deepening community connections. Networking with key partners in the community has broadened awareness of our initiatives, reinforcing our mission to build a safer, more compassionate city.

RESTORATIVE CYCLE

Our Community Bike shop, Restorative Cycle opened to the public September 9th, 2023! After selling bikes through auctions for the past 10 years, we began the process of operating a store front with the long-term goal to provide affordable and refurbished bikes to the public and create an additional revenue stream for restorative justice. Over 150 bikes have been donated to Restorative Cycle, and 370 volunteer hours completed. This past year we have sold 163 bikes and donated 54 bikes to those in need. The board continues to work on the long term efficacy of the community bike shop and the impact it will have to repair harm and prevent crime.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers continue to be a key part of our growth, development, and effectiveness as we emphasize the value of communities working together to repair harm and prevent crime. With over 30 volunteers actively involved and trained in their specific areas, we are equipped to provide offenders with a crime free life and victims be heard through the restorative process. Thank you for your service and commitment to building a safer city through relationships and that make a difference.

FUNDING

An increase of over \$230,000.00 in revenue was received this past fiscal year as we saw more foundations/organizations provide funds through grants \$313,000, fundraising \$26,939 and individual donations \$52,583. As our funds increase, so too does our ability to positively impact the UFVRD with restorative action in your community. Thank you for your support!

DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Thank you, Board Members, for your diligence and commitment to greatness. Thank you as well to all our donors and supporters. Without you we would not be able to pursue our mission of restorative impact and opportunities in the Upper Fraser Valley to create safer communities and connection for all involved.



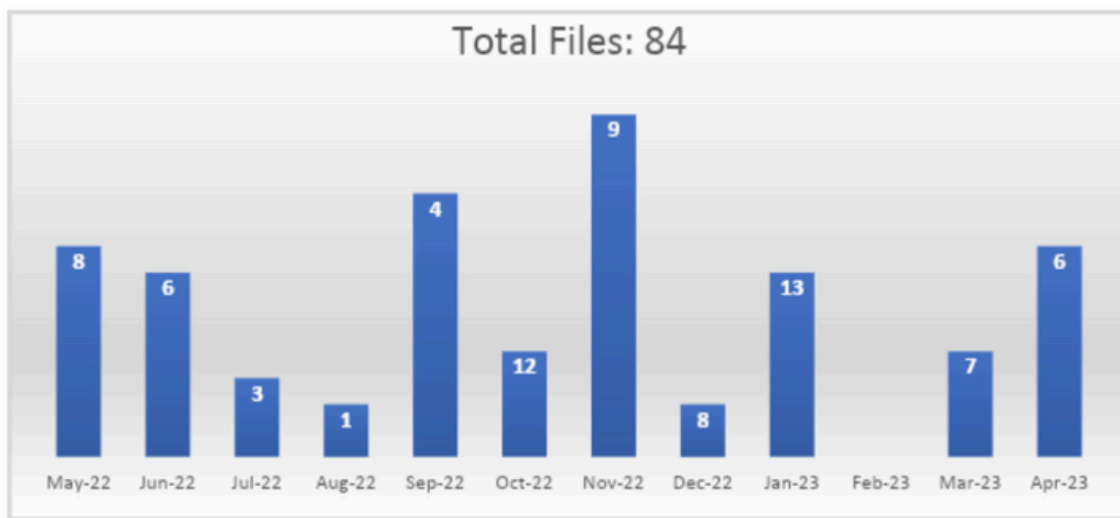
Steve Roukema
Executive Director



RESTORATIVE RESPONSE

BACKGROUND

A total of 84 files were referred during the fiscal period of May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024



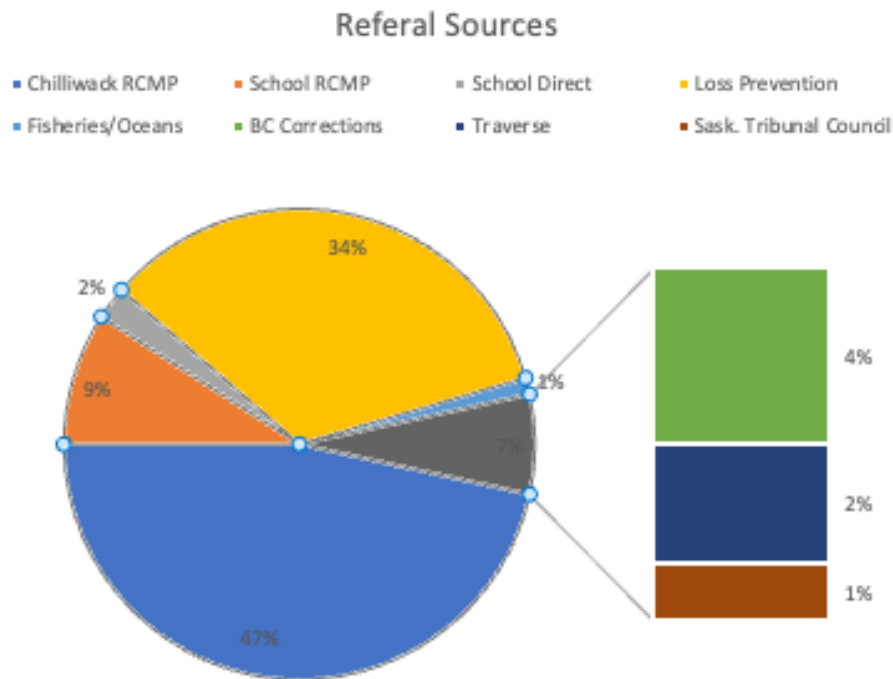
REFERRAL SOURCES

Chilliwack Restorative Justice serves the communities within the Upper Fraser Valley (Chilliwack to Boston Bar). Most recently, preliminary discussions were initiated through meetings with the following stakeholders regarding direct referrals: Crown Counsel – Drugs (Possession for the Purpose of Trafficking under 10 grams); BC Probation; Downtown Chilliwack Business Improvement Association; and Indigenous Justice.

Of the 84 file referrals, 41 were made from Chilliwack RCMP; 8 School RCMP; 30 Retail Loss Prevention Officers (Real Canadian Superstore); 1 Fisheries & Oceans Canada via Crown Counsel; 3 BC Corrections; 2 School Direct referrals; 2 Traverse Direct Referral; 1 Saskatoon Tribunal Council.



RESTORATIVE RESPONSE



TYPES OF OFFENCES

Of the 84 file referrals,

39 involved Theft Under \$5000 (retail shoplifting; internal thefts; and theft of personal/public property).

14 involved of the Mischief Under \$5000 files involved vandalism against public (parks, schools...) and private property.

Of the 12 Assault files, 5 involved youths aged 12-17 years old.

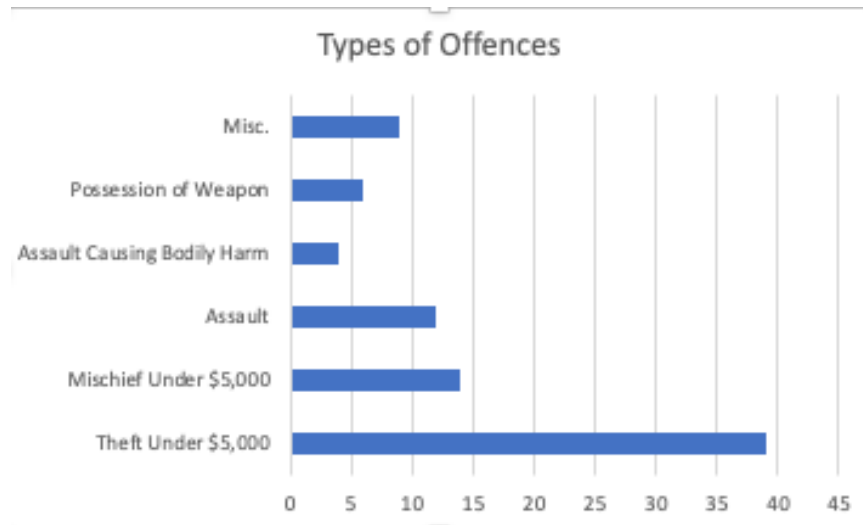
6 Possession of a weapon

4 Assault causing bodily harm.

The 9 remaining files involved: uttering threats; extortion; identity fraud; Theft of Auto; Fisheries Violation; Racial Insult; and Possession of Pornography.

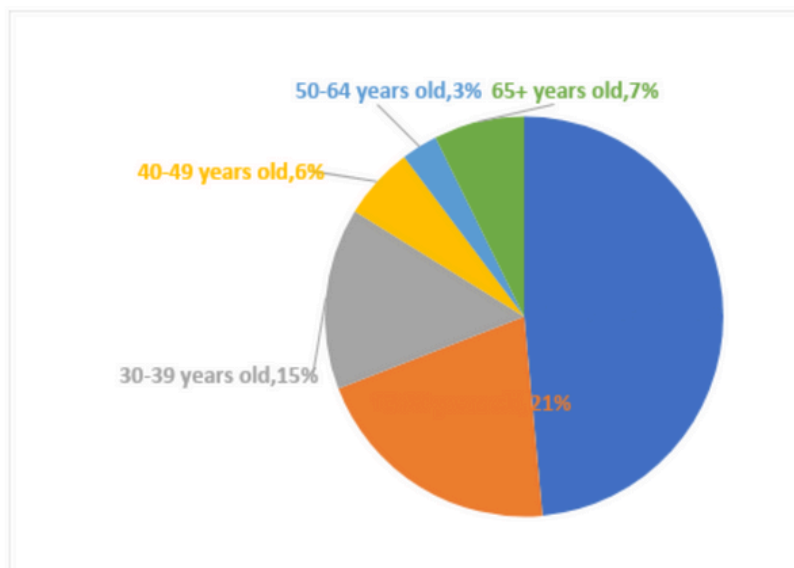


RESTORATIVE RESPONSE



AGE RANGE

The age ranges for the 84 file referrals were as young as 12 years old and up to 65+ years. Youths aged 12-17 years old accounted for 39 of the files and 45 were adults. Most of the youth files involved some form of physical assaults, while the majority of the seniors were involved in shoplifting. Younger adults aged 18- 29 years old were involved in 14 (21%) files. The remaining age ranges were as follow: 30-39 years old - 10 (15%); 40-49 years old – 4 (6%); 50-64 years old – 2 (3%).



RESTORATIVE RESPONSE

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FORUMS

Chilliwack Restorative Justice offers two different restorative response models: Community Accountability Panel (CAP) and Victim Offender Conferencing (VOC). The CAP model is used when either the Harmed Party (both direct and indirect) does not wish to participate or crime(s) against businesses/retailers with no direct harmed parties. The VOC model is used when both the Responsible Party and direct Harmed Party are willing and able to participate. It is a face-to-face meeting facilitated by trained restorative justice volunteers involving Responsible Party(s); Harmed Party(s); and primary supporters.

During this reporting period, a total of 40 CAPs and 44 VOCs were conducted.



The total amount of office administration hours recorded for the 84 files was approximately 210 hours, with an average of 2.5 hours per file. Administration hours include duties involved in file setup; phone intakes; file management; and file closures.



RESTORATIVE RESPONSE

A signed Resolution Agreement may include one or more of the following terms: a written or verbal letter of apology; restitution; community service hours; written essay; research; resume; counselling; referrals to other community resources/programs; monetary donations; and creation of auction items.

VOLUNTEERS

A total of 28 volunteers were involved in Lead Facilitator; Co-Lead Facilitator; and/or Mentor roles. Twenty of those volunteers completed a minimum of 18 hours of VOC training for a total of 360 hours. Thirteen of those volunteers completed 6 hours of CAP training for a total of 78 hours. Sixteen of those volunteers completed 11 hours mentorship training for a total of 176 hours.

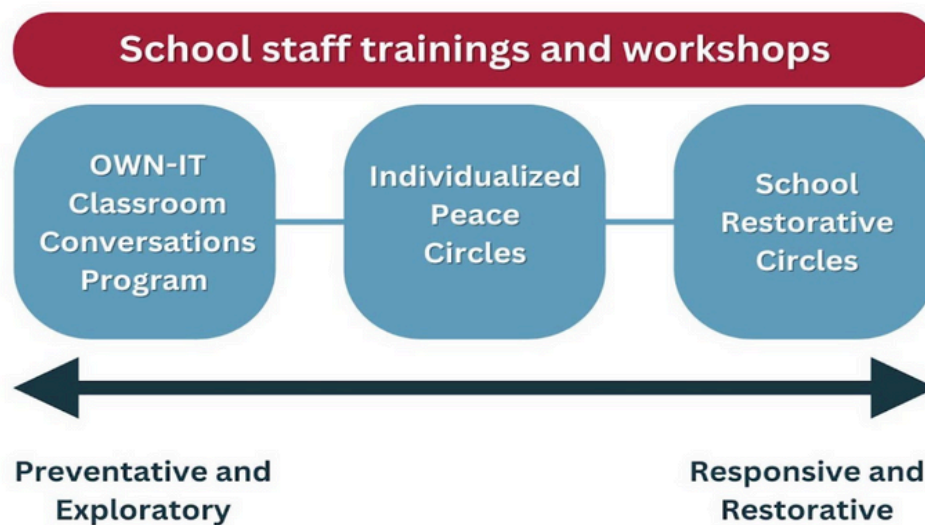


RESTORATIVE SCHOOLS

Overview

The 2023-24 school year saw the continuation of the Restorative Schools Program following an impressive year of programming. For the Restorative School Program's return, the focus has been to have programs offered encompass the full spectrum from preventative and exploratory to responsive and restorative. With this focus in mind, the Restorative Schools sector supported schools by offering:

1. OWN-IT Classroom Conversations Program
2. Individualized Peace Circles
3. School Restorative Response Circles
4. School staff trainings and workshops



OWN-IT Classroom Conversations Program

The OWN-IT classroom conversations program is a full-classroom peace circle program with 8 sessions geared towards building healthier class relationships, and communication and conflict resolution skills through interactive teaching and circle-based dialogue. In this program, 2 trained classroom facilitators led these classroom circles alongside the classroom teachers throughout the school year.



RESTORATIVE SCHOOLS

The Restorative School Team delivered the OWN-IT Classroom Conversations Program to 14 schools, with 56 classrooms involved total. Each classroom experienced a monthly 1-hour circle followed by a teacher debrief with the classroom facilitator. The first term allowed for 8 sessions to be concluded by the end of the term in February. A new cycle of 8 sessions began for the second school semester with 8 sessions and end at the end of June. The schools involved with the OWN-IT Classroom Conversations Program for the 2023-24 school year were:

Watson Elementary School

Vedder Middle School

A.D. Rundle Middle School

Mt. Slesse Middle School

Unsworth Elementary School

Cultus Lake Elementary School

Evans Elementary School

Rosedale Traditional School

Stitó:s Lá:lém Totí:lt Elementary / Middle School

Little Mt. Elementary School

Strathcona Elementary School

Chilliwack Middle School

Bernard Elementary School

Central Elementary School

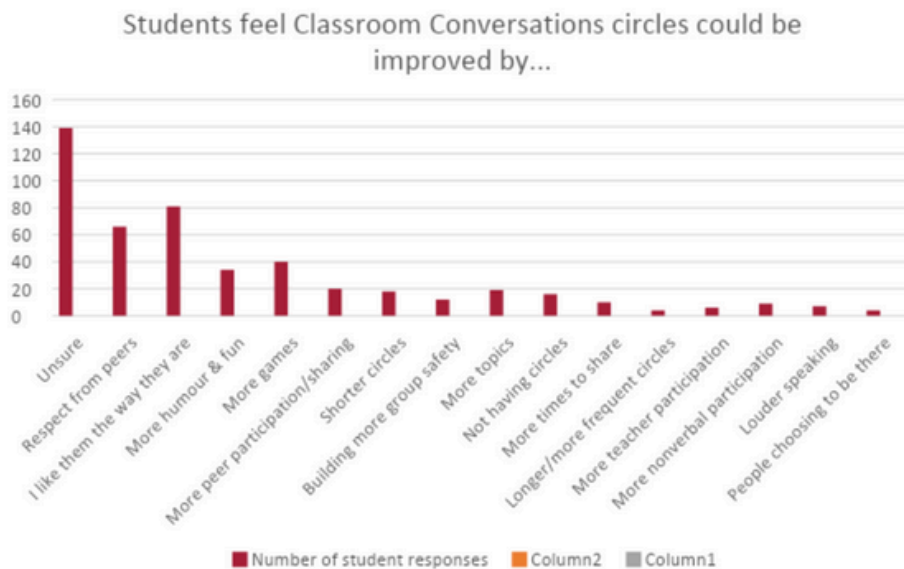
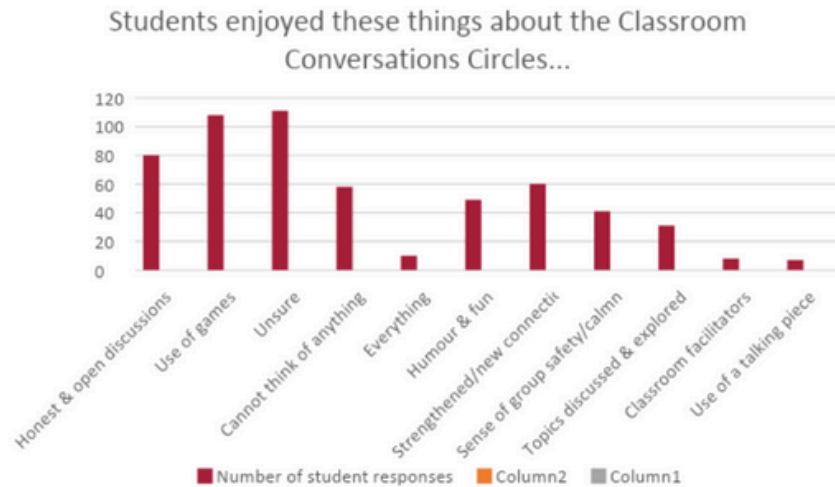
For the elementary schools involved in the program, the program was offered to classrooms teaching grade for classes which encompassed split classes of grades 3 and 4 and split classes of grades 4 and 5. For the middle schools involved in the program, the program was offered to grades 6 and all classes accepted an invitation to use the curriculum and Facilitators. Through each school's involvement with the program, the Restorative School Team has delivered a total of 460 circle sessions for the 2023-24 school year.

OWN-IT Classroom Conversations Student Program Responses

Through the school year, students involved in the OWN-IT Classroom Conversations program were invited to participate in a survey at two different points in the year (1: Mid-October to December 2: Mid-February to Mid-March). For the first survey, roughly 25% of participating students submitted a response. On the second survey, the participation grew slightly with roughly 30% of participating students submitting a response. Feedback from these responses on factors that were received well and opportunities for change in the program are highlighted below.



RESTORATIVE SCHOOLS

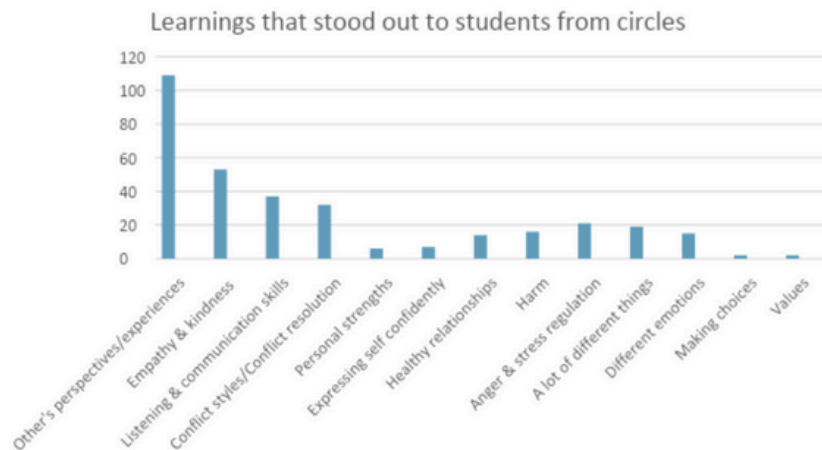


Students participating in the surveys were also asked to share what learnings stood out to them from their participation in the classroom circles. Most students identified the social learning of others' feelings, perspectives, and experiences. The full categorized themes that students expressed they learned are pictured below.



RESTORATIVE SCHOOLS

RESTORATIVE SCHOOL COORDINATOR ANNUAL REPORT



United Way After School Program

United Way provided funding for an opportunity to take the OWNIT Classroom Conversations to Central Elementary School as an after-school program. From October 2023 – June, 2024, four Facilitators and 2 EAs provided Restorative Justice circle-based school programming aimed at changing school culture and building community while providing a broad base of conflict resolution and communication skills to youth and staff. The program operated every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30-5:30 pm to over 30 kids.

Individualized Peace Circles

The individualized peace circles became an approach used for schools last year that grew out of teacher expression of need. To support teachers that are concerned about classroom-wide challenges escalating into further harm, individualized peace circles were created to focus on addressing the class challenge that is identified. Teachers may also receive support in the process of planning and delivering their own circles to continue to support healthy class dynamics.

This approach received 11 Individualized Peace Circle requests this year from 5 different schools.

For circle focus of the inquiries, 6 individualized peace circles focussed on bystander versus allyship at one school, 1 inquired about inclusivity and inclusive language (not conducted due to late referral), 2 inquired about conflict and bullying circles at different schools (one not conducted due to teacher changing mind), and 2 were focussed on healthy relationships and friendships at one school).



RESTORATIVE SCHOOLS

School Restorative Circles

When a student makes a wrong choice, Restorative Circles helps them learn from their experiences and practice healthy communication and relationship skills. Ideal for students in Grades 4 to 12.

The School Restorative Circles response received 3 inquiries this school year and have created a plan to increase referrals that includes a 2 day training workshop in the Fall of 2024.

Staff Training and Workshops

For the 2023-2024 school year, school district staff were offered the opportunity to take part in 6 different trainings and workshops. These were:

- OWN-IT Classroom Conversations Facilitator training (open to schools and community, 25 hours)
- After School Learning Series: Creating Restorative Schools (1.5 hours)
- Building Safety, Connections and Coping Through Creating Restorative Schools (Pro-D, 1.5 hours)
- Process for Creating Circle-Based Learning (individual school workshop, 0.5 hours)
- Restorative Response Facilitator training (open to schools and community, 25 hours)
- Responding to School-Based Harm Through Restorative Circles (Pro-D, 2 hours)



RESTORATIVE COMMUNITY

We saw another successful year at hosting Operation Red Nose bringing in a little over \$12,000 in revenue. Our volunteer team of 60 community members covered nearly 3,000km during the 182 rides that were offered. We were also able to secure a successful partnership with The Art of Driving, a local driving school in Chilliwack. Not only did they support our marketing efforts, with a free video campaign that was widely distributed in Chilliwack, they also offered a fleet of 3 vehicles (including fuel) for our teams to use during operating nights. We welcomed Leah Mammel to our team and alongside Kate Fitzner she coordinated the success of Operation Red Nose and was then offered a part-time position as Community Coordinator as Kate shifted into a new role of Administration Assistant.

In partnership with Chilliwack Superstore we hosted a community BBQ fundraiser and were able to not only spread the word about Restorative Justice efforts within Chilliwack but we were also able to bring in a little over \$1,000. The Spring fundraiser “Back to the 90s’ Gala” was a success at celebrating the organization’s 25th year in operation. The Gala was supported by MLA Kelli Paddon as well as community group C.C.F.C “Chilliwack Citizens for Change”. Bridlewood’s Event centre signed on as the title sponsor and donated the venue space free of charge. The event was able to solicit several community sponsorships from organizations: Denbow, Murray Honda, Elements Casino, Canex, Star 98.3, Baker Newby, BC RV and Raine Electric as well as over 50 donated items for auction from local businesses. Although we saw a decrease in ticket sales and attendance the event was able to bring in \$13,000 in revenue and was able to decrease expenses by almost half of the previous year's event.

We continued our networking efforts with Chilliwack Healthier Communities, RCMP, Public Safety Advisory Committee, Chilliwack Chamber, Rotary and made new connections with Chilliwack Arts Center. We also forged a new connection with Dean Dahl the founder of GoodRide and were selected to be the charity partner for their annual ride. The community collaboration with Chilliwack Superstore and Ruth & Naomi’s (RAN) was strengthened by co-hosting the Hamper’s For Hope Holiday campaign for food donations for those in need. RAN also generously shared their event supplies enabling our organization to host successful events such as the Gala.



RESTORTIVE COMMUNITY

In January we celebrated our organizations 75+ combined volunteers with an event that was supported by councillor Bud Mercer and RCMP Inspector Bowerman. Between restorative programs, community events & fundraisers our team of volunteers logged over 2,000 of volunteer hours. Other notable events were: our participation in the Rotary Holiday Parade which was a great success as well as our partnership with Lions Club Chilliwack. In support with Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association, Brain Injury Alliance and BC Injury Research and Prevention Institute which saw us receive grant money to provide free bike helmets to community members in need.

RESTORATIVE MENTORSHIP

BACKGROUND

A total of 35 files were mentored during Jan 1, 2024, to April 30, 2024.

PLACEMENT

We placed clients at The Water Wealth Project, Restorative Cycle, Chilliwack Senior Centre, Bowls of Hope and a Thrift Store. Most recently, we have developed relationships with other organizations in the community such as Island 22 Equestrian Park, Main St Church, Ann Davis and some repaired the harm in Cultus Lake district.

TIME IN COMMUNITY

A total of 330 hours of community services hours were completed by mentees and supported by mentors.

MENTORS

We have mentors from all ages, walks of life and experience supporting clients to complete their Resolution Agreements. From January to April, we had 12 active mentors taking on multiple files with more volunteers expressing interest in being trained we plan to see growth in these numbers for the coming year



FINANCIAL REPORT

Please see The Review Engagement Report for financial details of the Fiscal Year May 2023–April 2024

FINANCES

Fiscal year 2023–24 saw an increase of income and through innovation and hard work of our staff and volunteer teams.

We saw an increase in all avenues of revenue (grants/fundraising/donations), this past fiscal year. A substantial revenue increase was the sale of bikes through new initiatives of a community bike shop. As the board continues to evaluate the efficacy of the community bike shop, Restorative Cycle, all expenses continue to be covered by the revenue obtained through bike sales and service.

Our leadership team has strategically planned for growth in resources and staff when the necessary funds become available. The current fund development strategy includes the following:

- Expand vested Stakeholders and Foundations to \$200,000.00
- Pursue grant opportunities to keep pace with service to \$300,000.00.
- Expand our annual fundraising proceeds to \$60,000.00.
- Develop a monthly donor plan.

Thank you to everyone who supported our organization in the past year. We are grateful to partner with you, our generous donors, and supporters as we engage in the community to repair and prevent harm and conflict.



THANK YOU

Chilliwack Restorative Justice has made tremendous strides in building a safer, more connected community over the past year. Through our programs, partnerships, and events, we are not only addressing the immediate needs of individuals affected by crime and conflict but also fostering a culture of accountability, empathy, and mutual respect.

We are deeply grateful to our volunteers, partners, and supporters for their unwavering commitment to our mission. Together, we will continue to create a safer and more restorative Upper Fraser Valley Regional District.



CHILLIWACK RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

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