

CENTER FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Center for Restorative Justice (CRJ) is Bennington's community justice agency helping both young people as well as adults to take an active role to repair the harm they caused, give back to their community and learn new ways to be a positive, contributing community member. With your town's support, this past year, over 1,400 individuals went through one of CRJ's many programs. A few specific examples include:

- ❖ 163 young people and adults participated in CRJ's Court Diversion Program and had their charges expunged after taking responsibility for their actions and repairing harms caused.
- ❖ 91 individuals were assisted in getting their driver's license reinstated and legally back on the road.
- ❖ 379 youth were served through one of CRJ's Juvenile Restorative Programs such as our in-school Restorative Alternative Program, Pre-Charge Program, The Lounge (afterschool program), life skills groups, Summer Youth Empowerment Program and mentoring.
- ❖ 62 individuals returning to the community from incarceration were served through one of CRJ's many Community Reentry Programs.
- ❖ 36 individuals were assisted to file court petitions to get their records expunged
- ❖ 204 adults participated in CRJ's adult restorative programs and support services
- ❖ 416 teens accessed Threads, CRJ's free clothing boutique exclusively for teens
- ❖ 56 individuals were supported in CRJ's Pretrial Services Program connecting them with substance use, mental health and other community support services while awaiting court case resolution.

CRJ's programs are guided by the principles of restorative justice, a philosophy of justice that focuses on the people and communities harmed by crime; it emphasizes bringing together everyone affected by wrongdoing to address needs and responsibilities.

Your support is greatly appreciated and is invaluable in helping CRJ continue to expand its programming and to reach as many people as possible. Your continued support has helped individuals to get their lives on the right track, helped empower victims to have a voice in the justice process, and helped restore and strengthen our communities.

Leitha Cipriano
Executive Director
Center for Restorative Justice