

POSITIVE RESULTS

Our pilot at Cohen High School had the following results in the first year:

- 41% increase in alternative behavior interventions
- 30% reduction in expulsion recommendations
- 25 % reduction in behavior referrals
- 12% reduction in suspensions



“When the circle thing came, it was a better way to show us that we didn’t just have suspension and expulsion and you’re done. We had an opportunity to do something different and productive, and it really helped a lot of people stay in school.” - 11th grade student

“If it hadn’t been for the circles, I don’t know whether I’d be in school or not.” - 9th grade student



“It makes me feel as if I’m growing... for you to step there and be like, I did wrong and I don’t fault nobody for what I did, that takes a bigger person, and you’re wiser than a lot of people that’s walking this Earth right now”
- 11th grade student

The Center for Restorative Approaches is an integral part of the Community Building Initiative of Neighborhood Housing Services of New Orleans (NHS).

NHS is a non-profit community development corporation that has worked to revitalize New Orleans since 1976.

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Contact Us:

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THE CENTER FOR RESTORATIVE APPROACHES AT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES



**BUILDING COMMUNITY
RESTORING RELATIONSHIPS**

“I felt like it wasn’t going to help at all. But after coming out of the circle, it was like, all we did was talk, and that made everything better.”

- 11th grade student at
Walter L. Cohen High School, New Orleans

WHO WE ARE:

The Center for Restorative Approaches at Neighborhood Housing Services (CRA) helps people to uncover their natural ability to respond to destructive behavior in constructive ways. We provide communities with training, tools, and processes that build relationships and that allow those most impacted by conflict and crime to develop their own solutions and ways of repairing harm.

WHAT WE DO:

1. DIRECT SERVICES:

Community Conferencing: We bring together everyone impacted by a crime or conflict to talk about what happened, how it has affected them, and how to repair the harm.
Circles: We facilitate community-building and problem-solving dialogue circles.

2. TRAINING AND CONSULTING:

For schools, neighborhoods, and the workplace. Our trainings focus on using restorative approaches to improve communication, problem solve, and prevent and resolve conflicts.

3. SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS:

A whole-school approach to school climate change. We offer regular staff professional development and coaching in restorative approaches to conflict and misbehavior. We also facilitate Community Conferences and Circles to address conflict within the school community.

WHAT ARE RESTORATIVE APPROACHES?

Restorative approaches, or restorative practices, are processes used by the justice system, schools, and communities to strengthen and repair relationships. These processes support people as they take responsibility for their actions and behaviors, resolve conflict, and build problem-solving and communication skills. A restorative process:

- gives everyone a voice
- gives people who have caused harm a chance to understand the impacts of their actions and to make things right
- involves everyone in decision-making
- is voluntary for everyone

HOW DOES A COMMUNITY CONFERENCE WORK?

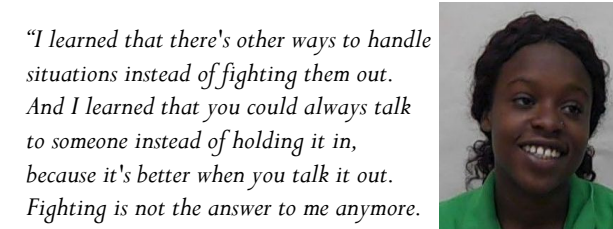
1. A school, organization, or individual contacts us to request a Conference about a conflict or crime.
2. A trained facilitator talks one-on-one with everyone involved or affected by the incident.
3. Everyone comes together in a convenient place. Each person gets a chance to speak.
4. The group makes a written agreement about how to repair the harm done.
5. The facilitator follows up with each participant to make sure the agreement is kept and reports

WHAT'S A COMMUNITY- BUILDING CIRCLE?

Circles can be used in a variety of settings for improving communication and building community. Teachers who use them regularly with their students have found them successful in preventing conflict and improving relationships within the classroom. Managers who use circles and other restorative practices have found them successful in building more positive, collaborative, and productive work environments.



"Everybody involved in the situation comes in a circle and just talks about the situation, tell their side of the story on what happened, and you just get down to the solution."
- 10th grade student



"I learned that there's other ways to handle situations instead of fighting them out. And I learned that you could always talk to someone instead of holding it in, because it's better when you talk it out. Fighting is not the answer to me anymore."
- 11th grade student

"You're probably going to end up fighting and get suspended and put out of school – or you just could go in a circle and solve it." - 9th grade student

GET INVOLVED:

- Contact us with a referral for a Community Conference at (504) 899-5900 ext 111
- Attend a training to become a conference or circle facilitator
- Tell your school, workplace, or organization about restorative practices
- Volunteer at the Center
- Make a donation to support our work