

Individual action toward a restorative vision or What can I do?

Reduce isolation; help make connections among community members; ask questions of policy makers and criminal justice professionals related to reparation and healing; engage your faith community in responding to the needs of victims and offenders.

- Reach out to anyone you know who has been victimized by crime. Communicate support, concern and assurance that he/she did not deserve the hurt. Be a Patient listener to victims' stories.
- Help establish a community mediation program to deal with conflict in neighborhoods, community organizations, etc.
- Participate as a volunteer mediator in a community mediation program or a victim offender mediation program.
- Provide support or respite to a family in your neighborhood which is under stress.
- Initiate or encourage a neighborhood, faith community or workplace dialog about shared community values which all members of the community have a responsibility to uphold both through their own behavior and in their expectations of others.
- When you observe an unsupervised child behaving inappropriately, intervene constructively to communicate the community standard for behavior and an interest in that child's welfare.
- Initiate an adult education group about restorative justice in you faith community.
- Support or help establish volunteer victim services through a faith community or other community organization.
- Either through a program or on an informal basis, become a mentor to a child or youth who is in need of positive adult role models.
- Become trained as a speaker and present information about restorative justice to community groups.
- Express your support for restorative justice to elected officials, especially county commissioners and state legislators. Share written materials.
- Become a community sponsor or friend to an offender on probation or in prison.
- Volunteer in prison or jail programs.
- Through your local block club organize a system to support and watch out for someone who has been victimized in the neighborhood.
- Through your local block club create opportunities for constructive community service for property offenders in your community. Let the court know that you want offenders to work with the block club for community service obligations.
- Assume responsibility for acting on behalf of the welfare of the community. Don't mind your own business. Behavior which is harmful to the community is the business of every community member.