

Restorative justice is a framework for responding to crime that focuses on the harm resulting from the crime and works to repair that harm to the degree possible. The purpose of the criminal justice system in a restorative model is to engage the offender, the community, and the victim, if interested, in the process of repair of that harm.

Each Minnesota correctional facility (MCF) has a restorative justice (RJ) representative who performs RJ activities in addition to other duties. RJ reps work to raise facility consciousness regarding RJ, as well as organize and promote various activities throughout the year.

Offender libraries contain RJ materials, along with material to assist offenders in writing apology letters.

In 2005, the department's RJ planner and victim services director continued to present workshops to increase understanding of victim issues and explain the procedure for

handling apology letters and victim/offender dialogues. This year there was a substantial increase in the number of victims requesting dialogues. The department is committed to helping dialogues take place whenever possible and uses trained DOC staff and community volunteers to facilitate the process.

In 2005, over \$486,000 in restitution was collected from offenders; nearly \$264,000 was collected for Aid to Victims of Crime; and over \$10,200 was donated by staff and offenders to local victim and community programs.

RJ activities for each MCF in 2005 follow.



MCF-Faribault

**Medium-security facility
with minimum-security unit**

Adult males

12/31/05 Population: 1,227

**RJ Committee composed of
staff, offenders, and community
members**

- National Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
- International Restorative Justice Week display and presentations
- Conducted 10-week Citizens, Victims, and Offenders Restoring Justice Group
- Staff and offenders built and donated a playhouse to Faribault Area Big Brothers/Big Sisters; a playhouse raffle raised \$2,000+
- Faribault Area Heritage Days Parade float built by offenders and staff, with materials donated by area businesses, featuring the playhouse and raffle
- National Night Out community participation by staff
- Toys for Tots Walkathon with staff and offenders, resulting in donation of \$519
- Trained offenders to facilitate transition circles for soon-to-be released offenders
- \$200 donated to victims/survivors of Red Lake School shootings
- \$168 donated to the Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund
- "Boat shelves" crafted and donated to Kids Avenue Learning Center and local food shelf
- RJ videos on institution channel, including offender-created video to educate other offenders
- Locks of Love: Offenders grow and donate their hair, used to make wigs for cancer survivors
- Prison Realities: Offenders talk to area teens about life choices; some present at area schools
- Furnishings built and donated for local Habitat for Humanity houses
- Conflict Resolution Initiative (CRI): Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner
- Victim Impact classes

MCF-Lino Lakes

**Medium security facility with
minimum-security unit**

Adult males

12/31/05 Population: 1,311

**RJ Committee composed of
staff and inmates**

- National Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
- International Restorative Justice Week display and presentations
- RJ videos on institution channel
- Conducted 10-week Citizens, Victims, and Offenders Restoring Justice Group
- Offenders participated in Minnesotans for Safe Driving video
- Victim Impact classes
- \$119 donated to the Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund
- Conflict Resolution Initiative (CRI): Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner
- Choices: Offenders talk to area teens and their parents/guardians about life choices; some present at area schools
- U of M's Facilitating Victim/Offender Dialogue training held at facility with offender participation

MCF-Oak Park Heights

Maximum security

Adult males

12/31/05 Population: 436

- International Restorative Justice Week display
- National Crime Victims Rights Week display
- RJ presentations as part of educational programming

MCF-Red Wing

**Facility for juvenile males,
with a separate minimum-security
unit for adult males**

12/31/05 Population:

130 juveniles, 26 adults

- National Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
 - International Restorative Justice Week display and presentations
 - Completed various jobs at local charities and participated in fundraising events
 - Residents of the transition program total grocery store receipts for Red Wing elementary schools
 - Conflict Resolution Initiative (CRI): Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner
 - Unloaded trucks that carry commodities to the community
 - Perform work projects and visit with residents at nursing homes and senior residences
 - Victim Impact classes
 - Housing frames and ramps constructed for Habitat for Humanity
 - Residents speak to area high schools about their experiences with drugs and crime
 - \$1,800 raised for hurricane relief
 - Residents made and donated items for a Red Cross benefit
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MCF-Rush City

Close security

Adult males

12/31/05 Population: 978

- National Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
- International Restorative Justice Week display and presentations
- Conflict Resolution Initiative (CRI): Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner

MCF-St. Cloud

Close security

Adult males

12/31/05 Population: 1,008

RJ Committee composed of staff and offenders

- National Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
- International Restorative Justice Week display and presentations
- St. Cloud serves as the department's reception center for new male commits; each offender on arrival receives information about RJ and how they can participate
- Inmates made 21,543 wooden toys that were distributed to needy children through a partnership with TLC Toys
- Victim Impact classes
- 38 pounds of pop tabs collected and donated to the Ronald McDonald House
- Quilts made and donated to the local women's shelter, Red Lake School District, Minnesota Corrections Education Foundation, and the Salvation Army
- \$2,370 raised through RJ activities and donated to Red Lake Schools, Central Minnesota Community Foundation for Tsunami relief, Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center, Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, and Juvenile Diabetes Foundation
- Straight Talk: Offenders meet with at-risk youth about responsible decision-making
- Collected 35 bikes for bike repair/donation program

MCF-Shakopee

All security levels

Adult females

12/31/05 Population: 499

- National Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
 - International Restorative Justice Week display and presentations
 - Offenders donated over \$350 to Hurricane Katrina relief
 - RJ videos on institution channel
 - Locks of Love: Offenders grow and donate their hair, used to make wigs for cancer survivors
 - Victim Impact classes
 - Straight talk: Offenders meet with at-risk girls about responsible decision-making
 - Box tops and soup labels collected for local schools.
 - RJ circle where offenders discuss their criminal behavior and its impact on victims/communities
 - Dolls assembled and doll blankets crocheted for crisis nurseries, hospitals, and foster homes
 - Conducted 10-week Citizens, Victims, and Offenders Restoring Justice Group
 - Each offender upon arrival receives information about RJ and how she can participate
 - Quilts are made and donated to a women's shelter and other charities
 - Offenders sent over 200 holiday cards to children in local hospitals
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MCF-Stillwater

**Close-security facility
with minimum-security unit
Adult males**

12/31/05 Population: 1,383

**RJ Committee composed of
staff and offenders**

- National Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
- International Restorative Justice Week display and presentations
- National Night Out community participation by staff
- Victim Impact classes
- Straight Talk: Offenders meet with at-risk youth about responsible decision-making, either at the facility or in local schools
- \$1,000 donated to Salvation Army Hurricane Relief, Caring and Sharing Hands, and From Death to Life
- Conflict Resolution Initiative (CRI): Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner

MCF-Togo

**Juvenile males, juvenile females,
and adult females in separate
units**

**12/31/05 Population:
40 youth, 22 women**

RJ Staff Committee

- Circle format utilized at morning and evening resident check-ins
- Tools for Change Cognitive Skills Program utilizes RJ themes
- All residents write amends letters to the victim/s of their crime/s
- Resident issues and concerns addressed with RJ process
- Facility staff meetings held in circle format
- Negative interaction with the community is addressed using RJ process
- 92 family circles held between residents and their families to facilitate transition home
- Conflict Resolution Initiative (CRI): Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner

MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake

**Medium security at ML
Minimum-security at WR**

**12/31/05 Population:
1,035 at ML; 87 at WR**

**RJ Committee composed of
staff and offenders**

- National Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
- International Restorative Justice Week display and presentations
- RJ training for all staff
- Locks of Love: Offenders grow and donate their hair, used to make wigs for cancer survivors
- \$1,386 raised through RJ activities and donated to local programs
- Pop tops collected for the Ronald McDonald House
- Offenders knit scarves, mittens, and hats for the homeless
- Conflict Resolution Initiative (CRI): Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner
- RJ Work Crew/CIP Program: Offenders completed various community service projects
- Choices & Change: CIP offenders visit schools to discuss their experiences
- Reality Check: Offenders speak to juveniles about justice and doing the right thing
- Family circles held between offenders and their families