

Restorative justice (RJ) is a framework for responding to crime that focuses on repairing the harm caused by crime. It gives those most affected by crime an option to participate in a number of practices that promote healing as an effort to ensure victims are not left to deal with crime on their own. The restorative model engages the victim as well as the offender and community to repair this harm.

Each Minnesota correctional facility (MCF) has an RJ representative who performs RJ activities. RJ reps work on raising facility awareness of RJ, as well as organizing and promoting various activities.

An RJ Probation Officer Network was formed in 2007 to promote RJ philosophy and practices in community supervision.

In 2007, the department's RJ planner and victim services director continued to present workshops to

increase understanding of victim issues, which include workshops on apology letters and explanations on the procedures for victim/offender dialogues. The number of victim requests for dialogues continues to increase; the department addresses these requests with the help of trained facilitators and staff. A VOCARÉ group addressing sexual assault took place in the community and was a success for all participants.



In 2007, over \$406,000 in restitution was collected from offenders, close to \$250,000 was collected for Aid to Victims of Crime, and over \$18,000 was donated by staff and offenders to local victim and community programs.

RJ activities for each MCF and community supervision services in 2007 follow.

### *MCF-Faribault*

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

**Adult males**

**6/30/07 Population: 1,160**

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

- International RJ Week display and presentations
- Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
- National Night Out community participation by staff
- Staff and offenders built and donated playhouses to Ruth's House of Hope Shelter and HealthFinders, which raised \$5,000+
- Books read and recorded for use at the Veterans Administration
- Woodworking projects crafted and donated:
  - Rocking motorcycle for Muscular Dystrophy fundraiser
  - Six animal-shaped chairs to the Minnesota State Academy for the Blind
  - Boat shelves to area food shelf
  - Display coffins for From Death to Life/Two Mothers
- Furnishings built for Habitat for Humanity houses
- Nightstand, toy chest, gaming table to correctional education group
- Faribault Heritage Days Parade float and playhouse built by offenders and staff and donated to senior center, with materials provided by area businesses
- Toys for Tots Walkathon with staff and offenders, raising \$475
- Offender art used to create children's coloring book for facility visiting area
- Victim impact classes
- Offenders created a memorial for Homeless Awareness Week
- Worked with Hearing and Service Dogs
- RJ videos on institution channel, including offender-created video to educate other offenders

- Locks of Love: Offenders grow and donate their hair to make wigs for cancer survivors
- Prison Realities: Offenders talk to area teens about life choices
- Trained offenders facilitate transition circles for fathers and soon-to-be released offenders
- Pop tabs collected and donated to Camp Omega
- RJ Committee facilitates activities for elderly offenders
- Integrated Conflict Management System (ICMS): Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner

## *MCF-Lino Lakes*

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

**Adult males**

**6/30/07 Population: 1,288**

**RJ Committee composed of staff and inmates**

- International RJ Week display and presentations
- Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
- Victims, Offenders, and Community – A Restorative Experience (VOCARÉ) group conducted focusing on vehicular homicide/drunk driving
- \$1,222 donated to provide meals at a local homeless shelter
- RJ videos shown on institution channel
- Choices: Offenders talk to area school and alternative program students about life choices
- \$1,147 donated to Mothers Against Drunk Driving
- Victim impact classes
- RJ class conducted by the University of Minnesota: victims and offenders presented stories and answered questions
- Offenders created an RJ calendar encouraging accountability
- \$426 donated to victim services program
- ICMS: Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner

## *MCF-Oak Park Heights*

**Maximum security**

**Adult males**

**6/30/07 Population: 440**

**RJ Staff Committee**

- International RJ Week display and presentations
- Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
- RJ concepts addressed in education and treatment programming
- RJ videos shown on the institution channel
- Established a staff RJ Committee
- ICMS: Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner

## *MCF-Red Wing*

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

**6/30/07 Population:**

**120 juveniles, 30 adults**

- International RJ Week display and presentations
- Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
- Painted Habitat for Humanity home
- Staff donated blood for the American Red Cross
- Helped organize walks to raise funds for cancer research
- Totaled grocery store receipts for area elementary schools

- Residents held a car wash and raised \$1,000 for the Red Wing Diversity Festival
- Adopted a family as a holiday project, giving gifts, food and money
- Baggo game boards constructed, painted and donated to local groups
- Residents visited area high schools to share their experiences with crime and incarceration
- Residents visited seniors in the community and kids at the Vasa Children's Home
- ICMS: Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner

## *MCF-Rush City*

**Close security**

**Adult males**

**6/30/07 Population: 989**

**RJ Staff Committee**

- International RJ Week display and presentations
- Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
- Collected clothing, hygiene products and other items for an area women's crisis shelter
- ICMS: Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner

## *MCF-St. Cloud*

**Close security**

**Adult males**

**6/30/07 Population: 1,005**

**RJ Committee composed of staff and offenders**

- International RJ Week display and presentations
- Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
- Newly-committed offenders receive information about RJ and how they can participate (St. Cloud is the reception facility for adult males)
- Quilts made and donated to:
  - Special Olympics
  - Anna Marie's Alliance Women's Shelter
  - Military members returning from Iraq (quilts of valor)
  - Linus Program (six baby quilts)
- 13,966 wooden toys made and distributed to children through a partnership with TLC Toys
- Straight Talk: Offenders meet with at-risk kids about responsible decision-making
- Women's and children's clothes and toys donated to the Central Minnesota Sexual Assault Center
- 13 pounds of pop tabs collected and donated to the Ronald McDonald House
- \$1,500 donated to the Victim/Offender Dialogue Fund, Camp Friendship and the River of Hope
- ICMS: Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner

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## *MCF-Shakopee*

**All security levels**

**Adult females**

**6/30/07 Population: 522**

**RJ Committee composed of offenders**

- International RJ Week display and presentations
- Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
- Newly-committed offenders receive information about RJ and how they can participate
- Established Offender RJ Committee
- RJ videos on the institution channel
- Locks of Love: Offenders grow and donate their hair to make wigs for cancer survivors
- Straight Talk: Offenders meet with at-risk girls about responsible decision-making
- \$1,000 donated to the Victim/Offender Dialogue Fund and local programs
- Quilts made and donated to women's shelter and other charities
- Box tops and soup labels collected for local schools
- Sunshine Service Dog Program: Offenders train service dogs (therapy, arson detection, search and rescue, mobility, etc.)
- Dolls assembled and doll blankets crocheted for crisis nurseries, hospitals, and foster homes
- RJ Circle where offenders discuss their criminal behavior and its impact on victims/communities
- Victim impact classes
- \$500 and 200 pounds of food donated to Second Harvest Heartland Food Shelf
- Sent over 300 holiday cards to children in local hospitals
- ICMS: Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner

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## *MCF-Stillwater*

**Close-security facility**

**with minimum-security unit**

**Adult males**

**6/30/07 Population: 1,409**

**RJ Committee composed of staff and offenders**

- International RJ Week display and presentations
  - Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
  - \$507 donated to the Gladys Reyes Foundation
  - \$3,000+ donated to correctional education group, Victim/Offender Dialogue Fund, Tubman Family Alliance, Union Gospel Mission, and Dads and Family Services
  - RJ videos on the institution channel
  - Victim speaker reflection groups hosted by RJ committee
  - National Night Out community participation by staff
  - VOCARÉ group conducted focusing on murder
  - ICMS: Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner
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## *MCF-Togo*

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

**6/30/06 Population:  
59 youth, 23 women**

**RJ Staff Committee**

- International RJ Week display and presentations
- Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
- Circle format utilized at morning and evening 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
- Offenders make wreaths and lap quilts
- Negative interaction with the community addressed using the RJ process
- 103 family transition circles to facilitate return to community
- Juvenile programs perform community service projects at local campgrounds and hiking trails
- ICMS: Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner

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## *MCF-Willow River/Moose Lake*

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

**6/30/07 Population:  
774 at ML; 103 at WR**

**RJ Committee composed of  
staff and offenders**

- International RJ Week display and presentations
- Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
- National Night Out community participation
- \$1,871 donated to Carlton County Victim Advocate Program
- Presentations to staff and offenders by Minnesotans for Safe Driving and Carlton County Victim Advocate Program
- \$1,000 donated to From Death to Life/Two Mothers
- Restorative responses used to address offender rule violations
- Locks of Love: Offenders grow and donate their hair to make wigs for cancer survivors
- Choices and Change: Offenders visit schools to discuss their experiences
- Transition circles to discuss criminal behavior and its impact of victims/communities
- RJ Work Crew: Offenders completed various community service work projects
- ICMS: Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner

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## *Field Services*

**Statewide community supervision  
of adult and juvenile offenders on  
probation, supervised release,  
and parole**

- International RJ Week display and presentations
- Crime Victims Rights Week display and presentations
- Established Probation Officer RJ Network to:
  - Increase knowledge and use of the RJ program
  - Promote RJ philosophy and practices in probation services, case planning and daily activities
  - Provide supportive network for field services officers
- ICMS: Staff trained to resolve conflict in a safe, productive, and respectful manner