

Evidence, Outcomes & Performance

10 Years of Restorative Justice

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Report
Pierce & St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin



PREPARED BY

Kris Miner, Executive Director
St. Croix Valley Restorative Justice Program
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Decade Report

This report provides an overview and summary of the past 10 years of work by St. Croix Valley Restorative Justice Program (SCVRJP). SCVRJP was founded in 2000, and first provided services in 2003. In 2006 the Restorative Justice Center opened in River Falls, WI. Since that time, programs have expanded and SCVRJP has developed an expertise in Restorative Justice Peacemaking Circle Process.

SCVRJP is looking to expand our relationships with key criminal justice partners, stakeholders and invested community members. Locally and nationally a trend is developing to use alternatives to manage conflict and criminal behavior. This report was created to inform and educate our local community on the success, the impact and the evidence achieved in Restorative Justice services by the St. Croix Valley Restorative Justice Program.

Restorative Justice Center
215 N 2nd Street, Suite 108
River Falls, WI 54022

www.scvrjp.org

715-425-1100

scvrjp@gmail.com

This decade report offers only a glimpse into the work and impact of SCVRJP. The data provided in this report is focused on the evidence, related to numbers and percentages. Anecdotal stories, personal testimony and the impact on volunteers, victims, survivors and offenders are only briefly highlighted. These stories and experiences have been the fuel to help SCVRJP reach 19,062 individuals in a decade of time.

As a community based non-profit, we welcome all input. We encourage new volunteers, and board members, and invite you to participate and engage in the work of SCVRJP. If you have input, feedback, reflections or suggestions after reviewing this report, please contact the SCVRJP Executive Director or any member of the board of directors.

Note to readers: if you have a paper copy, the full website link is listed in the appendix. As of printing and publishing these websites and hyperlinks are correct. If you have need assistance finding a document or website, please contact SCVRJP.

Table of Contents

Decade Report	2
Benefits of Restorative Justice	4
Restorative Justice	4
Evidence-Based.....	7
Research Evidence	7
Evaluation Evidence.....	9
Performance Evidence	11
Outcomes Measures	12
Service Delivery	13
Efficient.....	13
Session Completions	14
Community Engagement	14
Data Evidence	15
5 year service numbers	15
2013 Service Data	16
Victim Impact Panels-VIP.....	17
Underage Consumption Panels.....	18
Controlled Substance Intervention Circles	19
Teen Driving Circles	20
Victim Empathy Seminar/Victim-Offender Dialogue.....	21
Referring Agencies Charts	22
Performance.....	24
CJCC Vision.....	25
SCVRJP	28
History	28
Board of Directors	29
Key Staff	30
Major Grants	31
Budget Performance 2013	31
Funding	32
Works Cited.....	33
Appendix	a
Mission, Values and Vision	a
Total served one decade	c

Benefits of Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice provides system, community and individual benefits. Around the world Restorative Justice philosophy, approach and services have influenced prisons, probation, parole, human services, schools and communities in alternative methods of addressing conflict and crime.

Restorative Justice provides benefits, including:

- **Cost Savings:** Lower expenses from recidivism, reduced court time, lowered incarceration rates, savings in costs to victims.
- **Reduced Crime:** Restorative Justice has been researched and studies reveal that offender participation reduces future criminal behavior.
- **Victim Satisfaction:** Victims surveyed report a satisfaction and preference for Restorative Justice. (Restorative Justice the Evidence, [Link](#))²
- **Community Engagement:** Volunteers are utilized and represent the community in providing accountability, related community norms, creating and oversight of agreements to make things right.
- **International:** Restorative Justice is endorsed by the United Nations and in 2006, published a handbook ([Link](#))³.
- **Localized programming:** Restorative Justice programs can be part of schools, prisons, law enforcement, human services and judicial agencies. The approach has been utilized across the United States in range of settings.

Evaluation of cost savings concluded that one-dollar spent on Restorative Justice saves \$8 ([Parade Link](#))¹ By applying the formula, the SCVRJP's 2013 budget of \$180,000 resulted in **saving \$1.4 Million dollars.**

Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice is an approach/philosophy to crime and conflict, viewing crime as harm. Harm is a wound to the community. Restorative Justice utilizes accountability and healing with those most impacted to make things right, and to repair the wound. Victims are central and key to Restorative Justice process.

“Restorative Justice is a process to involve, to the extent possible, those who have a stake in a specific offense and to collectively identify and address harms, needs, and obligations, in order to heal and put things as right as possible.”

-Howard Zehr, *Changing Lenses*⁴

Howard Zehr is often cited for his definition of the term Restorative Justice. He authored *Changing Lenses* (1990), and defined four principles of restorative justice:

- **Crime is a violation of people and relationships.**
- **Violations create obligations.**
- **Justice involves victims, offenders, and community members in an effort to put things right.**
- **Central focus: victim needs and offender responsibility for repairing harm.**

Zehr ([link](#))⁵ also identified 3 core values of Restorative Justice, and these are used to guide the work of SCVRJP.

SCVRJP maintains strong connections to these core definitions of Restorative Justice. They are part of staff, intern and volunteer trainings and in-service sessions. When teaching or doing a community presentation, SCVRJP shares these definitions.

The philosophy is modeled in our work and encouraged. SCVRJP works from a specific Mission, Vision and Values (appendix). These were drawn from the work of Mark Umbriet, PhD and Director of the University of Minnesota Center for Peacemaking and Restorative Justice⁶. Dr. Umbriet has published 8 books and over 200 articles as a researcher and practitioner of Restorative Justice.

Three R's of Restorative Justice:

Respect
Responsibility
Relationship
Circle-space blog [link](#)⁷

Restorative Justice can be delivered using Conferences or Circles. SCVRJP provides most services utilizing Restorative Justice Peacemaking Circle process. SCVRJP engages community members in each Circle, and provides support to victims interested in participating. SCVRJP also provides victim-offender conferencing.

Restorative Justice seeks to understand what happened, identify the harm, and determine the obligations to make things right. Restorative Justice is based on key principles and values and is expressed/achieved through specific processes.

The table below identifies core Restorative Justice work at the intersection of Victim/Community/Offender:

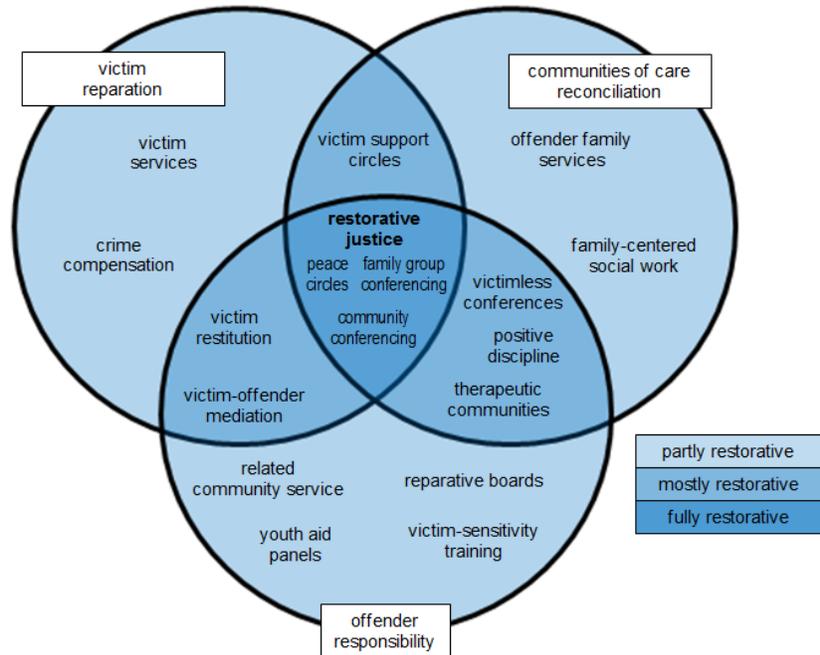
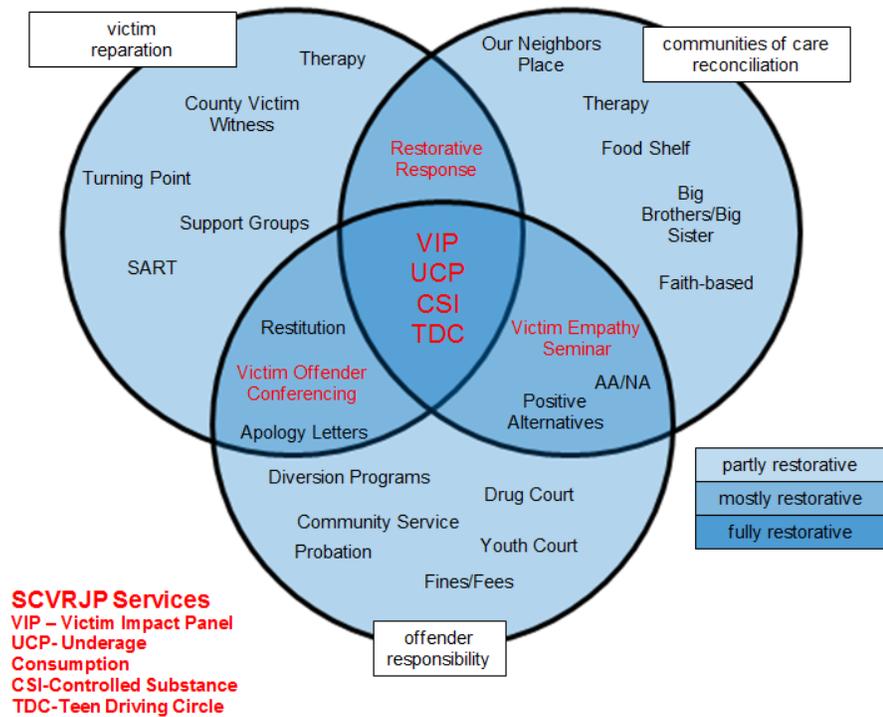


Chart from International Institute of Restorative Practices [Link](#)⁸

The image above was adapted to local resources and the specific SCVRJP programs are identified:



Evidence-Based

The term “evidence-based” has gained popular use among public health, human services, education and criminal justice.

SCVRJP aligns with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) in defining “Evidence”. *“Evidence is findings from empirically sound social science research”* (NIC document: [A Framework for Evidence-Based Decision Making in Local Criminal Justice Systems](#))⁹

SCVRJP also utilizes a public health definition of evidence-based decision making, and from the document **Understanding Evidence: Evidence Based Decision-Making Summary**, there are three complimentary dimensions that constitute a framework for thinking about evidence.

- Contextual Evidence
- Best Available Evidence
- Experiential Evidence

This report will highlight SCVRJP in terms of **Research** Evidence, **Evaluation** Evidence, and **Data** Evidence. This will provide the reader the information to consider Evidence-Based Decision-Making.

Understanding Evidence: Evidence Based Decision-Making Summary

Evidence Based Decision-Making is a process for making decisions about a program, practice, or policy that is grounded in the best available research evidence and informed by experiential evidence from the field and relevant contextual evidence. ([Link](#))¹⁰

Research Evidence

Social Science research for Restorative Justice is abundant and includes meta-analysis, randomized experiments, literature reviews, evaluation studies, case reviews and similar social science studies. As in many social science areas, studies show a range of evaluation outcomes for Restorative Justice. The key studies have been highlighted in this report.

We are also noting the limitations in social science research studies. These limits include the method of obtaining data, the studies completed by program developers (vs. independent researchers), the credibility of the data, and the ability to replicate studies.

“There is far more evidence on RJ, with more positive results, than there has been for most innovations in criminal justice.”

—From “Restorative Justice: The Evidence”²

... recent data suggests that good satisfaction rates amongst victims and offenders are achieved, compliance rates are high, and reduction of the reoffending rate along with the fear of crime is also attained (Latimer et al., 2001; Miers, 2001; Hoyle et al., 2002). [link](#)¹¹

Recognizing these limits for all social science research, the following can be generalized regarding Restorative Justice research.

- **Restorative Justice reduces recidivism for offenders of violent and property crimes.**
- **Restorative Justice reduces post-traumatic stress symptoms and the desire for revenge for victims.**
- **Restorative Justice is preferred over Criminal Justice by both victims and offenders.**
- **Restorative Justice reduces costs when used as a diversion.**

In terms of fiscal expenditure and lack of meaningful consequences to the offender, the financial and human costs make restorative justice a cost effective and accountable way of dealing with crime (Shaw and Jane, 1999)¹².

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy published a Benefit Cost Analysis of Victim-Offender Mediation ([link](#)¹³). Their study and detailed analysis found

the combined benefit to participants, taxpayers and 'others' is valued at \$3,682 . WSIPP also identified the positive net for victim offender mediation to be at 89%.

The American Probation and Parole Association released Fact Sheet 7 ([link](#))¹⁴ : **Promising Victim Related Practices in Probation and Parole**. The 10 page document identifies 7 values of Restorative Justice:

1. **Crime is an offense against human relationship.**
2. **Victims and the community are central to the justice process.**
3. **The first priority of justice process is to assist victims.**

4. **The second priority of justice process is to restore the community, to the degree possible.**
5. **The delinquent/offender has personal responsibility to victims and to the community for crimes committed.**
6. **The delinquent/offender will develop improved competency and understanding as a result of the restorative justice experience.**
7. **Stakeholders share responsibilities for restorative justice through partnership for action.**

The APPA identifies programs as IOC (Impact on Crime) and states the most effective involve actual crime victims and survivors who speak to offenders about their experiences and how crime has affected their lives.

Evaluation Evidence

Using the Wisconsin Court System Circuit Court Access Program (CCAP), SCVRJP analyzed results related to recidivism, as revealed on CCAP. This evaluation has limits. Offenses committed outside of the state would not be available. In some instances data related to middle initial or date of birth were unavailable. All efforts were made to determine SCVRJP participants in the CCAP system. The following highlights were found in samples of session participants.

For Pierce County Participants who attended the VIP in 2010 (March 2013 CCAP review of 191 participants).

- **92.7%** did not have another OWI in Wisconsin (14 of 191)
- The recidivism rate for the 2010 Pierce County VIP: 7.3%
- 39 of those attending had a prior OWI; only 6 (3%) had attended the VIP with the prior offense.

Pierce County 2011, Victim Impact Panel Participants (March 2013 CCAP review)

- **96.7%** did not have another OWI in WI
- The recidivism rate was 3.3% for the 2011 Pierce County participants.
- 28.8% (44 of 153) came to the panel with a prior OWI; only 11 (7.2%) had previously attended a VIP.

The following evaluations were done in November of 2013. In doing this evaluation, we considered similar and related crimes as re-offending. For example, those attending an Underage Consumption Panel and later had an OWI, that was considered reoffending. Someone who attended a Controlled Substance Intervention (for possession of/or paraphernalia) who later received an OWI was considered to have reoffended.

Traffic violations were not considered reoffending, unless the participant attended a Safe Teen Driving Circle, where the counter-measure is to obey traffic laws.

Here are some of the results of our review of CCAP data:

2008 Underage Consumption Panel: **88%** did NOT re-offend.

2009 Underage Consumption Panel: **86%** did not re-offend.

2010 Teen Driving Circle Participants (court ordered): **88%** did not reoffend.

2010 Controlled Substance Intervention: **85%** did not reoffend.

2011 Teen Driving Circles **98%** did not reoffend.

“Restorative Justice as a whole reduces recidivism” ([link](#))¹⁵

Additional evaluations and the % of participants that DID not re-offend:

2007 UCP: **96%**

2011 UCP: **88%**

2008 VES: **84%**

2011 CSI: **88%**

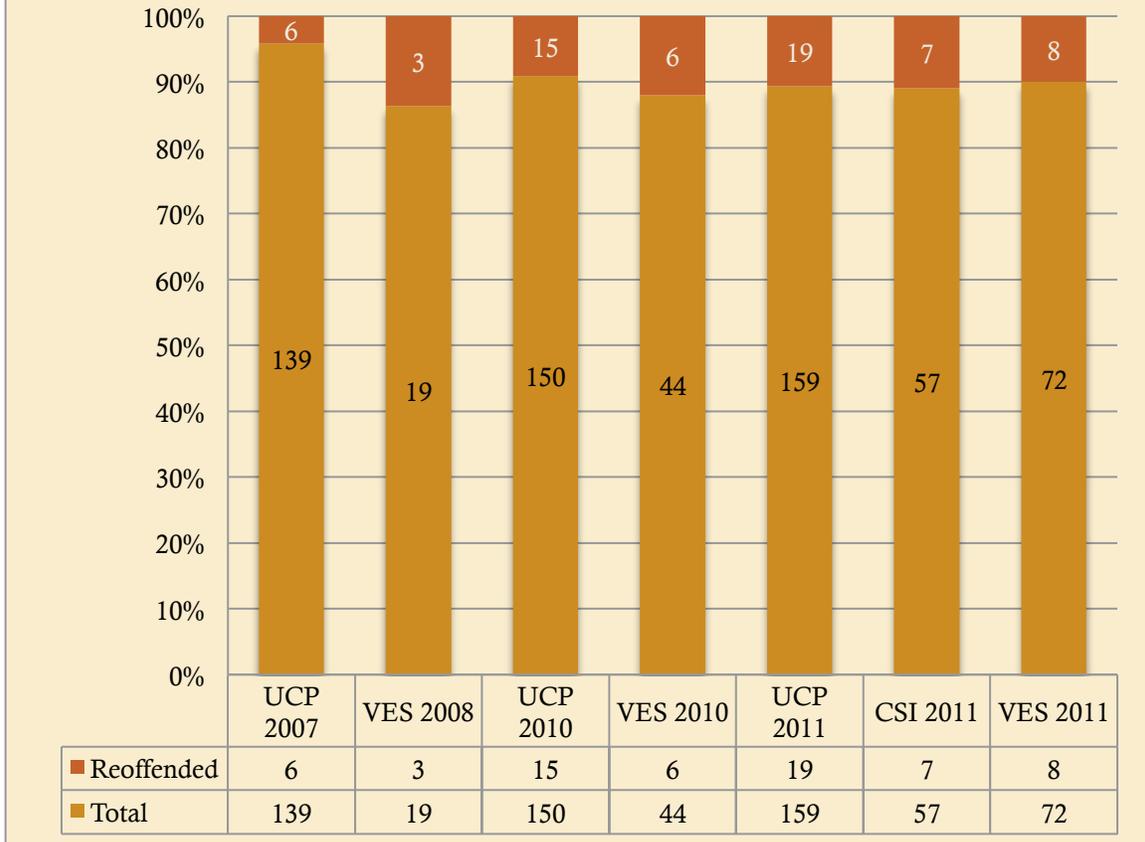
2010 UCP: **90%**

2011 VES: **89%**

2010 VES: **86%**

Data for the 7 sessions listed above has been placed into a chart. The chart demonstrates a view of participants and the segment that were found to have re-offended.

Recidivism for SCVRJP Participants



Performance Evidence

Performance of SCVRJP is related to achieving specific mission-critical goals. The mission of SCVRJP is to build and sustain a culture of Peace & Belonging utilizing Restorative Justice principles within our community.

SCVRJP creates a specific “counter-measure” for each service and program. A counter-measure is the specific behavioral change to avoid harm. The board of directors is involved in all program and service development. This includes identifying a specific need for each service and creating a logic model that would lead to the change in our community.

The following table is a summary of the service need/public health issues and the countermeasures used.

SCVRJP services						
	Impaired Driving	Teen Driving	Underage Consumption	Controlled Substance Use	Conflict/ Crime	Death related trauma
Public Health Issue	238 killed in WI, <u>2009</u> 1 person in <u>WI</u> killed or injured every 2.3 hours. 2010	Leading <u>cause</u> of teen death in the US. Under 19, in a fatal or injury crash every <u>1.4</u> hours.	WI is the <u>#1</u> state in binge drinking & intensity of binge drinking.	Age group 18-21 <u>highest</u> % of illicit drug users. Drug use by teens is on the <u>rise</u> .	Addressing a range of concerns in school and community.	Supporting those impacted tragically by suicide, homicide or traffic fatality.
Counter-measures	Stories & testimony from those impacted by impaired driving – offenders, victims, public service. <i>Do Not drive impaired.</i> <i>Arrange for alternative transportation if drinking.</i>	Circle process, addressing perceptions of teen drivers, reality of statistics, with a story of potential consequences from choices. <i>Buckle UP</i> <i>Obey Traffic Laws</i> <i>Drive Focused</i> <i>Never Drive Impaired</i>	Circle process addressing the risky situations, settings & styles of alcohol consumption. Choice & consequences, personal stories highlighting potential tragic events. <i>Monitor Use</i> <i>Reduce Risk</i> <i>Commit to safety</i>	Circle process addressing the myths and facts of controlled substance use. Evaluating the impact on individuals & community. Presenting non-use, use, abuse, addiction and consequences from choices. <i>Address issues leading to controlled substance use.</i>	Restorative Justice approach to view conflict/crime as harm to relationships & community. To involve those most impacted in making things right. <i>To prevent harm from happening again and to reintegrate all in community.</i>	Guide for Grieving Families. Law enforcement & first responder tool, providing information & resources following the tragic death of a loved one. Monthly Support Group & 6 week Circles. Trainings, Workshops, Circles to process events.

Outcomes Measures

SCVRJP identifies outcomes and designs evaluation forms to reach those outcomes. We measure the degree that people identify the risk they took, the intention to change, and the specific behavior they will do different in the future (counter-measure).

Some of our 2012 evaluation form feedback:

98 % of Victim Impact Panel Participants realized the impact of drinking & driving.

98% of participants in the Teen Driving Circles identified the program had an impact.

98% of the Underage Consumption Panel participants report being motivated to make low-risk alcohol choices.

100% of the Controlled Substance Intervention participants report being motivated to make low risk choices.

99% of Victim Empathy Seminar participants report the Circle was helpful to others.

For our United Way grant we collect input on 8 statements.. The statements and % responding with *Strongly Agree* and *Agree*.

- Made me realize that anyone who drives after drinking is taking a big risk. 99%
- Convinced me to arrange for alternative transportation if I am going to drink. 99%
- Made me realize the consequences of drinking and driving. 97%
- Convinced me not to drink and drive. 97%
- My behavior (drinking/driving) placed the community at risk. 96%
- Has made me consider stopping or decreasing the amount of alcohol I consume before driving. 96%
- I think this program will increase community safety. 96%
- My behavior will be different now. 96%

Service Delivery

Efficient

SCVRJP schedules sessions within 60 days of receiving a referral. Cases referred for a Victim-Offender or Community Conference may take longer. Individualized services require pre-session appointments to meet with parties individually for screening and preparation.

SCVRJP works diligently to provide services and see that all referrals receive Restorative Justice services. We offer payment plans and then track and encourage fulfillment of that payment plan. SCVRJP also provides community service as an option. In the warm months, we provide community clean-up teams and on a limited basis we offer office support and session volunteering as a means to compensate SCVRJP for your session. Of the 758 referrals in 2013 only 9 cases were closed due to individuals not fulfilling payment arrangements.

Session Completions

In 2013 SCVRJP closed 43 of 758 referred cases without receiving service. This means that the participants failed to attend, or that SCVRJP was unable to provide a final session. SCVRJP is effective in having 92% of those referred, attend a session.

In examining how many Victim Impact Panel participants from Pierce County are referred and attended in 2012 from August until November, 72 referrals were received. During that same timeframe 69 participants attended a Victim Impact Panel. This demonstrates 96% completion for those referred.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is crucial to the success of Restorative Justice. Community partnerships must be established to ensure funding, referrals to the program and the volunteers necessary to provide services.

SCVRJP engages community volunteers to assist with the delivery of Restorative Justice services. At any one time SCVRJP has 50-70 active volunteers. In review of our volunteer experience we analyzed one month of volunteers. We reviewed each volunteer for length of experience with SCVRJP. Our evaluation found an average 3 years of experience.

The average amount of volunteer experience at SCVRJP is 3 years.

The Independent Sector in Washington DC ([link](#))¹⁶, identifies the economic impact of volunteers. The most recent data indicates that \$22.14 hour is the rate of economic value for a volunteer in the United States. SCVRJP volunteers donated 3,236 hours in 2013, providing an economic impact of \$71,645.00 for SCVRJP. Volunteer efforts at SCVRJP are provided at a rate of nearly \$6,000 a month.

Volunteers create the capacity for SCVRJP to provide services.

SCVRJP averages 50 volunteers that vary over the course of a year. Currently 913 people receive the monthly electronic newsletter of SCVRJP.

All volunteers complete a volunteer application, and meet for a volunteer orientation session. Volunteers are provided resource materials to become familiar with the philosophy and approach of Restorative Justice.

Volunteers donated SCVRJP 3,236 hours of services for a value of \$71,645.00

Training sessions valued at \$200 are offered to SCVRJP volunteers free of charge. The volunteers attend the trainings with professional from outside the service area of SCVRJP.

SCVRJP also provides volunteer in-service sessions to keep volunteer skills relevant and consistent. In 2013 we provided an in-service on brain based restorative justice. This

session showed volunteers how they can influence change, by being aware of reactions and responses of the brain. The blog post and powerpoint is available at: [Link](#)¹⁷

Data Evidence

The data provided will include an overview of session attendance and then each session will be explained and include the referrals received in the past three years. It should be noted when reviewing this data, that each session provided has from 3-6 volunteers in attendance. This data is provided to demonstrate the capacity and achievements of those served by SCVRJP.

5 year service numbers

The following table features the total number of individuals served for the past 5 years. A table featuring the last 10 years is included in the appendix.

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Total for the YEAR	2,788	3,051	1,820	1,107	2,189
By session					
Victim Impact Panel	407	600	508	646	628
Underage Consumption Panel	167	222	182	168	171
Controlled Substance Intervention	98	112	59	45	6
Teen Driving Circles	127	107	103	183	339
Victim Empathy Seminar/VOC	88	132	96	65	53
Restorative Response	265	194	80	30	--
Education/ Outreach	1636	1684	792	<i>unavailable</i>	992

2013 Service Data

2013 as reported to the Board of Directors each month, the table below indicates numbers of individuals participating in each session.

	Victim Impact Panels	Underage Consumption Panels	Controlled Substance Intervention	Teen Driving Circles	Victim Empathy Seminars	Contract Services	Total Sessions/ Participants	Volunteer Hours	New Volunteer Apps	Referrals to SCVRJP
Jan	22	7	6	-	8	MNHS	11/96	111	8	67
Feb	42	25	10	-	4	UWRF	20/292	209.5	8	52
Mar	42	18	18	8	6	Stillwater	19/282	182.5	8	69
Apr	44	19	9	-	8	W. Bend	17/322	183	4	72
May	16	4	5	10	7	Winona	15/192	204	1	90
Jun	43	16	4	49	9	-	15/216	304.5	2	55
Jul	30	14	9	42	7	MN DOC	20/244	613.5	3	22
Aug	29	7	7	-	13	IJJA	23/544	423	4	60
Sep	31	13	11	10	-	USD	14/183	441.5	2	62
Oct	52	17	6	-	8	MNCOSA	21/196	239	9	93
Nov	36	7	6	8	6	-	12/142	196.5	3	74
Dec	20	20	7	-	12	-	10/77	128	3	42
HRJC YTD	76						35/219			
YTD	407	167	98	127	88		197*/2786**	3236***	55	758

***197** sessions in 2013:

50 Outreach presentations

28 Training sessions

22 Underage Consumption Panels

21 Circles -Juvenile Services Center

18 Victim Impact Panels

16 Circles for cases and other agencies

13 Restorative Response Sessions

13 Controlled Substance Interventions

12 Victim Empathy Seminars

8 Teen Driving Circles

****2,786** individuals served. SCVRJP achieves this with 1 full and 2 part-time staff and many, many volunteers.

*****3,236** volunteer hours. Volunteers attend Circle sessions, participate and share stories in sessions. Volunteers include interns, college students, area professionals, retirees and former offenders.

SCVRJP Sessions include staff and volunteers attending to the following:

- Setting up session material, booklets, plates, forms, markers.
- Scheduling participants, mailing reminder letters and making reminder calls to participants.
- Training and scheduling of community volunteers.
- Preparation and support of storytellers.
- Making deposits or monitoring payment arrangements.
- Verification with partner/referral agencies.
- Documenting the session participants in the SCVRJP database.
- Data entry of evaluation form input.

Referrals by Session

Victim Impact Panels-VIP

Victim Impact Panels address the public health concern of impaired driving. The audience attending is required to complete a pbt (preliminary breath test) as part of the registration process. Local law enforcement (based on VIP site) partner with SCVRJP for this. The audience is briefed in Restorative Justice and asked to listen with an open mind and an open heart. Two or three people relate the impact impaired driving has had on their life. Some perspectives are from the survivor/offender, others are family members whose loved ones were killed by impaired drivers, or their family member was the offender and died.

Victim Impact Panels were the first service offered by SCVRJP. SCVRJP has offered Victim Impact Panels since 2003. SCVRJP is Wisconsin's most active provider of Victim Impact Panels. SCVRJP offers sessions monthly in our primary service area, and every other month in Minnesota.

In 2003, SCVRJP partnered with Pierce and St. Croix County courts and human services/AODA departments to include attending the Victim Impact Panel as part of a Driver Safety Plan. Completion of a all Driver Safety Plan requirements restores driving privileges after an impaired driving conviction.

In late 2012, Pierce County Behavioral Health opted out of requiring the Victim Impact Panel as part of the Driver Safety Plan. Despite efforts to restore this process and partnership, SCVRJP moved to other solutions.

. . . many students openly state that their experience at the Victim Impact Panel was the single most important event in their Driver Safety Plans and that this will affect the long-term change hoped for by the State. I strongly believe in the "impact" and effectiveness of the Victim Impact Panels on my students . . .

**-Bill Rasmussen, 10 year
Group Dynamics
Instructor, Retired Sgt,
River Falls Police
Department**

Meetings were held with Pierce Circuit Court Judge, District Attorney, Court Commissioner and others. In April 2013 a process was designed to shorten drivers license suspensions, based on participation in the Victim Impact Panel. With the requirement not part of the Drivers Safety Plan, it has been difficult to see that Pierce County Impaired Drivers attend a VIP.

In October 2013, another meeting was held with Circuit Court staff, to respond to decreased referrals from Pierce County. In addition to Circuit Court staff, area municipal courts and attorneys have been adding the Victim Impact Panel requirement, expanding our referral agencies for VIP.

Participants have been referred by the following agencies:

Victim Impact Panel - VIP			
Referrals by Agency	2013	2012	2011
Pierce Co AODA	0	203	162
St Croix Co AODA	282	330	337
River Falls Municipal Court	12	2	
Pierce Co Circuit Court	11	0	
Arbor Place -Menomonie	11	-	
Polk County Wisconsin	11	-	
Prescott Municipal Court	5	3	
Hudson Probation Office	8		
Attorneys	7		
Ellsworth Probation Office	3		
Hudson Municipal Court	1		
Hastings Victim Impact Panels			
Dakota County MN	58		
Washington County MN	20		

Underage Consumption Panels

After seeing large audiences in Victim Impact Panels, it was determined a more proactive approach to reduce Impaired Driving should be addressed. SCVRJP developed Underage Consumption Panels as a response to those age 17 & older needing an intervention.

To utilize ‘evidence-based’ programming, SCVRJP staff attended training in BASIC and CHOICES. This includes Change Company© material, motivational interviewing and harm-reduction models. The program material was delivered with a Restorative Justice Circle process. The response and success was noted. In a public forum in December 2011, Judge Cicero, River Falls Municipal Court Judge, shared that the program reduces

“frequent flyers” in her courtroom. She viewed the program as a community solving its own problems and indicated, “that’s a good thing”.

Noted trends for this program include the use of UCP’s by UWRf campus. In the fall of 2012, the Students Rights and Responsibility Office at UWRf included participation at UCP’s as a requirement to restore good standing with campus housing policy. This reduced the number of referrals from River Falls Municipal Court and the Pierce County District Attorney’s Office. Campus housing issues the sanction for those under 21 in a room with alcohol being consumed, and for those who are underage and consuming alcohol. UWRf Counseling staff also refer students to UCP’s.

Underage Consumption Panels - UCP			
Referrals by Agency	2013	2012	2011
UWRf-Res life and counseling	68	84	30
River Falls Municipal Court	48	60	77
Pierce Co Circuit Court	9	11	19
Hudson Municipal Court	11	16	25
Prescott Municipal	7	13	5
St Croix Co Circuit	5	3	5
Somerset Municipal	7	7	5
Attorneys	3	-	-
Roberts Municipal	3		
North Hudson Municipal	1	15	5
Other/MISC: Programs for Change, Dunn, Polk, Burnett, LaCrosse, Milwaukee, Grand Forks			

Controlled Substance Intervention Circles

Following the success of Underage Consumption Panels, River Falls Municipal Court staff requested a similar session for drug possession and paraphernalia. SCVRJP duplicated Underage Consumption Panels, utilized Change Company© booklets and Circle process to provide a session that would address the impact of use, abuse, addiction and non-use.

When the program began in 2009, many volunteers were from area drug courts. Both current participants and recent graduates helped support the Circle process.

SCVRJP heard many stories and experiences from participants and quickly recognized that the incident that initiated the referral was one of many harmful experiences participants experienced. Participants openly shared seeing others over-dose and could

identify the harm to relationships from substance use. Program curriculum expanded to include substances that can be purchased legally, such as K-spice, incense and bath salts.

The controlled substance intervention circle includes having participants sharing what might motivate a person to use substances. Participants often relate a traumatic experience and openly speak about the struggle to stop using. This session has an increased instance of participants becoming volunteers. Volunteering is a way to maintain sobriety and allows the sharing of past traumas appropriately as opposed to using to cope. Often times participants find community members that attend 12-step recovery programs and phone numbers are shared, and an additional support for sobriety is made.

Controlled Substance Intervention - CSI			
Referrals by Agency	2013	2012	2011
River Falls Municipal Court	28	34	26
Pierce Co Circuit Court	28	30	29
UWRF Res life and counseling	22	11	5
Prescott Municipal	17	11	-
Hudson Municipal Court	6	10	12
Attorneys	3	2	
St Croix Co Diversion Program	2	1	0
Somerset Municipal	1	-	-

Teen Driving Circles

SCVRJP received a referral for an individual that was court ordered to do public speaking. There was a crash that caused two fatalities and the driver was not impaired. This prompted SCVRJP to create programming to address traffic fatalities when alcohol/impairment was not involved. At this time there was a grant opportunity from the Allstate Foundation. SCVRJP was awarded \$30,000 to develop and implement Safe Teen Driving Circles. This service has been provided to area drivers education programs and driver training schools.

The program was featured in a documentary by Twin Cities Public Television and has continued to air since 2008. This program was also featured on KARE 11 and in the River Falls Journal.

The River Falls Police Department provides support to this service. An officer (if available) attends the session and speaks to the participants and volunteers. The engagement with the authority is appreciated. Participants are able to ask traffic related questions and develop an understanding of how their behavior could have or did impact the local community. The Officer's attendance is valued and appreciated by the volunteers and especially the speakers sharing how they were impacted by a traffic crash.

Teen Driving Circles			
Referrals by Agency	2013	2012	2011
River Falls Municipal Court	23	33	26
UWRF	0	1	0
Hudson Municipal Court	6	2	2
Pierce Co Circuit Court	3	0	1
St Croix Co Circuit Court	0	0	0
Prescott Municipal Court	3	3	
Hudson Municipal Court	2	2	

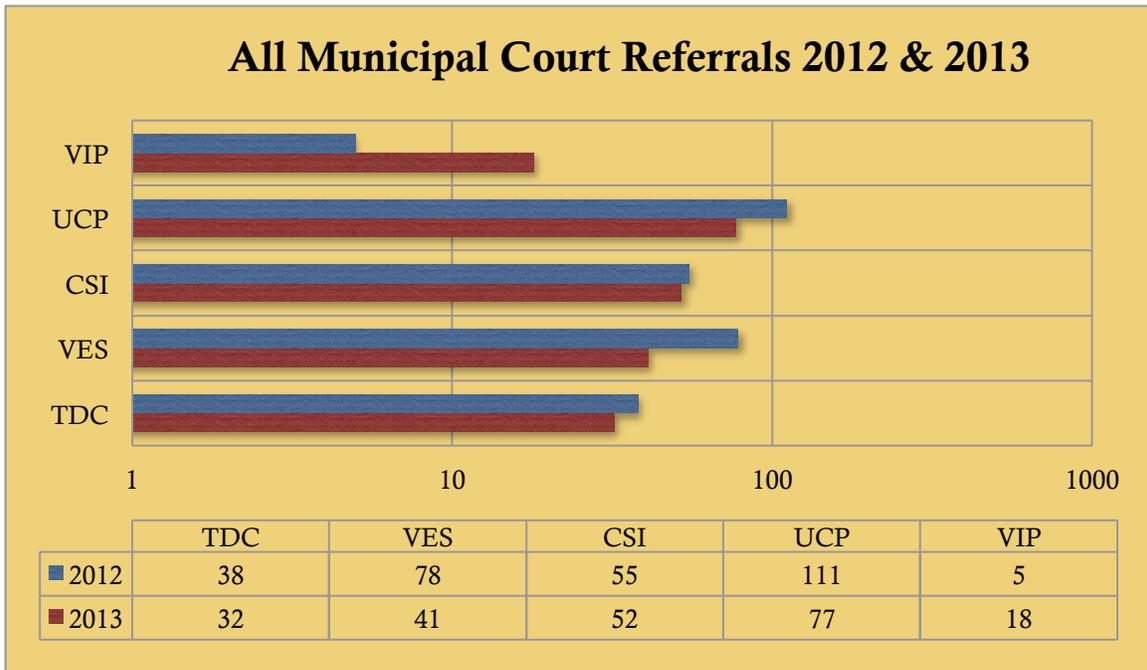
Victim Empathy Seminar/Victim-Offender Dialogue

SCVRJP was founded to provide Victim-Offender Dialogue. Over time, it was evident that not all victims were interested in meeting face-to-face with the person causing them harm. Contacting the victim was not understood or favored by victim advocates, presenting challenges to providing VOD or VOC (victim-offender conferencing) services. SCVRJP developed Victim Empathy Seminars for juveniles. In 2007, a small contract with Pierce County Human Services supported this service. At that time there was no cost to the participant and parent. The funds to SCVRJP were grant-based and did not renew in 2008.

In 2011, River Falls Municipal Court requested support and VES's were utilized for the college aged population, typically the disruptive and disorderly conducts associated with bar close incidents. This has been an effective partnership and is reflected in the referrals documented.

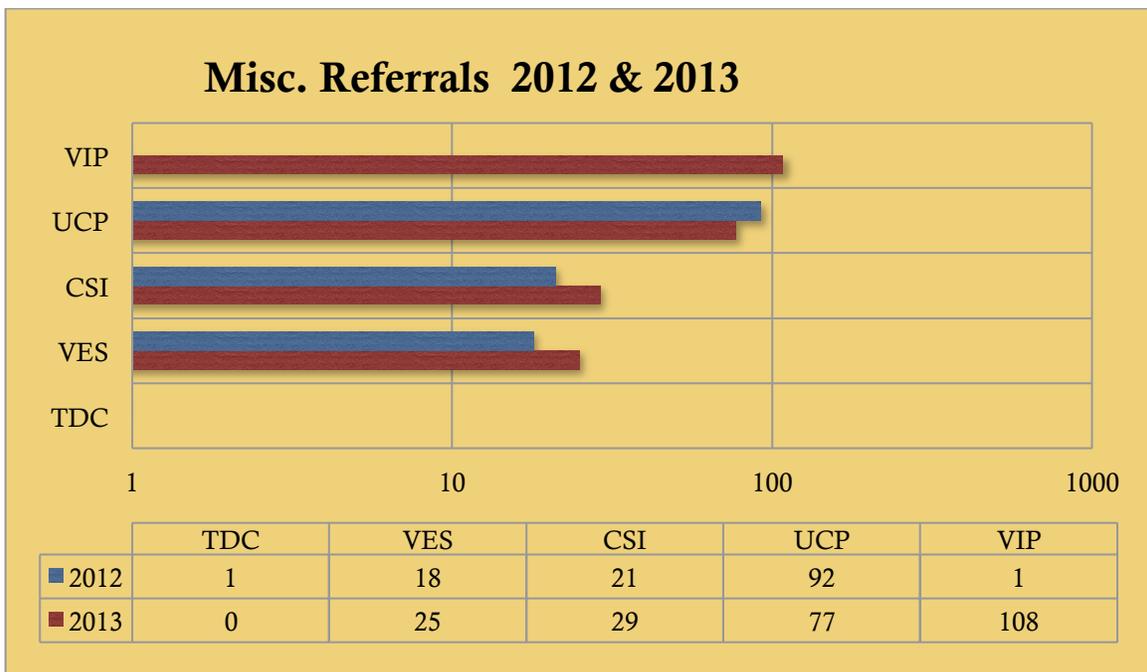
Victim Empathy Seminar/Victim-Offender Dialogue			
Referrals by Agency	2013	2012	2011
River Falls Municipal Court	30	60	45
UWRF	3	0	8
Hudson Municipal Court	10	17	15
Pierce Co Circuit Court	40	40	20
St Croix Co Diversion	4	4	9
St Croix Juvenile Justice	1	5	
Pierce Co Juvenile Justice	5	1	
Pierce Co Probation	6	4	
Dakota County	10		
Attorneys	6		
Washington County	3		

Referring Agencies Charts

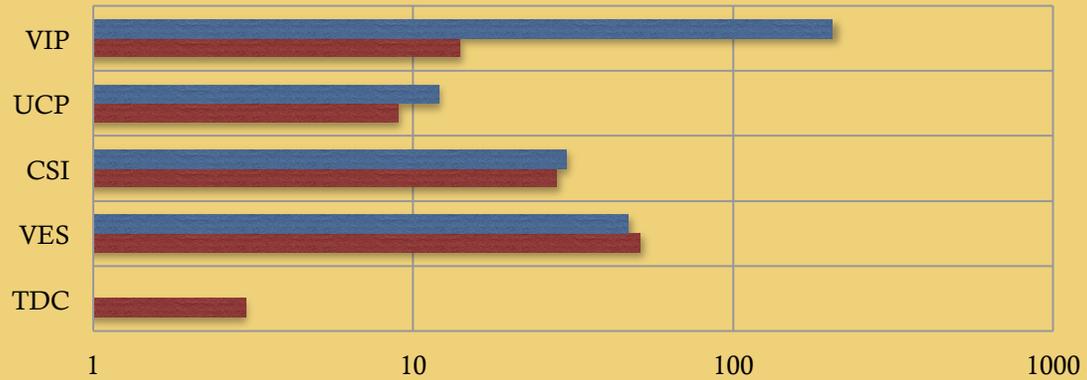


Municipal Courts provided **220 referrals** to SCVRJP in 2013. River Falls Municipal Court refers the majority of referrals.

The miscellaneous referral group includes referrals from UWRF, Minnesota and outside Pierce & St. Croix Counties. The miscellaneous referral group provided **145 referrals** to SCVRJP in 2013



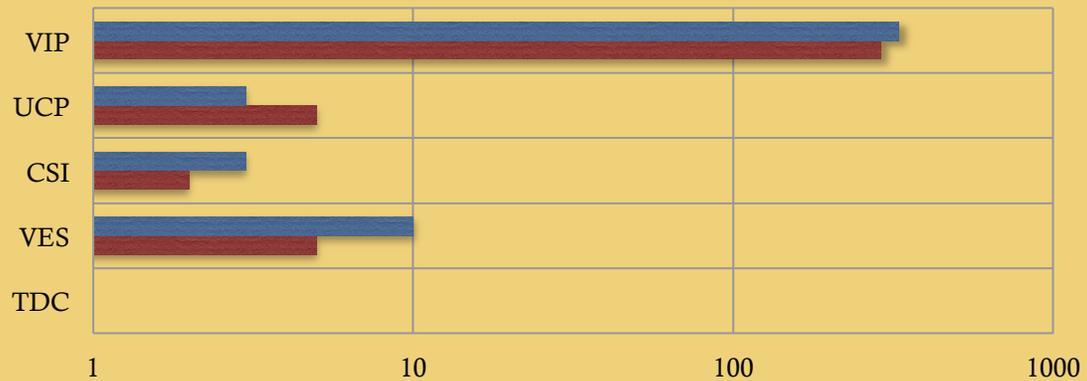
Pierce County Referrals 2012 & 2013



	TDC	VES	CSI	UCP	VIP
■ 2012	0	47	30	12	203
■ 2013	3	51	28	9	14

Pierce County Circuit Court, Probation, District Attorney’s Office provided 105 referrals in 2013. In 2012, there were 292 referrals from Pierce County.

St. Croix County Referrals 2012 & 2013



	TDC	VES	CSI	UCP	VIP
■ 2012	0	10	3	3	330
■ 2013	0	5	2	5	290

The majority of St Croix County referrals come from the Driver Safety Plan referrals. SCVRJP received 302 referrals in 2013 and 345 in 2012

Performance

The measure of our services can also be felt with the comments and feedback from participants and volunteers. Divided by service, we have provided some comments from our evaluation forms:

2013 Victim Impact Panel:

- *Inspired to make responsible choices for self, family, and society.*
- *I liked the level of detail the speakers put into their stories. It really made me think about the risk I put people in when I drink and drive*
- *Hearing a person's story is such a reality and hits home for me. I wish I would have learned my first time when I got a DWI. Thank God I never hurt anyone*
- *Just listening to both speakers and their stories. It really was great to be able to hear from both the offender side and victim side and learned a lot from this.*
- *The personal accounts were great. Thomas's story was very good, most people don't care about themselves but Thomas showed the consequences.*

2013 Teen Driving Circle:

- *When Pam had the strength and courage to share her story and have an impact on every person*
- *How it wasn't just someone on TV. It was real and touching*
- *I would say this was a life changing experience and it showed that you need to be a safe driver*
- *A good program that will show you that car crashes do happen and that the crashes have impacts on real people in your community*

2013 Underage Consumption Panel:

- *Touching. Makes you rethink things. I don't want to get in another car with a drunk driver.*
- *Helpful to think about more than yourself whenever you choose to drink*
- *A good way to understand the effects of your drinking on yourself and others*
- *Jerry's story and the obstacles he faced. For a person that just met Jerry, I feel he's one of the strongest people I've known.*
- *The personal stories of the volunteers made the issues real. It put things into a larger perspective.*

2013 Controlled Substance Intervention:

- *A very good experience that actually makes you think about things*
- *Great learning experience. You learn a lot, Great community members.*

- *Hearing all the honest stories and being able to relate to others in similar situations*
- *Hearing older people and young people and their sides of the stories*
- *Mark's story was very inspirational*

2013 Victim Empathy Seminar:

- *A program that allows you to hear about what community members feel about what goes on and how they feel about matters. It gives you a chance to express empathy or sympathy of others*
- *Helpful, made you really think about how you impact others in your community*
- *The community members were very helpful and informative. Stories were powerful and had a great effect*
- *I liked most of all that there was no judgment placed on anyone, and everyone got a chance to speak*
- *The openness that everyone had. Learning others' stories and how to overcome such situations.*

2013 Workshops & Trainings

- *The hands on learning and very therapeutic atmosphere*
- *Casual flow, interest in participants' needs, concerns and questions.*
- *Kris' engagement - positive energy, learning activities to use in circle.*
- *The circle process is needed throughout the world for resolving conflict-I learned a great deal at this training.*
- *Restorative Justice is such a great tool to be used in the schools, you really get to know and understand students and staff.*

CJCC Vision

The Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance released a CJCC Annual Report in April 2013 ([link](#))¹⁸. This report identified the CJCC goals to improve outcomes, lower costs and reduce recidivism, by addressing gaps and needs within the criminal justice system. The report highlighted collaboration and strategic planning.

SCVRJP has demonstrated the ability to achieve outcomes, reduce costs and reduce recidivism. SCVRJP has the organizational capacity to assist the local CJCC's with reaching these goals.

The OJA, CJCC Annual Report also stated:

“CJCCs help key justice decision-makers pool resources to meet the needs of their community, increase safety to their citizens, and lower the costs of incarceration. This meets the larger goals of improved justice quality, addressing the root causes of crime, improving the overall justice system, and increasing community support. Members realize that together, they can accomplish larger goals for community safety and accountability than any one of them can achieve alone.”

SCVRJP is suggesting that both Pierce and St. Croix Counties CJCC teams include Restorative Justice member. This could be a staff member of SCVRJP, the board chair, a board member or founding board member of SCVRJP.

SCVRJP has a decade of experience in reaching goals that promote community engagement and address the root causes of crime. SCVRJP operates at a cost savings by engaging volunteers in the delivery of service.

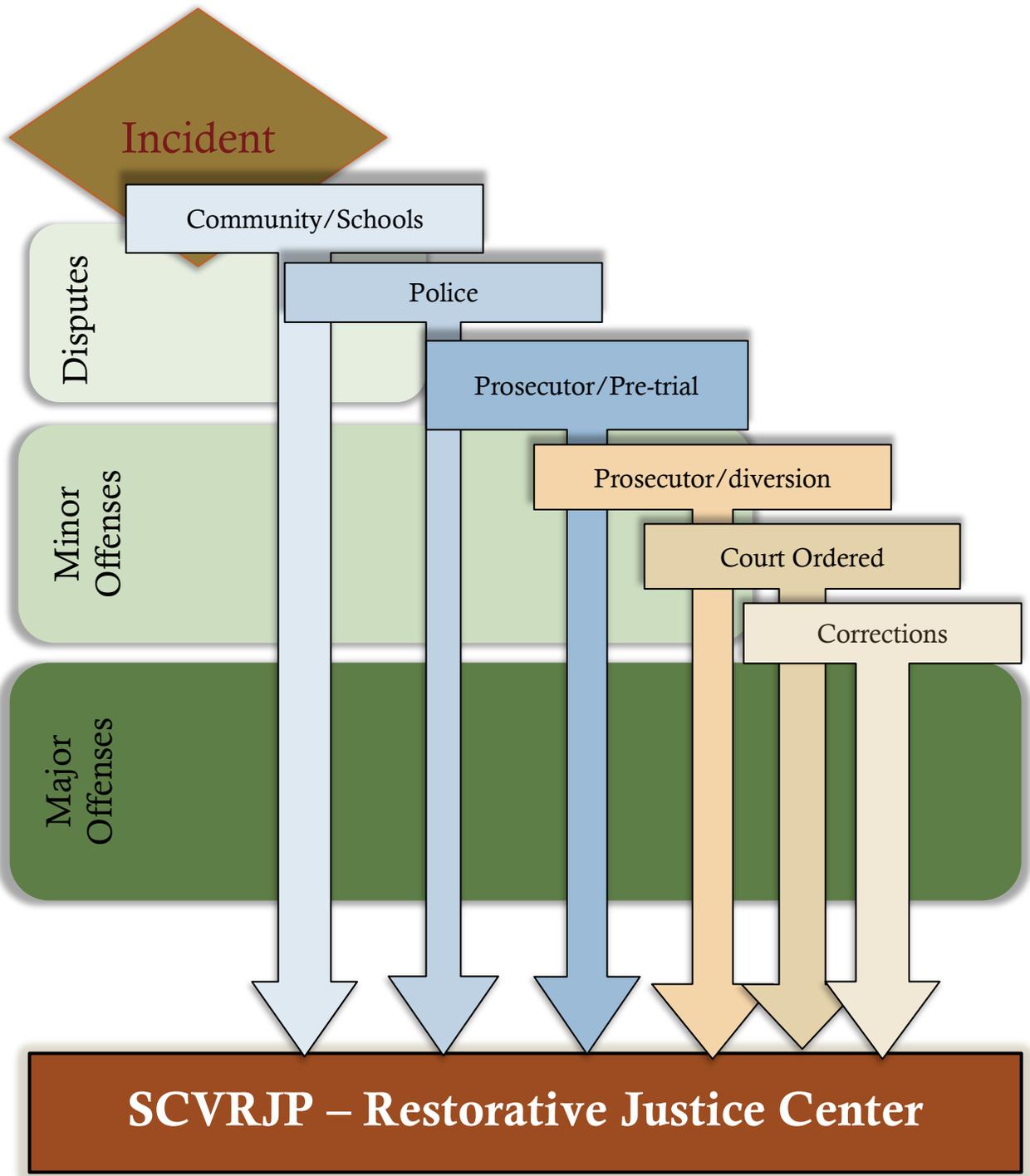
This report highlights the achievements and performance of SCVRJP, and demonstrates the overlap in goals and mission between Restorative Justice and the CJCC's.

SCVRJP services can be used across the criminal justice system and utilized to resolve disputes and conflict. We are available and interested in partnering with the CJCC's to achieve the strategies and goals of the CJCC's.

SCVRJP has provided contracted services in the past and currently has a contract with the Minnesota Department of Corrections and an upcoming opportunity with Dakota County Community Corrections. Contracting with our local community is desired.

SCVRJP has provided services in a variety of settings, from the middle school to the campus, we have responded to incidents of harm. We are confident our structure of transparency, character and credibility will assist us in implementing CJCC strategies by the increase use of existing SCVRJP services.

The following chart demonstrates the referral options for Restorative Justice:



SCVRJP

History

SCVRJP was founded in 2001 and was originally named Pierce County Community Justice. In 2004, the mission statement, “To build and sustain a culture of peace and belonging utilizing restorative justice principles and programs in our community” was officially adopted. The board of directors participated in a Peacemaking Circle facilitated by Kay Pranis, author and international trainer in Restorative Justice Peacemaking Circle process.

In 2006, the Restorative Justice Center opened and SCVRJP quickly became an active participant in the local community. The Restorative Justice Center is in the River Center Building, just one block off of Main Street in River Falls.

SCVRJP has been providing Restorative Justice trainings since 2005, specializing in Restorative Justice Circles and School-based Restorative Justice.

In addition to core Restorative Justice victim-offender conferencing, SCVRJP has developed programming and services to respond to community needs. SCVRJP addresses issues related to driving impaired, teen driving, underage consumption, disorderly conduct, controlled substance use.

Since 2001, a number of volunteers have helped SCVRJP evolve as a successful non-profit. Board members serve 3-year terms and volunteers help during a semester or several years. Donations and financial support from area individuals and foundations have helped expand programs and staff. SCVRJP has received local, state and national awards, while successfully delivering services in alignment with our mission.

Key milestones for SCVRJP

- 2001 – Founding of the program, originally named Pierce County Community Justice.
- 2004 – First employee, established by a grant from the Fred C & Katherine B Andersen Foundation.
- 2006 – Opening of the Restorative Justice Center. SCVRJP engages first UWRF Intern.
- 2007 – Addition of programs and staff, an Allstate Foundation Grant provided for Safe Teen Driving and a Minnesota Public Television Documentary.
- 2008 – SCVRJP named the River Falls Chamber of Commerce “2007 Small Business of the Year”. American Probation and Parole Association Award for Excellence in Community Crime Prevention. WI MADD – advocacy award.
- 2009 – SCVRJP awarded a 3-year grant from The Otto Bremer Foundation. Hosts first fundraiser and reaches over 2,000 individuals.
- 2010 – First annual Walk for Awareness. Addition of Restorative Response services.
- 2012 - SCVRJP partners with the Hastings Restorative Justice Council and provides Victim Impact Panels and Circles for the Hastings Community.
- 2013 – Staff includes an Office Manager and Volunteer Coordinator, 3 summer interns from University of Wisconsin – River Falls.

Board of Directors

The board of directors for SCVRJP has been crucial to the development and success. In the very beginning, SCVRJP board members facilitated the first victim impact panels.

2014 Board of Directors

Chair Gary Campbell	Meyer Middle School, School Counselor
Vice-Chair Jeff Horner	River Falls School District – <i>Retired</i>
Treasurer Mark Gherty	Gherty and Gherty, S.C.
Secretary Tammy Stifter	UW Social Worker Masters Degree student
Jennifer Black	Pierce County Human Services
Dan Burgess	Roberts Police Chief
Linda Henderson	Financial Services Professional – <i>Retired</i>
Cindy McKahan	River Falls Municipal Court
Nancy Miller	Miller Law Office
John O’Boyle	O’Boyle Law Office
Patty Schachtner	St. Croix County Chief Medical Examiner
Lesa Woitas	UW-River Falls Police Department

Board Members of the past 5 years:

David Babcock	Ann Gustafson
Paul Bourget	Steve Leitch
Nick Carstens	Craig Morris
Ann Davey	Max Neuhaus
Julie Dollahon	Bill Rasmussen
Janet Ellinger	Rich Wallace
Kristi Feist	Bruce Whitaker
Kent Forsland	

Founding Board Members (completing a full-term):

Brad Farrier	John Kucinski	Marlene Parslow
Eric Johnson	Kris Miner	Keith Rodli
Fred Johnson	John O’Boyle	Rod Rommel
Mike Johnson	Alison Page	Honorable Ed Vlack

Key Staff

Kris Miner is the Executive Director at St. Croix Valley Restorative Justice Program (SCVRJP). She has served SCVRJP as director since 2005, and was a founding board member when the program began in 2001. Under her leadership, SCVRJP has expanded in programs, services, and annual budget. Kris is a successful grant-writer, marketer and non-profit manager. SCVRJP addresses a range of public health issues including impaired driving, teen driving, controlled substance use, and juvenile crime, conflicts in schools, property and personal crime. SCVRJP provides a range of Restorative Justice Services including victim-offender conferencing, victim impact panels, underage consumption panels, controlled substance intervention circles, teen driving circles, victim empathy seminars and restorative response programming.

SCVRJP began with the idea and intention to embed the philosophy of Restorative Justice. After a decade of work in the community, SCVRJP is a recognized and valued program. The local campus implemented a student leadership position of Circle keeper, modeled after the work of SCVRJP and training provided by Kris. SCVRJP has been called on to support the community in the most serious of incidents and is part of local coalitions and prevention initiatives.

Kris designed and implemented Restorative Response services which address sudden and traumatic death. Restorative Response provides support circles, trainings and a Guide for Grieving Families. SCVRJP provides trainings and workshops on a range of Restorative Justice Topics including brain-based change, survivors support and healing trauma.

Kris is a volunteer for the Minnesota Department of Corrections and facilitates cases of severe crime and violence. This involves working with victims and offenders in Minnesota facilities. She also provides this service in the local area and as a consultant for cases in community setting. She is an advocate for crime victims, and is skilled in supporting the healing journey for survivors of violent crimes.

Kris graduated from South Dakota State University with her bachelor's degree in Mass Communication and her Masters Degree in Counseling. Her professional work experience includes in-home family therapist, social worker, and juvenile justice and child protection supervisor.

Kris has been an advocate of family engagement models and includes strengths based and positive psychology trends in her Restorative Justice Work. Kris is an engaging speaker and trainer; she has presented at state and national conferences and trained across the United States. She has been blogging on Restorative Justice since 2008, her site "Circle-space" has been visited over 200,000 times. Kris has been quoted in "Glamour" magazine on websites and authored an article for the **American Humane Association Journal: Protecting Children**.

Major Grants

SCVRJP has relied heavily on foundations for funding. The Otto Bremer Foundation has provided nearly half a million dollars in support since 2006. The Fred C. & Katherine B. Andersen Foundation consistently supported SCVRJP in amounts of \$20,000 to \$30,000 annually. These funders have allowed SCVRJP to hire staff and grow as a viable non-profit.

In 2008 and 2009, the Allstate Foundation provided two grants of \$30,000 to establish the teen driving circles and produce a documentary with Minnesota Public Television.

Support ranging from \$5,000 to \$11,000 dollars has been provided consistently by the St. Croix Valley United Way and the Hugh J. Andersen Foundation.

SCVRJP has obtained funding from local foundations in Hudson, River Falls, Prescott and New Richmond. Local Rotary Clubs have also contributed to projects and operations.

Fundraising is done in the spirit of our mission with an annual Walk for Awareness. Those that have died by suicide, homicide or traffic fatality are remembered at this annual event. SCVRJP has had two dinner/silent auction fundraisers, the first in 2009 and the 2nd in 2012. In the summer of 2013 a partnership with a local car show brought fundraising revenue to SCVRJP.

The goal to have other agencies or social clubs raise funds has had limited success. The SCVRJP marketing committee is working on defining clear messages to promote support.

Budget Performance 2013

SCVRJP anticipated a grant that was not received during the 2013 fiscal year. This caused a significant loss on the 2013 income and expense performance. The Income and Expense difference for 2013 was a negative \$74,355. The board of directors is facing financial issues and working to update the strategic plan and business model of SCVRJP.

The December 2013 balance sheet reflects assets of \$50,132. SCVRJP is anticipating news of a large grant for early 2014 and adjusting the budget accordingly.

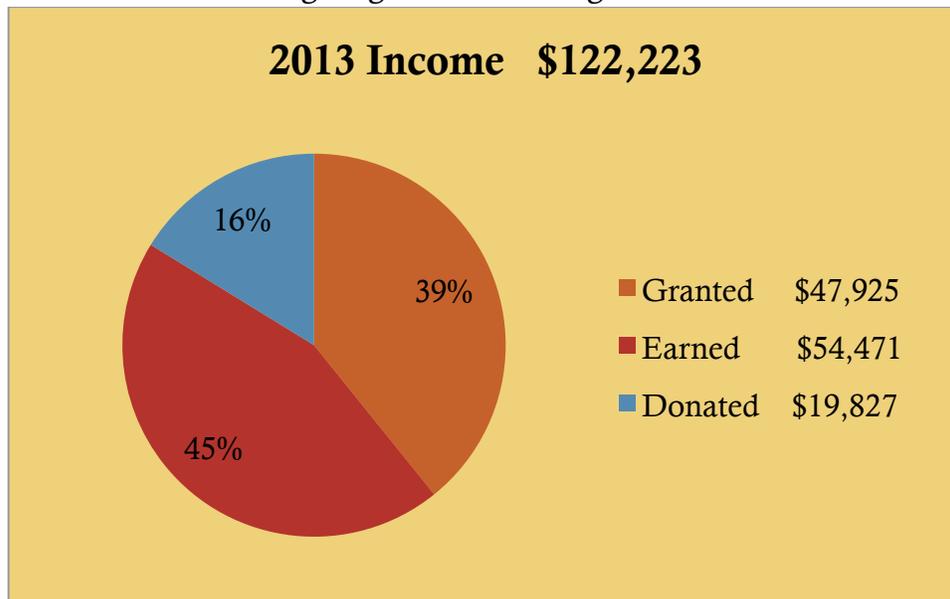
Funding

Three major categories of income:

Granted – funds from foundations (grants)

Earned – session fees, consultation/contracted income

Donated – charitable giving and fundraising

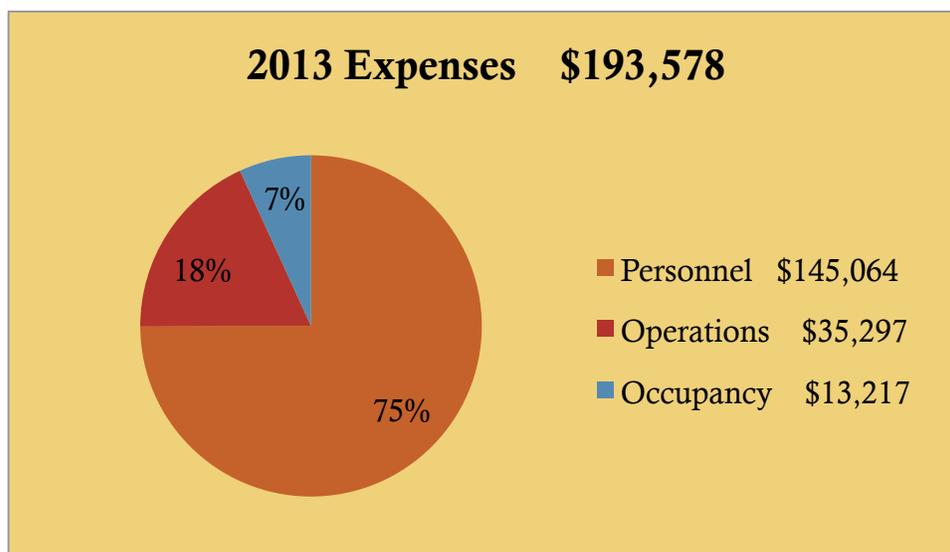


SCVRJP divides expenses into three main categories:

Occupancy – rent, utilities, meeting space, property tax.

Operations- printing, marketing, fundraising, memberships, volunteer support, office supplies, session material.

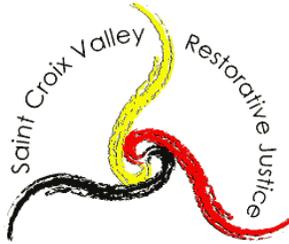
Personnel – employee wages & benefits, payroll services, staff training, mileage and travel.



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Appendix



St. Croix Valley Restorative Justice Program

Mission, Values and Vision

SCVRJP Mission Statement

The mission of the St. Croix Valley Restorative Justice Program is to build & sustain a culture of peace and belonging utilizing restorative justice principles and programs in our community. SCVRJP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit founded in 2001.

SCVRJP Core Values

- Focus on the harms of the crime rather than just the rules that have been broken.
- Show equal concern and commitment to victims, offenders and communities by involving all in the process of justice.
- Work toward the restoration of victims and communities, empowering them and responding to their needs as they see them.
- Support offenders, while encouraging them to understand, accept and carry out their obligations.
- Recognize that while obligations may be difficult for offenders, those obligations should not be intended as punishment, and they must be achievable.
- Provide opportunities for dialogue, direct or indirect, between victims and offenders as appropriate.
- Find meaningful ways to involve the community and to respond to the community bases of crime.
- Encourage collaboration and reintegration of victims and offenders, rather than coercion and isolation.
- Give attention to the unintended consequences of all actions and programs.
- Show respect to all parties -- victims, offenders, and justice colleagues.
- Implement Restorative Justice Principles at every level of the continuum of harm, whether in a school setting or diversion program, during probation, or in a detention, jail or prison setting.

Principles of Restorative Justice

- Crime is harm.
- Crime harms individual victims, communities and offenders and creates an obligation to make things right.
- All parties should be a part of the response to the crime, including the victim if he or she wishes, the community, and the offender.
- The victim's perspective is central to deciding how to repair the harm caused by the crime.
- Accountability for the offender means accepting responsibility and acting to repair the harm done.
- The community is responsible for the well being of all its members, including both victim and offender.
- All human beings have dignity and worth.
- Restoration -- repairing the harm and rebuilding relationships in the community -- is the primary goal of restorative justice.
- Results are measured by how much repair was done rather than how much punishment was inflicted.
- Crime control cannot be achieved without active involvement of the community.
- The Restorative Justice process is respectful of age, abilities, sexual orientation, family status, and diverse cultures and backgrounds -- whether racial, ethnic, geographic, religious, economic or other -- and all are given equal protection and due process.

The Restorative Justice Vision

- Support from the community, opportunity to define the harm experienced and participation in decision-making about steps for repair result in increased victim recovery from the trauma of crime.
- Community involvement in preventing and controlling crime, improving neighborhoods and strengthening the bonds among community members results in community protection.
- Through understanding the human impact of their behavior, accepting responsibility, expressing remorse, taking action to repair the damage, and developing their own capacities, offenders become fully integrated, respected members of the community.
- Restorative Justice practitioners organize and support processes in which individual crime victims, other community members and offenders are involved in finding constructive resolutions to conflict, harm and crime.

Total served one decade

From 2003 through 2013: 19,062

	Annual Direct Services Total		Victim Impact Panels	Victim Empathy Seminars	Underage Consumption Panels	Teen Driving Circles	Controlled Substance Interventions	Outreach Trainings	Restorative Response
2003	35	=	35	VOC	Added in 2006	Added in 2007	Added in 2009	Added in 2007	Added in 2010
2004	193	=	188	5					
2005	397	=	375	22					
2006	663	=	570	51	42	117	2000		
2007	2,924	=	586	80	141				
2008	3,867	=	512	145	192			275	
2009	2,189	=	628	53	171	339	6	992	
2010	1,137	=	646	65	168	183	45	<i>Not Available</i>	30
2011	1,820	=	508	96	182	103	59	792	80
2012	3,051	=	600	132	222	107	112	1684	194
2013	2786	=	407	88	167	127	98	1611	288
Total Served 10 years	19,062	=	5,055	737	1,285	1,251	320	9,822	592
			Victim Impact Panels	Victim Empathy Seminars	Underage Consumption Panels	Teen Driving Circles	Controlled Substance Interventions	Outreach/ Trainings	Restorative Response

5,055 individuals in Victim Impact Panels

737 in Victim Empathy Seminars

1,285 in Underage Consumption Panels

1,251 in Teen Driving Circles

320 in Controlled Substance Intervention Circles

9,822 attended a training, workshop, presentation or other type of RJ event

592 individuals reached in Restorative Response sessions