



Lakes Area Restorative Justice Project

Volunteer Community Member

Description of Duties

Lakes Area Restorative Justice Project Description: LARJP is a community directed, operated and supported project operating in the Crow Wing County area with local law enforcement and schools. *The mission of LARJP is to restore community by involving juveniles who have caused harm, the people who were harmed and the community in a process which addresses the needs of the victim, holds the youth accountable for the damage and responsible to provide restoration, and promotes healing for all.*

LARJP accepts referrals from law enforcement and schools on juveniles who have broken the law, usually minor offenses, and those who have violated school rules. The main activity is a conference involving the persons who caused the harm, those who were harmed and their family and support persons of both as well as appropriate community members. During the conference the offending juveniles talk about what they did, why, and how they and others were impacted. The persons who were harmed talk about the impact the behavior had on them and ask any questions they have of the juveniles. Supporters or families of each also share their feelings. Community members talk about the impact the offense has on the community (school). After all have understood the motivations and impact, all parties present discuss what the juveniles can do to repair the damage and make better decisions in their lives. Based on this discussion, a written agreement is completed by the facilitator that will be fulfilled usually in a three-month period.

LARJP also accepts referrals from the County Attorney's office on more serious juvenile cases that may involve felony offenses. These youth also meet with their victims and agree upon a plan to restore the harm they caused.

Community Members: Community members are people who attend conferences and assist the wrongdoer in understanding the harm they have caused to the community. They participate in the conference in every way—speaking about the impact of wrongdoing, participating in the discussion about how the wrongdoing will be repaired, and offering support and resources to the wrongdoers if so desired. They are present to speak from their personal perspective as residents of the area, business owners, parents of school children, faculty and employees of area schools, students from area schools, and area leaders.

Community Member Requirements:

- Minimum fifteen years of age
- No formal education, prior training or experience is necessary
- Complete one to two-hour orientation meeting as provided by the Project. The training will involve information about restorative justice, the role and responsibilities of being a community member.
- Agree to attend community conferences based on your availability
- A desire to help your community including youth, victims and families

Community Member Benefits:

- Be part of helping youth, families and victims
- Have a role in improving your community and contributing to community cohesiveness
- Develop valuable skills and experience in communication and conflict resolution

Community Member Responsibilities:

- Agree to attend community conferences based on your schedule and availability. Conferences will usually be held in your general geographic area of residence or employment
- Willingness to adhere to the principles of restorative justice
- Willingness to be respectful to all
- Willingness to speak from your own perspective as a community member
- *Maintain complete case confidentiality and remain equally partial to all participants.*

To Apply to be a Community Member:

Stephanie Haider, Director of Program Services, 612-327-3162 - stephhaider@aol.com
or write to: LARJP, 4638 Co Rd 11, Pequot Lakes, MN 56472 or call the office at 218-568-4145