

# FOR Topeka Center Peace & Justice

## BE A PART OF THE CHANGE: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE NEIGHBORHOOD ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS

*Written by Nancy Kelley, Restorative Justice & Mediation Coordinator*



The Topeka Center for Peace and Justice (TCPJ) is offering a free training for Topeka and Shawnee County community members who are 18 years and older and who are interested in participating in Neighborhood Accountability Boards.

A Neighborhood Accountability Board, or NAB for short, is a restorative process that involves a community member who has done harm (the offender), the person the harm was done to, trained members of the community (NAB Members) where the harm took place and mediators from TCPJ. During this process, the person who has done the harm has a chance to tell their story to members of the community, and members of the community have the opportunity to speak about how this harm affected them or their community. In all processes, the person who was directly harmed (the victim) has the opportunity to share their story, either in person or through a prepared statement, and influ-

ence what the agreement is and how the person who has harmed them can make things as right as possible.

The Zoom training is April 7, 2022, from 6:00- 8:30pm and will consist of training in Restorative Practices as well as hands-on experience for NAB.

After the training the participants will be welcomed to join as volunteers to serve as board members when mediations arise that are best resolved through the NAB process.

Participation numbers are limited for this training so please go to the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice website to register.  
<http://www.topekacpj.org/>

For more information please contact the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice at 785-329-6349.

### Registration Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address for zoom invitation \_\_\_\_\_

Community Affiliations \_\_\_\_\_

**UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION: Please note that the phone number for the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice has changed! Our new number is 785-329-6349.**



*Carl Frazier*  
**Board Chair**

**Topeka Center for Peace and Justice (TCPJ) Mission:** *To promote justice and peace through education and action for social change by working with individuals and organizations in Topeka.*

Wow, I am so glad that relationships are so important in life. We at the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice are so happy for the many relationships we have in the community. Because of many of your donations, we are able to continue to promote restorative practice programs in the community. Also, we are excited to add in the near future a new program called Neighborhood Accountability Board.

We recently received a \$9,000+ check from the Bill Bleachy Foundation. This was a great blessing to the Center. TCPJ is looking for other foundations and community donations to continue supporting our organization.

We are excited about our current board and staff as we continue looking for improvements and reducing expenses. We reduced our communication bill which resulted in saving almost \$400 per month for our organization. We are still in the same location and engaging the community.

And lastly, I would like to extend a prayer for peace and justice in Ukraine as the war continues. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people who live there.

## **ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL *WHOSE DREAM IS IT?***

***Written by Lori Brown, TCPJ Board Member***

The 29th Annual "Whose Dream Is It?", on January 17th, went very well. It was a great program in collaboration with the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice, the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historical Park in Atlanta, and the Brown v Board of Education National Park in Topeka. The program was held virtually again due to Covid concerns, via Zoom and live YouTube with immense help from Danette at GV Hot 97 radio. There were prayers, scripture and writings presented by some of the many Faith Communities in Topeka including Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Baha'i. There was a tour and stories of Martin Luther King Jr.'s childhood home and early life. Brown v Board of Education presented a video talking with young people about Martin Luther King Jr. Our headline speaker was Alvin Brooks from Kansas City, MO. Mr. Brooks is a well known civil rights activist. He was one of the first black police officers in Kansas City, MO in the 50's. He was the first department head in Kansas City, MO, a councilman, and Mayor pro-tem. He started AdHoc Group Against Crime. He has been a forefront speaker for criminal justice, civil rights, racial disparities and social activism. He is a motivational speaker conducting thousands of seminars about cultural and racial diversity. We had music sung by youth and adults. The program and presentations represented Martin Luther King Jr.'s teachings on diversity and unity. Thank you to all who worked so hard to bring this year's wonderful presentation to our community.

Eat a delicious meal at On the Border and support the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice!

**When: Thursday, April 21 @ 11:00 am to 10:00 pm**

**Where: On The Border, 1235 SW Wannamaker Road**



If you tell On The Border that you are there to support the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice (TCPJ), they will donate 20% of the proceeds from your meal to TCPJ!



*Tim Kampsen*

**Parent Youth Facilitation Coordinator**

My desire to help people most likely began when I raised my hand and was sworn into the US Army National guard as a Military police officer in 1988 followed up by again, raising my right hand at my graduation from the Kansas Law Enforcement center as a Law Enforcement Officer in 1990, a career I still hold today.

My Name is Tim Kampsen and I have had the honor of being asked to join the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice (TCPJ) as the coordinator for the Parent/Youth Facilitation program, helping families get back on track by facilitating understanding and agreements. The program is a pilot project of Kansas Strong for Children and Families. It is designed for youth, 14-17 years old who are at risk of entering foster care.

I am a grandfather of two, Parker and Easton, father of two, Shelby Roberts Kampsen and Caleb Kampsen. I have the great fortune to be the husband to my high school sweetheart Julie Kampsen. Julie and I are both graduates of Highland Park High school in Topeka and were married in 1989. I would say two of my favorite quotes are "if the only tool in your tool box is a hammer then every problem will look like a nail" and "Do the things you have to do so you can do the things you want to do." I have a master's degree in business administration from Friends University and have been a Supreme Court approved mediator for almost 10 years. I look forward to a longstanding partnership with the center to further the TCPJ Mission!

## RESTORATIVE PRACTICE CREATES COMMUNITY

*Written by Nancy Kelley, Restorative Justice & Mediation Coordinator*

In the introduction of her book Circle Forward, Kay Pranis describes the Circle process as “a simple structured process of communication that helps participants reconnect with a joyous appreciation of themselves and others. It is a safe space for all voices and to encourage each participant to step in the direction of their best self.” The practice of Circles is helpful for building and maintaining a healthy community in which all members feel connected and respected. Pranis, Kay, *Circle Forward, Building A Restorative School Community*, 2015

When we think of Restorative Practice in schools, we tend to think of it as an alternative to traditional punishment for rule breaking that focuses on the harm instead of the rule that was broken. Managing student behavior is only one element of Restorative Practices. The proactive approach of Circle structure has a more far reaching impact on the students emotional state, the positive school climate, and the overall safe environment for the school community.

The Topeka Center for Peace and Justices offers training to schools and other groups who work directly with students. Nancy Kelley, who has trained in restorative practice circle facilitation, recently conducted training for the Kid Quest after school program sponsored by the YWCA Northeast Kansas. Seven teachers attended the 2 ½ hour training one evening during their spring break.

Kelley’s trainings are in person and hands on. The trainees sit in a circle and Kelley facilitates the circle, explaining the importance of sitting in the circle, using a talking piece, making the time together intentional, and following the ground rules of respecting the talking piece, speaking from your heart, listening from your heart and agreeing to participate in the circle. Attendees come away from the session with circle scripts, a poster of the ground rules, and ideas for how to begin using the circle structure with students.

Circle experience has an impact on the teachers. When asked to define Restorative Practices, responses were, “it means holding people responsible,” but also, “being proactive instead of reactive”, and “it brings about a reconnection of students and instructors”.

Responses to the training were “This is something I would like to use with my family,”

The circle...”let everyone have a space to talk. It felt inclusive.”

“It helped with some team building by getting to know each other.”

“The circle was a good experience. I feel better about having to attend the meeting we had tonight because it didn’t waste my time.”

TCPJ offers Circle training for teachers, administrators, social workers, families, church groups or any group interested in finding a restorative way to build positive relationships in their community.

## THE STAND AGAINST RACISM CHALLENGE

*Hosted by YWCA Northeast Kansas*

YWCA Northeast Kansas is joining sister YWCAs across the country in hosting the Stand Against Racism Challenge. Join fellow members of the greater Topeka community in furthering our mission of eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

The Stand Against Racism Challenge is a virtual learning tool designed to create dedicated time and space to build more effective social justice habits, particularly those dealing with issues of race, power, privilege, and leadership.

The Challenge is full of actionable steps to create change in our communities. Participants will receive a daily (weekdays) email with 21 days of impactful challenges such as reading an article, listening to a podcast, reflecting on personal experience, and more. Participation in an activity like this helps us to discover how racial and social injustices impact our community, connect with one another, and identify ways to dismantle racism and other forms of discrimination.

**Commit to 21 days of antiracist challenges and support YWCA's mission of eliminating racism by registering now. You can register at [www.ywcaneks.org](http://www.ywcaneks.org). Act fast - registration is limited and first-come, first served!**

### **Current TCPJ Board Members**

Carl Frazier, New Hope and Love Community Church, Chair

Rev. Donna Gilchrist, West Side Christian Church, Vice Chair

Carol Christensen, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Secretary

Lou Saadi, Islamic Center of Topeka, Treasurer

Virginia Barnes

Lori Brown, Ba'hai Community

Rebecca Morrissey

Rev. Clarence Newton, New Life Baptist Church

Dr. Glenda Overstreet-Vaughn

Dr. Gianfranco Pezzino

Esther Potts, Temple Beth Sholom

Megan Waltner