

Topeka Center FOR Peace & Justice

Mediation Programs

Lindsey Anderson, Mediation Director

TCPJ was awarded a Reinvestment Grant from the Kansas Department of Corrections for 2018! With this grant, services will be provided to every eligible first-time juvenile offender, eligible probation case, truancy case, or any youth on supervision with Court Services for criminal offense in Shawnee County.



Our current juvenile justice system is too reliant on incarceration and has done little to support local programs that provide better outcomes for children and our communities. The Topeka Center for Peace and Justice is committed to research based, evidence-based programs as well as data driven efforts. From 2015 to the beginning of 2017, TCPJ served over 150 juveniles in this mediation program with a recidivism rate staying below 3%!

Victim-Offender and Parent Adolescent Mediation Program provides the Third Judicial District an alternative to the traditional juvenile justice approach that emphasizes restorative justice. Principles of this program include:

1. holding offenders accountable;
2. providing a voice to victims;
3. modeling "repair the harm" for victims;
4. building sustainable community partnerships;
5. intervening in a timely and effective manner.

Currently, our program is partnered with Court Services, Washburn University Criminal Justice and Legal Studies Department and The District Attorney's Office is supporting the program.

If you have any questions regarding the Mediation Program or would be interested in having a presentation about this program, please contact Lindsey Anderson, Mediation Director, at tcpjmediation@gmail.com or by phone at 785-232-4388.

Topeka Center for Peace and Justice
2914 SW MacVicar Ave, Topeka, KS 66611
785.232.4388 www.topekacpj.org

The mission of the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice is to promote justice and peace through education and action for social change by working with individuals and organizations in Topeka.

2018 Peace Camp

Staff and volunteers are already hard at work preparing for Peace Camp! This is our annual summer camp for elementary aged children from across the community. Using evidence-based curricula, children engage in discussions and activities on themes of friendship, teamwork and cooperation, nonviolent conflict resolution, bullying prevention, and diversity.

See you there!

July 23 – 27, 8:00am – 1:00pm
First Congregational Church, 1701 SW Collins

We are also recruiting **volunteers** to help at Peace Camp. **Questions?** Contact Kristin Hammer, Program Director, at tcpjprograms@gmail.com. Register at: www.topekacpj.org/peace-camp/

Free Prevention Training for Youth!

Sharon Sullivan, Board of Directors

In December, STARS trained 20 people to facilitate a human trafficking prevention program targeting 12-18 year olds called *Not a Number*. We are grateful to the Topeka Police Department for providing the funds for the training. Young people are extremely vulnerable to traffickers.

Not a Number is an interactive, five module prevention course designed to teach youth how to protect themselves from human trafficking and exploitation through information, critical thinking, and skill development. *Not a Number* uses a holistic approach focusing on respect, empathy, individual strengths, and the relationship between personal and societal pressures that create or increase vulnerabilities.

During the course, youth will:

- Raise their awareness of human trafficking,
- Learn to recognize recruitment activities,
- Challenge harmful stereotypes
- Identify healthy support systems,
- And learn how to access community resources.

If you would like us to come to your school, community center, agency, or other venue, please contact us at starstopeka@gmail.com. We want to protect and empower ALL our children!

People Ask: "Why don't all these illegal aliens...just get legal?"

Jim McCollough, Executive Director

My wife and I are the parents of two first generation immigrants. We adopted our baby boys from South Korea 40 years ago. Our first goal after adopting was to love those boys, and that wasn't hard to do! Other than meeting their basic needs, our next priority was to take the necessary steps for them to become recognized as citizens of the United States. We had to hire a lawyer (not cheap!!), AND it took about two years to get the mission accomplished. In the past 40 years, obtaining citizenship in our country has become increasingly complicated, and increasingly costly. Here are some simple answers to the question I hear about people becoming citizens:



- The process has become super long (we're talking years) and super expensive. Application for a green card comes with a price tag of \$1750. Attorney fees can come in at \$500 to \$10,000. Obviously, this puts a stop to many who would choose to become citizens.
- If you have the money ... it's still hard to acquire a green card. Eleven million people apply annually for the "green card lottery". Fifty thousand are chosen.
- One might be lucky enough to receive an employment visa ... if ... if ... you can prove you are not taking a job from an American citizen.
- OR ... you might apply for what is called an E-B1 visa which is for "aliens of extraordinary ability" in the field of academics, arts, or athletics.
- If you are poor, unable to decipher dozens of pages of forms, can't prove you're not taking a job away from a legal citizen, and if you have not won a Nobel prize or are outstanding in some field ... it just might be that you will stay here ... illegally.

The **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)**, passed and signed into law by President Obama in 2017, was an American policy on immigration that made it possible for persons who came to the United States as minors, and who have made their home here without

documentation, to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and to be eligible for a work visa. There is a reason why my wife and I uphold the need for a CLEAN DACA bill to be passed by the U.S. congress. By clean, we mean the legislation cannot be tied to a \$20 billion border wall. It can't be tied to funding for more detention centers. Increased funding for detention beds only benefits for-profit prison corporations while increasing inhumane treatment of immigrants and refugees being held while they await their court dates. We are holding these DACA recipients hostage with the threat of deportation while legislators and the Trump administration argue over these details. This is an issue of justice. Call your legislators and tell them ... **PASS A CLEAN DACA BILL AND DO IT TODAY!**

KANSAS CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS
 Representative LYNN JENKINS 202-225-6601
 Senator JERRY MORAN 202-224-6521
 Senator PAT ROBERTS 202-224-4774

Restorative Justice in Schools

Kristin Hammer, Program Director

So far, TCPJ has provided scholarships to over 50 Shawnee County educators seeking training in Restorative Practices! This training gives teachers, social workers, and administrators the tools to transform the disciplinary model at their schools, embracing the principles of Restorative Justice.

The Restorative Justice Circles Advisory Team (made up of educators, Rotarians, and community leaders) is gathering feedback and behavioral statistics from participating schools, a process that will happen every semester.



Of course, we would love to see dramatic results immediately! However, we know this is a long term, cultural transformation in schools that are accustomed to more traditional disciplinary practices. The most important thing we can do right now is continue to offer support and resources to our trained educators as they do the hard work of implementation in their schools.

Violence Prevention Task Force – Since last fall, a diverse group of community leaders has been meeting to address issues of violence in Topeka and surrounding communities. Members include law enforcement, community organizations, health and mental health professionals, faith leaders, educators, and others. One of the task force's first goals is to spend time speaking with the community, and learning about residents' main concerns through a survey. You will hear more as this project moves forward!

Questions? Interested in helping? Contact Jim McCollough at topekacpj@gmail.com or 785.232.4388.

Contributors to the Topeka Center for Peace and Justice

Jan 1, 2017 – Feb 1, 2017

Winter 2018

HEROES -

\$20,000+

Don & Edith Snethen
Topeka Rotary
Foundation

CHAMPIONS -

\$4500 - \$9999

Richard Alexander

ADVOCATES -

\$2500 - 4499

Blanche Bryden
Foundation

PATRONS - 1000

- \$2499

Eva Brown & Meredith
Williard

Jim & Charlotte
McCollough

Joan Underwood
Joan & Bill Wagon
Ken & Marion Cott
Phyllis Todd

Susan & Kent
Garlinghouse

ALLIES -

\$500 - \$999

Ben & Judy Coates

Carol & John
Christensen

Carol Rank

Duane & Rachel Goossen

Gregory Monaco

Roy Lacoursiere

Southern Hills Mennonite
Church

Stanley & Sandra Vogel

Topeka Community
Foundation

Trinity Presbyterian
Church

Trudy Racine

Susan Nelson

SUSTAINERS -

\$150 - \$499

Barney and Marjorye
Heeney Estate

Carol Albott

Carolyn & Jon

Zimmerman

Carolyn Litwin

Chris & Kate Hamilton

Dale Fooshee

David Rodeheffer

David Wexler

Dennis Dobson

Georgia Sandlin
Hakim & Lou Saadi
Horace & Fran Edwards
Islamic Center of
Topeka

Jay & Pat Gideon

Jenny Fitzgerald

Jim Miller

John & Lila Bartel

Judy Lambert

Karen & Mark Herrmann

Kroger

Larry James

Lea Billinger

Lynn Megaffin

Martha Burtch

Martha Peterson

Mary Schmidt

Melissa Masoner

Noble Morrell & Jan

Keeler

Oliver & John Green

Patricia & John Glidewell

Patrick Yancey

Paul Post

Peggy & Stan McAdoo

Rosemary Menninger

Second Presbyterian

Church

Susan & Brad Parry

Temple Beth Sholom

Tobias & Abby

Schlingensiepen

Tony Emerson

Topeka Baha'I Spiritual

Assembly

Westminster

Presbyterian Church

SUPPORTERS -

\$100 - \$149

Alden & Enid Hickman

Candy Caufield

Carol Bradbury

Countryside United

Methodist Church

Craig Yorke, Jr

Cynthia & Roger Neufeld

David Ritter

Debbie & Steve Stiel

Dolores & Frank Werder

Donna Schultz

Douglas Phenix

Duane & Elvera Johnson

First Baptist Church

First Christian Church

Gwen Elliott

Herman & Sondra

Hafenstein

Jane George

Jerry Hopper

Jocelyn Graber

Judi Salyer

Kristin & Tom Hammer

Kristie Sigle

Lauretta Hendricks-

Backus

Lee Morris

Lee Rathbone McCuan

Liatris Studer

Margaret Ahrens

Mark Wheeler

Martha Spacek

Mary Powell

Michael Piper

Mike & Caroll Glotzbach

Mona Magee

Our Savior's Lutheran

Church

Paul Beck, Jr.

Rebecca & Doug Harden

Ron & Betsy Rohleder

Sally Fronsman-Cecil

Sarah Anderson

Sarah Laing

Sharon Sullivan

Stan & Donna Voth

The Church of Jesus

Christ of Latter Day

Tionna Haberman

Topeka Church of the

Brethren

Vicky Walters

Victoria White

Virginia Kay Foster

West Side Christian

Church

MEMBERS -

\$25 - \$99

Alice Eberhart-Wright

Allison Woodward

Allyn Lockner

Alpha Kappa Alpha

Sorority

Anita & Joel Nelson

Ann & Lary Mah

Anton Ahrens

Baha' Community

Billy Persinger Jr.

Carl Frazier

Carol Babcock

Christian Church in

Kansas

Connie Lollar

D'Amber Mauer

Deborah & Thomas

Goering

Deborah Dawkins

Dixie Dunlap

Donna Schneweis

Drew Switzky

Elizabeth Ortega

Elizabeth Schlossman

Ellen & Dallas Caster

Gayle Hassler

Gene Saathoff

Glenda Bower

Glenda Buboise

Glenda Overstreet

Heather Austin

Jamie Neal

Janie Hall

Jayne Ruiz

Jean Miller

Jerry and Lea Billinger

Jo Sue Burenheide

Karen Hiller

Kathy Williams

Leigh Barrett

Linda Kinney

Marjorie Van Buren

Martha Boatright

Mary Ann Gabel

Omar Hazim

Paula Gibson

Paxton & Janie Jones

Priscilla Davies

Renita Harris

Ronald Cobb

Ruth Pooler

Shawnee County Baha'I

Community

Sherda Williams

Southwest Baptist

Church

St. John A.M.E. Church

Sue Wilber

Susan Holm

Susan Zuber-Chall

Teresa Switzer

Topeka Friends Meeting

Topeka Habitat for

Humanity Inc

Unitarian Universalist

Fellowship Topeka

Unity Church of

Christianity

vicki George

Vickie Foster

Virginia Hummell

William Rich

YMCA

New Look, Same Passion for Peace and Justice!

If you visited our website recently (or are reading this newsletter!), you may have noticed a few changes. The Topeka Center for Peace and Justice got a little “refresher” with a new logo, website updates, and more!

The past few years have brought exciting and significant changes to our programming, and it was time to make some changes to our public “personality” as well. We hope you will find the new website easy to use. Please feel free to send any feedback through the **Contact** page, under the **“Who We Are”** tab.

Speaking of the “Who We Are” tab...

You can help keep the Center up-to-date by clicking on **“Get Involved”** and taking a moment to fill in your current contact information. We know that people move, change phone numbers or email addresses, and even change names!

It is easy for an organization’s mailing lists to get out of date. By providing your current information, you help us reduce mailing costs and make sure you are receiving all of our communications!

