

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

UNA NEWSLETTER

INTRODUCTION

Participants' Opinions

The Inside-Out Program is made up of men in prison and free-world college students who are willing to come inside, participate, and learn as a community. While gaining knowledge and wisdom through experiencing the global concepts of Restorative Justice.

Here at Limestone, the students in

this program are learning a completely foreign

concept about how to handle situations, such as crimes.

Restorative Justice (RJ) puts the power of choice and the ability to directly impact the outcome of a situation back in the hands of those most impacted by the situation; Criminal Justice takes power away from those most affected and places the outcome into the hands of strangers to do with what they decide is best. RJ is an old method of doing justice in a new way, that sheds light on the failings of the institutionalized way, of doing Justice. RJ is about

building relationships after an altercation occurs, instead of leaving feelings of animosity and vengeance in the air. RJ is about mending relationships, coming to an understanding, and the same accord. RJ is about being able to deal with and help relationships develop and

WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE TO US?

grow. RJ is about reform, bringing in

ancient ways that help the victim and doesn't concentrate on the offender being a horrible person. RJ is a way to help both parties, the victim and offender, as well as every other person that was affected by the conflict, situation, or misunderstanding.

RJ is about being accountable for our actions, taking responsibility, sincerely apologizing for what we have done, and coming to a solution of what needs to be done to fix the problem.

PROFESSIONAL OPINIONS ABOUT RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

1) Howard Zehr states, " ... an approach to achieving justice that involves, to the extent possible, those who have a stake in a specific offense or harm to collectively identify and address harms, needs, and obligations in order to heal and to put things as right as possible," pg.45.

2) Ross London argues, ".... the soul of RJ is the effort to repair harm or crime. RJ requires, at minimum, that we address the harms and needs of those harmed, hold those accountable to "put right" those harms, and involve both of these parties as relevant communities in the process," pg. 23.

Resource:

"The Little Book of Restorative Justice"

Howard Zehr