



Lanark County Community Justice

Building Stronger Relationships Through Restorative Practices



Vision

Our community will embrace restorative practices to repair harm, build community and strengthen relationships

Mission

To provide and promote the community use of restorative practices

Values

Inclusiveness Responsibility Trust

Human Resources

Board of Directors:

Aisha Toor, Chair
Christine Peringer, Vice Chair
Scott Ferguson, Past Chair
David Burkett, Treasurer
Margo Bell, Secretary
Steve Brown
Ross Dickson
Stephen Graham

Staff:

Joellen McHard, Executive Director
Sheri Halladay, Program Coordinator
Theresa Welch, Bookkeeper

Facilitators: 18 active facilitators

Volunteers are the heart of our organization. Facilitators commit to extensive training, community justice forums and continuous learning to keep their skills sharp and up to date. It takes a unique skill set to help people deal with conflict; often managing raw emotions and challenging dynamics.

LCCJ has a number of committees consisting of staff, board members and community members. Our current committees are Finance, Fundraising, Governance and Human Resources. If you are interested in one of our committees, or their subcommittees, please contact the office for further information.

We are also fortunate to have a number of volunteers who are committed to LCCJ and work on specific events or programs. We are extremely grateful for our team of volunteers. The very essence of community justice centres on the participation of community volunteers – we thank you for your time and commitment.





A message from Aisha, Board Chair

I became the Chair of the Board a year ago, after serving as Vice Chair for the previous year. As I took on the position of Chair the agency was in the process of implementing new reporting policies and procedures to ensure financial long-term stability and recovery from a financial deficit through a successful fundraising campaign. I am very proud of the work we have done, and the procedures we have put into place to ensure the long-term success and stability of LCCJ.

In the last year, much has remained the same at Lanark County Community Justice and much has changed. We remain committed to our community and our vision of building stronger relationships through restorative practices. We remain dedicated to our core programming of restorative justice forums for adults and youth in our community. We have received funding to support our adult restorative justice program from the United Way East Ontario, local service clubs and municipalities. We have also received funding from the Perth and District Community Foundation, for our Restorative Families program. This pilot project focuses on enabling families to use restorative practices in their parenting techniques. Included in the new Restorative Families program are Teen Parenting Sessions, funded by the County of Lanark and in partnership with the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit.

Through the past year, we have experienced much positive change. We have built upon our fundraising success of 2019, and have increased and stabilized our financial future. We rehired Joellen McHard as our Executive Director and of course we still have our long time Program Coordinator Sheri Halladay. We have increased the staffing at the office; with our ED working 3 days a week, our program coordinator working 4 days a week and a bookkeeper one day a week. All of these positive changes enable LCCJ to continue to serve the needs of the community.

Nothing at LCCJ happens without the commitment of our staff, volunteers and board members. Thank you for your continued support.

Restorative Justice, Restorative Practices and the Role of LCCJ

According to the Department of Justice, Canada, restorative justice requires not only a change in practice, but also a transformation in thinking. This philosophical shift is best illustrated through an examination of the current definition of criminal behaviour. Restorative justice models are based upon several overarching principles. First, crime is primarily a conflict between individuals, resulting in harm to victims and communities and to offenders. It is only secondarily a transgression against the state. This simple notion has profound consequences. Second, the central goal of the criminal justice system should be to reconcile victims, offenders

and their communities while repairing the harm caused by the criminal behaviour. That is not to say that public safety is not paramount. Rather, it is the method of achieving public safety that is under debate. Third, the criminal justice process should facilitate active participation by victims, offenders and their communities. This results in a diminished role for the state.

In theory, there may be several benefits to restorative justice practices. For victims, restorative justice offers individuals a meaningful voice in the process, and serves several crucial human needs, including the need to be consulted and the need to be understood. In some cases, the victim may also experience satisfaction from playing a part in preventing future criminal behaviour and from receiving reparation. For offenders, the process can be therapeutic as they take responsibility for their actions and take steps to repair the harm. For community members, the process serves to humanise the criminal justice system and reduce fear of crime by providing more accurate information about offenders and crime in general. Restorative justice also provides community members with a voice in the criminal justice process. Restorative justice has been described as an empowering experience for all participants in the triad.



A message from Joellen, Executive Director

With more than one year back as the Executive Director of LCCJ, I am confident that we are in a very good place financially and for program development. Our Board of Directors, Staff, Facilitators, Volunteers, and community members have demonstrated their commitment to the sustainability of LCCJ by providing time, funds, and hard work to position us for a sustainable future. Our highly trained, competent facilitators are the foundation of LCCJ. Accordingly, we could not operate without the countless volunteer hours our Board members, Committee members and Facilitators give to LCCJ and the community.

Youth diversion funding has been transferred from the Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG), to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS). We are hopeful that MCCSS will bring additional opportunities for funding, education, and training for volunteers and staff.

We were fortunate to receive a grant mid-way through 2019 for our pilot Restorative Families program from the Perth and District Community Foundation. This funding as well as a second grant was extended into the next fiscal year to support full implementation and evaluation of the efficacy of the new program. Accordingly, we were able to deliver excellent new programming for families struggling with maintaining relationships with the youth in their lives.

This year in partnership with the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit we were able to provide restorative parenting sessions that unfortunately were cut short due to COVID-19. Parent education sessions were started in June 2020, and will restart in October 2020 in partnership with Family and Children's Services of Lanark, Leeds and Grenville.

It is with great respect that we say good-bye to Frazer Scantlebury, Regional Director of United Way East Ontario, who has been a champion for our program for many years, as he is retiring.

Overview of Programs:

Court Diversion Program

Our core services involve a court diversion program; referrals for this program come from the OPP, Smiths Falls Police Services and from the Crown Attorney's Office for both youth and adult offenders.

LCCJ has been providing court diversion services for 20 years in Lanark County and the Town of Smiths Falls. We have 18 active volunteer facilitators who conduct the community justice forums for youth (ages 12 – 17) and adults (18 and over).

The court diversion program through restorative approaches brings people in our community together after crime or conflict. Restorative Justice focuses on repairing harm, providing an opportunity for victims to heal, and for offenders to hear the impact of their wrongdoing and have an opportunity for meaningful accountability, thus preventing further crime.

Our team of highly trained facilitators work with our Program Coordinator, Sheri Halladay to bring offenders, victims, their support people and those that have been impacted by the crime together in an effort to heal the harm. We conduct pre-circle interviews with everyone involved to ensure every voice is heard. We can host a safe and effective restorative forum. We focus on what happened, how it came to happen, how everyone was affected and what needs to happen to make it right for all involved.

Restorative Families

Our Restorative Families Program works with 25 families to build their capacity to use Restorative Practices to peacefully solve problems, repair strained relationships, build emotional resilience and foster stronger connections. Our long-term goal is to build capacity in a sustainable way so the family is stronger.

Our support of families experiencing complex issues, includes:

- Support the reconciliation of the family members during the difficult and complex time when a youth has been homeless and returned home
- Youth in conflict with the law
- Youth in trouble at school
- Youth experiencing mental health and/or addictions issues

Restorative Parenting

Our Restorative Parenting program is an extension of our Restorative Families Program. We provide teen parenting education sessions for parents or caregivers in search of information, tips and practical training on how to best support the teenager in their lives, who may be struggling with homelessness, addiction, mental health challenges, conflict with the law and/or family conflict.

Program	Number of Clients	Number of Participants
Youth Diversion	34	88
Adult Diversion	13	30
Restorative Families Youth	19	55
Restorative Parenting Sessions	12	12
LGBTQ Education Session	12	13



Treasurer's Report, Dave Burkett

Treasurer Report – *David Burkett*

The audited financial statements for the year ending March 31st, 2020 are available upon request and will be posted on our website www.commjustice.org

Highlights of Financial Results:

Financial Management:

2019 was a remarkably successful year for LCCJ. The paring back of operations and significant fundraising this year has resulted in both a surplus for 2019-2020 and a significant amount of deferred revenue for the 2020-2021 year. Several financial controls and policies were put in place to ensure compliance with CRA requirements and to improve information provided to the board for oversight.

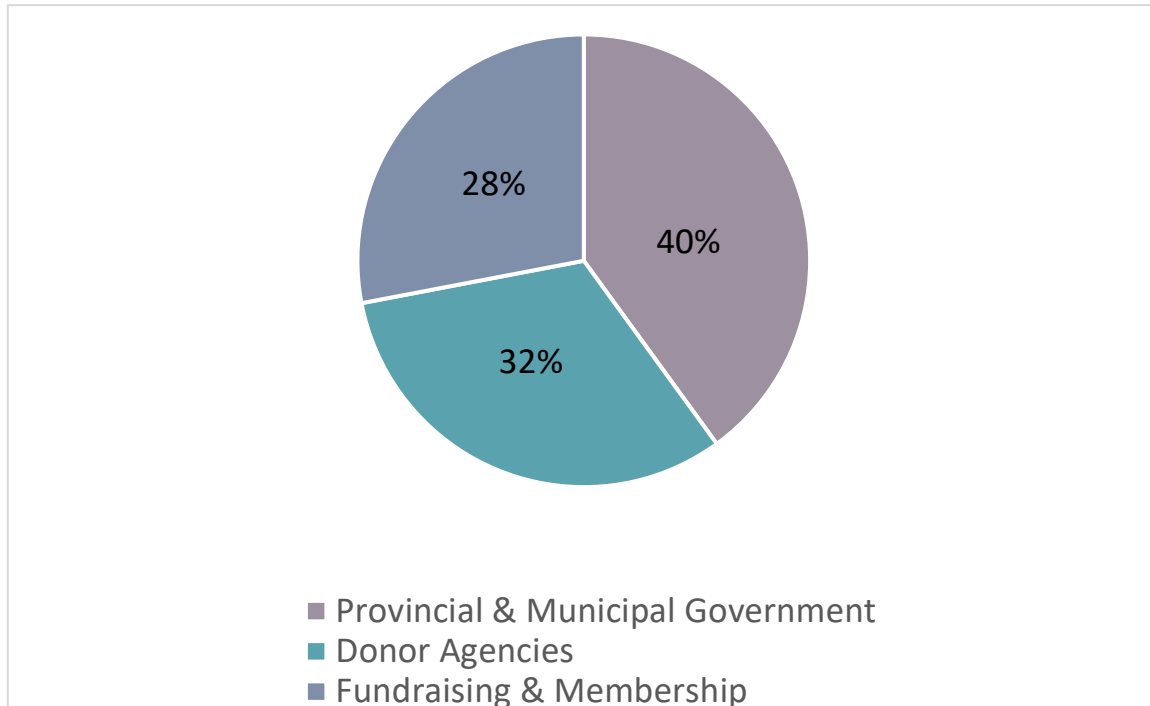
Operating Results:

The result was a \$6,000 surplus and the establishment of a contingency fund with an initial deposit of \$10,000. Of the fundraising efforts in 2019, \$30,929 of revenue has been deferred to 2020-2021 operations.

Lanark County Community Justice - Financial Summary

Revenue 2019-2020			Expenditures 2019-2020		
Ministry of the Attorney General	35%	\$47,587	Salaries & Wages	76%	\$73,855
Donations/Membership/Fundraising/Other	28%	\$37,577	Office & Computer Expenses	6%	\$5,983
Foundations	26%	\$35,000	Public Education	5%	\$5,040
United Way	6%	\$8,000	Insurance	3%	\$3,134
Municipal Grants	4%	\$6,000	Professional Fees	3%	\$2,500
			Telephone & Website	2%	\$1,921
			Rent	2%	\$1,800
			Travel & staff expense	1%	\$1,221
			Forum Expenses	1%	\$1,039
			Volunteer, Program & Fundraising Expense	1%	\$1,237
	100%	\$134,164		100%	\$97,730

Revenue Sources



Youth Court Diversion:

Provincial funding from MAG covered approximately 70% of the costs for restorative justice forums for youth aged 12 – 17. Fundraising activities funded the balance.

Adult Diversion:

LCCJ does not receive any government funding for adult diversion. This year it was funded by the United Way East Ontario and fundraising.

Restorative Families:

The Perth and District Community Foundation

Restorative Parenting:

The funding was provided by the Perth and District Community Foundation and the County of Lanark.

Fundraising

Provincial funding from MAG for restorative justice forums with youth covers approximately 70% of our youth programming. The remainder of our restorative justice program funds and all

funds for other restorative practice programs in the community come from Grants and fundraising.

We ended our fiscal year 2019-2020 with a very successful “30 in 30” campaign. Our goal was to raise \$30,000 in 30 days. Thanks to the strong support of our community who gave so generously of their time, expertise and financial support, we achieved our goal. We thank each and every one of you...

There is much more that can be accomplished with the increase of restorative practices in our community. With more funds we can renew our programming in the schools, explore new areas that need a restorative approach and promote community-building practices everywhere.

We thank all our supporters and community partners who give so freely of their time and support us financially. You are the very essence of Lanark County Community Justice.



Contact Us:

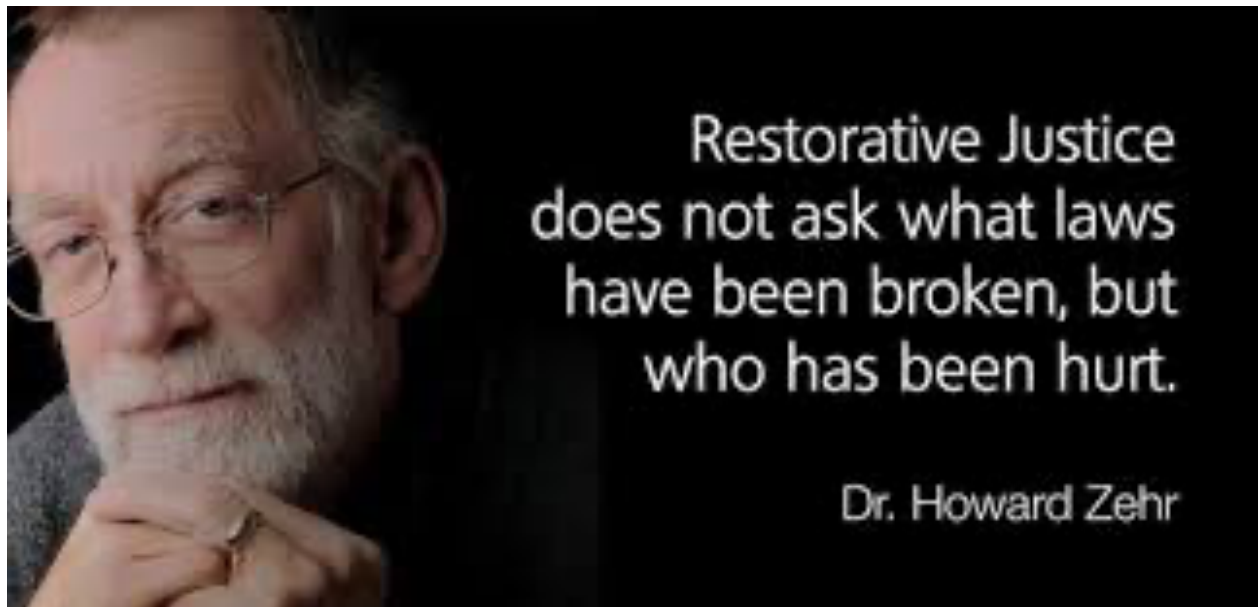
Phone: (613) 265-1558 or 1-888-264-1558

Fax: (613) 264-1516

www.commjustice.org

admin@commjustice.org





Principles and Values of Restorative Justice:

Restorative Justice Basic Resource Kit – Restorative Justice Week 2018

Recognition of Harm
Inclusion
Accountability
Dialogue
Truth
Voluntary Participation
Safety
Choice
Holism
Humanism
Reparation