

MINISTRY WITH COMMUNITY

rebuilding lives

September 2023

New Program Centers Relationships and Healing

“This will give people the opportunity to not be defined by a single action.”
– Steph Guyor, Restorative Justice Coordinator at MwC.

In September 2022, we hired our first Restorative Justice Coordinator and started building an innovative Restorative Justice program. The program is already starting to transform the lives of members (those we serve) at MwC.

What Is Restorative Justice?

You may have heard of the use of Restorative Justice in school systems and communities. Created from centuries of practices in Native and Indigenous cultures around the world, it is a trauma-informed, transformational alternative to Criminal Justice.

The Criminal Justice system focuses on administering what is seen as the deserved punishment. Restorative Justice focuses on holding individuals accountable and working with them toward conflict resolution. This is done by helping



Steph Guyor, Restorative Justice Coordinator, in her office with a favorite resource of hers, *The Big Book of Restorative Justice*, from the Justice and Peace Building Series.

them understand what went wrong, supporting them while they repair the harm caused, and allowing them to transform the relationships involved so that everyone can heal and move forward.

Why Do We Need Restorative Justice At MwC?

In the past, when someone utilizing our services broke a community expectation (MwC’s rules to promote a safe and comfortable space for all), they were asked to leave and sometimes were not welcomed back for a period of several months depending on the nature of the incident (though

barred members are still able to receive their mail and meals to-go). The goal was to keep our facility safe for everyone, but we knew that the effect on the individual was harmful and left them without access to needed services. As an organization, we did not view this as a failing on the part of the member but as our lack of ability to provide adequate conflict resolution and support.

To address this challenge, we started to sketch the beginnings of a new type of Restorative Justice Program. Thanks to a grant from the Colef Fund and support from other foundations and individuals, we were able to hire Steph Guyor as our Restorative Justice Coordinator.

The mission of Ministry with Community is to empower people to make positive life changes.

Creating A New Program

Steph was a recent graduate of Kalamazoo College, where she majored in Psychology and Gender Studies and first formally learned about Restorative and Transformative Justice.

After joining MwC, she spent months researching, collecting data from our past system, and creating our Restorative Justice program.

“I read, attended trainings, and did a lot of research,” said Steph. “A lot of programs are focused on using these practices in schools. I kept looking for examples from other places like MwC, but I realized that there really isn’t another place like ours, so I had to apply what I learned in a setting like MwC.”

During those months of planning, Steph also took time to get to know our members and create a sense of community with them.

“One of the cornerstones of Restorative Justice is having trust in others, and I knew I needed to build relationships with members,” she said. “I set up weekly game times and art classes. I also do a life-skills workshop each week where we work on job and technology skills, money management, emotional wellbeing and communication. This way, members and I get to know each other, and build that trust before we may need it in a restorative session.”

Offering An Alternative

In July, Steph began rolling out the program she created. She joins the weekly meetings for members who have been barred and offers the opportunity to work with her in a Restorative Justice format. If a member accepts the offer, they greatly reduce the amount of time they are barred and are able to

BENEATH EVERY BEHAVIOR THERE IS A FEELING. AND BENEATH EACH FEELING IS A NEED. AND WHEN WE MEET THAT NEED RATHER THAN FOCUS ON THE BEHAVIOR, WE BEGIN TO DEAL WITH THE CAUSE, NOT THE SYMPTOM.

Ashleigh Warner

A quote that hangs in Steph’s office attributed to Ashleigh Warner, a psychologist known for her work with families.

continue utilizing our services once they have repaired any harm their actions may have caused.

Restoring, Repairing, and Rebuilding

Steph speaks with each person involved in the conflict, including staff and volunteers, to hear their side of the story. Then, everyone meets together to share their experience with each other.

“The ultimate goal is to come up with an agreement for how everyone wants to move forward based on what they feel is needed to make things right,” she said.

From there, the individual(s) responsible will meet weekly with Steph until they have met the goals agreed upon in the restorative conference. In these weekly meetings, members work on conflict resolution and communication skills. They also discuss what triggers their reactions in stressful situations.

The Transformation

Though the program is new, the transformations are already happening. One example is a member whose issues with anger frequently escalate stressful situations.

“As we’ve been working together, there have been moments when he gets frustrated and without me having to prompt him, I’ve seen him pause, take a deep breath, and start again,” said Steph. “That is huge.”

“I’ve also been able to act as a mediator with him and another organization he was barred from and get his access to their services restored,” she added. “At the end of the meeting, he turned to each person there and said, ‘thank you, thank you, thank you.’ Then he pointed at me and told them, ‘This young woman is so good at her job!’ I literally teared up.”

Follow us on Facebook to keep up with news, events, and more at MwC.



facebook.com/KzooMwC



“The work our members are doing with Steph has a ripple effect in their lives. They take what they are learning with her and use it when they are speaking to their landlord or their boss or their family. This program is another way we are empowering our members.”
– Kelly Henderson,
Executive Director

MwC Legacy Giving Society Debuts

Ministry with Community has launched the new MwC Legacy Giving Society to recognize donors and help supporters understand all their planned giving options.

“Anyone is welcome to join the MwC Legacy Giving Society at any age,” said Kelly Henderson, Executive Director. “Planned gifts help ensure that people in our community will have a support network for years to come.”

A planned gift is a donation made to a charity through a will, trust, or other financial arrangement. When you make a planned gift to Ministry with Community, you’re leaving a legacy of our shared values. You are:

- Ensuring that anyone in our community can find dignity, even in their toughest moments
- Providing food to the hungry and nourishment to anyone seeking support
- Giving hope and the opportunity to achieve big, life-changing goals

- Sharing the gift of kindness and community to those in need of a support network

Benefits of Joining

Planned gifts can offer tax advantages and even financial security for the donors, but that’s often a secondary consideration.

“For most people, the primary benefit is knowing they’ll leave a legacy of caring for others,” said Kelly.

The organization benefits in many ways, too. “It’s quite useful for us to know about planned gifts so that we can properly thank, recognize, and communicate with donors,” said Kelly. “Knowing about planned gifts also helps us plan more effectively for the future.”

There are no fees or obligations associated with the MwC Legacy Giving Society. Members of the society may receive information, recognition, or invitations relevant to this group, though you can always opt out of those if you choose.

How Bequests Make a Difference

Typically, donors leave unrestricted bequests to MwC. In those instances, the bequest is most often put into an endowment fund after it is received. Endowments provide MwC with a vital source of financial security, especially during financial downturns.

If you would like to discuss how your bequest may be used to help those we serve, please contact our Development Director at development@ministrywithcommunity.org or 269-366-3098.

Next Steps

To join the MwC Legacy Society or learn more about it, please visit ministrywithcommunity.org/legacy or contact our Development Director.



Save The Dates!

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 4
THROUGH
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8
9:00AM – 4:00PM DAILY
AT MINISTRY WITH COMMUNITY**



Our amazing team members, (L to R) Robin, Johnny, and Steph at the recovery walk. Image courtesy of Moore Family Visuals © 2023

MwC at the 4th Annual Recovery Walk

Mothers of Hope, co-founded by our Recovery Support Specialist, Gwen Lanier, held their 4th Annual Recovery Walk at Lacrone Park on Saturday, August 5, 2023!

Our team members, Robin Tyson, Service Desk Manager, Johnny Anderson III, Program Director, and Steph Guyor, Restorative Justice Coordinator, attended to represent MwC and help share information about our organization.

Thanks to Mothers of Hope for everything they do in our community! Congratulations on another great event!



In Memory Of:

Sandy Allen
Patricia Dolan
Robin and Steve Pollens
Anne Anson
Barbara and Joseph McAllister
Barbara and Mark Pearson
Christine Tanis
Joyce Beebe
Mark and Jane Bainbridge
Garrett Boersma
Laura Boersma
The Father of Dr. John Bradtke
Allan and Shirley Heavey

Jeff Briggs
Annette F. Briggs
Thomas E. Brown
Marge Brown
Thomas Chase
Lenore J. Lorion
Charles Christianson
Prudence McCabe
Janet Christianson
Charles Christianson
Sue Daniels
Paul and Anne Pancella
Gerald Diment
Nancy M. Diment
Marsh Draper
Joyce Draper
Trina Rae Droste
George and Gladys Manley
Evan Ebling
Lois E. Ellis
John Folz
Rosemary Barnum
Dennis and Marilyn Engler
Beverly Folz
Valerie and George Opdyke
Clara Gamble
Nancy Stroupe
Harold L.J. Grenke
Lenore J. Lorion
Sistina J. Grenke
Lenore J. Lorion
Brigitte Huff
Judy Smith
James Hughes
Vona Hughes Longmire
Edward J. Lewis
Paul Ballard and Colette Lewis
The Brother-in-law of Jo Markwart
Allan and Shirley Heavy
Linda McCall
Kevin McCall
Joseph and Michael McNulty
William and Karen McNulty
Gary Melvin
Gene Bull
John Carney
Carrilou M. Gale
Joan Haffenden
Nancy Heidrick
Melanie J. Perry
R. Thomas and Linda Powell
Christina L. Shults
Alisha Story
Larry and Carol TerAvest
Duane Mickelson
Mickelson Family Fund
Jackie Nemedi
Ron Nemedi
James Nyquist
Clifford Davidson
William Pickornik
Carl and Anne Hartsig
Dale E. Van Antwerp
Leona Van Antwerp
Edith Rasmussen
Alexander and Anne Lipsey
Stan Ropp
Marlin Gerber
Gloria Savitt
Harrison Orr
Jean Schmitt
Richard Schmitt

Sherry and Bill Sorensen
Andrea M. Trautman
Devere G. Tays
Wilma Tays
Sheila Ware
Judy Smith
Florence and Barney Westra
Karl Westra and Kristine Pioch

In Honor Of:

Amy Anderson
Linda and George Dunn
Catherine Baeza
Sheila and Gary Bigelow
Phil Behrens
Prudence McCabe
Ellen J. Chase
Lenore J. Lorion
Barbara Chmiel
David and Shelley Chmiel
Thomas Coyne
Linda Stieve and Dan Coyne
Tom Cretsinger
Mary and Craig Jbara
Joe Deluca, Sr.
Nelson Breech Nave, AIA, Architect
Kevin Fitzgerald
Linda Leyanna
Marlin Gerber
Jacqueline L. Wylie
John Hart
Rathco Safety Supply
Joyce Henderson
Robert and Patricia Kittredge
Arnold F. Hentschl, DVM
Matthew and Mary Hentschl-Early
Judy Hurlburt
Romulo and Maureen Abueva
Midwest Collision Center
David and Linda Mayer
MwC Kitchen Staff
Prudence McCabe
Amanda Nuyen
James Bowers
Rev. Paul Redmond
Nancy and Robert Cretsinger
Mel Van Peenan
Nancy Richardson

In Celebration Of:

Chiquita Elmore-Barbee's Birthday
Kecia Sammons
Kathy Dickason's Birthday
Donna Harmon
Tim Dunfield and Deb Krohn's Wedding
Deanna Lingg
Jill Rozanoff
Marlin Gerber's Birthday
Cynthia and Jeff Green
Marty King's Birthday
Cynthia and Jeff Green
Marlena Kirton on Mother's Day
Dennis and Pamela Hjelmquist
Helen Rathbun's 50th birthday
R. Thomas and Linda Powell
Bernie Rodee's Birthday
Cynthia and Jeff Green
Abram Wasser's Bar Mitzvah
Simone Schicker

Please note: Memorials and Honorees listed here were received March 30, 2023 through August 25, 2023.

Memorials and Honorees received after August 25, 2023 will appear in the next newsletter.

To correct any errors, please contact our Development Director at 269.343.6073 x131 or at development@ministrywithcommunity.org.



Sponsored Meals

April 11: In memory of Chuck Corella

April 14: Breakfast & Lunch: In memory of Frank Somers

April 15: Breakfast & Lunch: Society of Muslim Women

May 1: Breakfast & Lunch: The Pickleball Ladies of West Hills

May 4: James Petersen

May 7: Breakfast & Lunch: In memory of Charles Coverdale

May 8: Breakfast & Lunch: Karol Dill in memory of Everett Dill

May 12: Breakfast & Lunch: Anonymous

May 21: In memory of Sr. Maureen Metty

May 24: Breakfast & Lunch: In Celebration of Sue Caulfield's Birthday

May 25: Breakfast & Lunch: Ron and Margaret Strzelecki in celebration of their 49th wedding anniversary

May 27: Breakfast & Lunch: Cliff and Brenda Mulder in memory of Ann and Allen Mulder

May 29: Breakfast & Lunch: The Hilgart and Griff Families in honor of Carolyn Hilgart

July 8: Breakfast & Lunch: George and Linda Dunn in honor of Amy Anderson's birthday

August 9: Marley Westra of Westra's Wonders

August 17: Barbara Somers in memory of Patricia and Donald Brownell

August 19: Breakfast & Lunch: Society of Muslim Women

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our Sponsored Meal program!

If you're looking for a way to thank someone, celebrate a milestone, or remember a loved one, consider sponsoring a meal at Ministry with Community.

A gift of \$350 provides a 3 course meal for 300 people. A gift of \$500 provides both breakfast and lunch for 300 people.

On the day your meal is served you and your honoree will be recognized on Facebook and by mail.

Please contact our Development Director, at 269.343.6073 x131 or via email at development@ministrywithcommunity.org to sponsor a meal!



Our Garden

Summer 2023 brought plenty of sun, rain, and heat for our garden.



WISH LIST

Rain Ponchos

Men's Boxer Briefs (sizes: M through XL)

Women's Underwear (sizes: 6 through 8)

Backpacks (new or gently used)

Duffle Bags (new or gently used)

Wheeled Luggage (new or gently used)

Bath Towels (new or gently used)

T-Shirts (adult sizes, new or gently used)

ITEMS MAY BE DROPPED OFF DAILY FROM 9:00 A.M.–2:00 P.M. AT THE BACK DOOR NEXT TO OUR LOADING DOCK. PLEASE RING THE DOORBELL AND A STAFF MEMBER WILL ASSIST YOU. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS UNATTENDED.

Check out our wish list at ministrywithcommunity.org/wishlist.



Have we made any mistakes in our database?

Please let us know if:

- You have moved or are planning to move
- You have a seasonal address you'd like us to use
- The name(s) on your newsletter need an update
- We are sending duplicates of any mailings
- You would like to be removed from our mailing list

Contact our Development Director at 269.343.6073 x131 or at development@ministrywithcommunity.org to have your record updated or corrected. Thank you for helping us maintain a correct and efficient database!

We will never sell, rent, or share your personal information.

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