

# YOUR WILLISTON COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER



April 2025

BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

802.764.1151

COMMUNITY  
VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED

TO WORK WITH THE  
COMMUNITY JUSTICE  
CENTER

Serving the communities of Bolton, Hinesburg, Huntington, Richmond, St. George and Williston, the WILLISTON COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER is committed to promoting and advancing the safety and wellbeing of our communities by providing resources for positive change, striving to dismantle patterns of racial and economic disparity, and seeking to repair damaged relationships through restorative practices tailored to meet the unique needs of impacted and responsible parties.

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*“... Throughout this entire process, I have met and spoken with many individuals including... the judge and officer... and the members of the panel...*

*... Having the opportunity to meet the panel, members who have been involved in the community I grew up in... has been the most eye-opening... [D]isussion with them really made me reflect on how my actions can damage not only myself and the people closest to me, but the overall community as well... I love Vermont, I love the community I've grown up in, however most importantly I love life. Ones life is something we should never put at risk, and my experience driving under the influence and the consequences that followed have made that exceptionally clear. A great thing about life is the opportunity to learn and grow from mistakes. That's what makes us better people, what makes our communities better, and what makes our world better... “ (By referred participant)*

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## SHOWING THE WORK



## MEET THE STAFF

The Williston Community Justice Center is staffed by two full-time employees -- Cristlee McSweeney, Executive Director, and Mandy Ferland, Restorative Justice Specialist -- who you'll find at the WCJC office in Williston, at the Hinesburg Police Department, and in various community locations, including Zephyr Place.

Much of the time Cristalee and Mandy work apart, but are together to facilitate meetings, including panels on Tuesday's and Thursday's.

## A LOOK RESTORATIVE PANEL WORK

### RESTORATIVE GROUP NORMS

1. WE LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND, NOT RESPOND
2. WE SPEAK FROM THE HEART - SHARING ONLY OUR TRUTH AND EXPERIENCE
3. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT RELATIONSHIPS ARE CENTRAL TO BUILDING SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
4. WE HOLD OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE FOR OUR ACTIONS - REPLACING BLAME AND SHAME WITH ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY
5. WE ENCOURAGE COLLECTIVE PROBLEM SOLVING, RECOGNIZING THAT EVERYONE HAS VALUE AND BRINGS MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE DISCUSSION
6. WE EMPOWER PERSONAL AND COLLECTIVE CHANGE AND GROWTH THROUGH SHARED LEARNING AND UNDERSTANDING

## WCJC VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers! WCJC volunteers work mostly on restorative panels. Fulfilling work, many of these volunteer's have been giving their time, monthly, for years.

**IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH OF 2025...**

**WCJC volunteers attended 29 panels.**

## GETTING TO KNOW WCJC VOLUNTEER ELIZABETH LOGAN, OUR GOOD FORTUNE

"My Good Fortune... When my family moved to Williston in 2019 I immediately began looking for ways to get connected and build community. I saw a post on Front PF for the Williston Community Justice Center that sounded interesting. When I learned more about the work of the WCJC I signed up for training and began to volunteer. The WCJC is all about connections and community. It has been a rewarding experience to support community members as they look closely at their mistakes, learn about the impact of them and plan to repair the harm done. It's really something wonderful to be witness to the transformation that occurs as people are valued and held accountable at the same time. As a young adult, I certainly made some pretty classic mistakes but never had the opportunity to learn much from them while being punished. I believe that if I had experienced the Restorative Justice approach at that time I would have understood more about how to be a good neighbor and productive community member. I consider it my good fortune to be able to participate in this process and really enjoy making connections w[ith] those who participate."



*Elizabeth Logan*

Thank you, friends!



*Rob Michalak*

## INTRODUCING BOARD CHAIR ROB MICHALAK

Rob Michalak says he is in his "post-corporate" years. Previously, he was in leadership positions at Ben & Jerry's. Outside of this work at Ben & Jerry's, he worked in broadcast news, public affairs, and independent media productions, holding senior positions, both on-air and off-air. His varied experience greatly benefits the WCJC! Rob is Chair of the Executive Board of the Williston Community Justice Center and, currently, leads our Williston Racial Equity Partnership. He is also director and founding member of the pro-justice, anti-racist non-profit group

*White Men for Racial Justice* (WMRJ). In addition, Rob is the Founder of *Working on Purpose*, LLC, a consultancy committed to driving purpose and values deeper into organizations and designing solutions to issues concerning social, economic & environmental equity and justice.

## THANKS

We are appreciative of all you do supporting those in need in our community! A special thank you to those who donated to the WCJC's community closet this winter. Among the many donations: (1) a monetary contribution of \$1500, allowing for the purchase of BIVY and sleeping bags, socks and foot warmers, and more; (2) winter coats, vests and clothing donated by Rob Michalak, WCJC Executive Board Chair and by Shirley Goodell-Lackey, Town of Williston, Director of Finance & Human Resources.; and (3) 46 pairs of socks donated by Susan T. Cote, Publisher, the Williston Observer, and Socks for Seniors.

Non-perishable food items are always welcome, with food provided to our hungry neighbors, many unhoused. The Williston Community Justice Center is open Monday – Thursday and is frequently visited by those in need of resources and tangible items. We provide emergency provisions, on a weekly basis.

We are also looking for other essentials – toilet paper, nail clippers, deodorant, and bug spray.

## RESULTS

**IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS ...**

**the Williston Community Justice Center has closed 32 cases and  
provided more with assistance.**

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**WILLISTON COMMUNITY  
JUSTICE CENTER**  
7928 Williston Road  
Williston VT 05495

*Please share this resource!*

### WHERE YOU'LL FIND US: MONDAY -THURSDAY

Monday: Office hours at the WCJC, followed by facilitated scheduled evening events.

The Williston Racial Equity Project meets each fourth Monday of the month, at the WCJC, beginning at 6 pm. Join us as, this month, we explore Scene on Radio's podcast series, Seeing White! Call for details.

Tuesday: Office hours, with facilitated afternoon and evening panels.

Wednesday: Office hours at the WCJC and, typically, off-site, with two community service events at Zephyr Place.

Thursday: Office hours at both the Hinesburg PD and the WCJC; evening panels at the WCJC.

Cristalee: 802-503-2320; Mandy: 802-503-2673