

# YOUR WILLISTON COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER



June 2025

BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

802.764.1151

COMMUNITY  
VOLUNTEERS  
NEEDED

TO WORK WITH THE  
COMMUNITY JUSTICE  
CENTER

Serving Bolton, Hinesburg, Huntington, Richmond, St. George and Williston, the WILLISTON COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER is committed the safety and wellbeing of our communities through restorative practices specifically tailored to meet the needs of impacted and responsible parties.

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*“I denied the truth because it was hard to admit... I lied... [and] I think the way I reacted might have been worse than the act ... This mistake gone unchecked would have snowballed but I was able to learn from this and grow in ways I wouldn’t have otherwise... So now I do things I am proud of...” (By referred participant)*

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## DEPARTING

Good-bye and farewell to Cristalee McSweeney. Long associated with the Williston Community Justice Center and departing Executive Director, she is known for her work in restorative justice initiatives aimed at community well-being and healing. Her dedication to restorative practices highlights her commitment to creating a more compassionate and effective justice system within the Vermont community.

## STAFF

The Williston Community Justice Center is staffed by Mandy Ferland, Program Manager. New to this role, Mandy will provide program oversight and panel facilitation. You’ll find Mandy at the WCJC, Monday through Thursday, and in the community.

## GATHERING

Work at the WCJC is a collaboration of staff and community partners!

We are grateful to those who have continued their work with the CJC.... And our gratitude to those who have left. It is the work of these many who have allowed the WCJC to preserve and flourish.



*Top: Rob Michalak, Brenna Deavitt,  
Bottom: Mandy Ferland, Cristalee  
McSweeney*

Currently there are twenty-six active volunteers, working mostly on restorative panels. Fulfilling work, many of these volunteer's have been giving their time, monthly, for years.

## THANKS, GIVEN!

Since 1974, National Volunteer Week has been an opportunity to recognize the impact of volunteer service and the power of volunteers to tackle society's greatest challenges, to build stronger communities and be a force that transforms the world. The Williston Community Justice Center welcomed this opportunity in April to share thanks with our many volunteers. We were joined in this by Williston Police Chief, Patrick Foley, and the Williston Town Manager, Erik Wells.

## NEWEST PANELISTS!

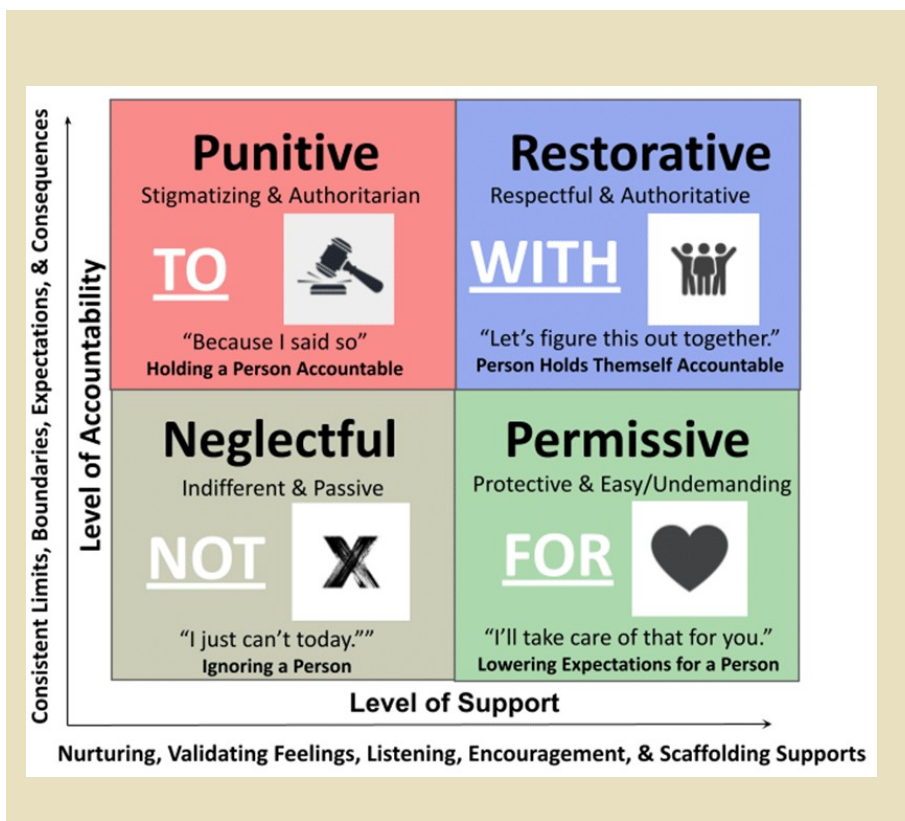
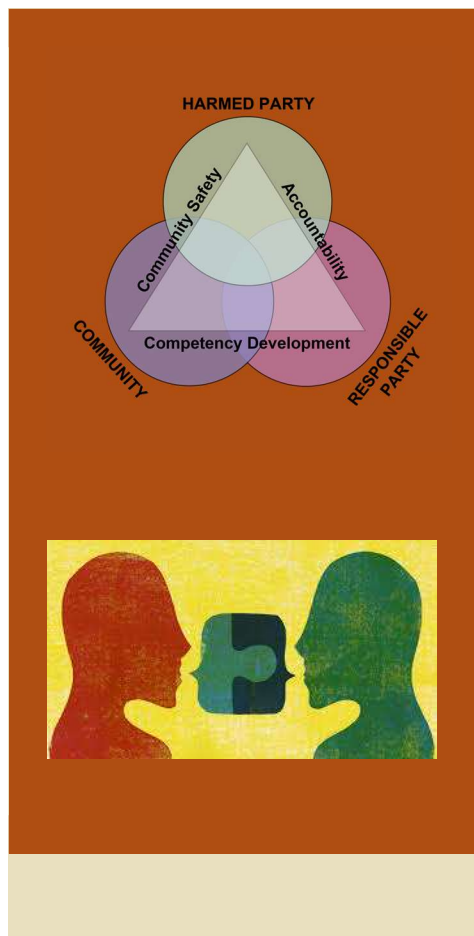
In May, the WCJC also welcomed four new panel members... Don, Jennifer, Nolan, and Shane! More have expressed interest, and, over the summer, with the completion of formal training, we expect to further increase the number of active volunteers! Thank you too to our current volunteers for getting the word out!

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Mandy has joined with Christina Hoard of Interaction Youth Services and Restorative Justice to offer an online training for onboarding volunteers. Chris is the Reparative Board & Pre-charge Coordinator at Interaction, in Brattleboro, VT.

## WHAT DOES A PANEL DO?

What the panel does is simple. We hear the narrative. We elicit thoughts and feelings. We explore the impact and the ripples of harm. We query needs. We look for ways forward.



WE DO NOT SHAME OR BLAME

<b>Accountability</b>  Vulnerable process of feeling & sharing.  Builds relationship  - Brené Brown	<b>Blame</b>  Discharging discomfort, pain, & anger.  Corrosive in relationships
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A PRESENTATION AT THE ROTARY CLUB OF WILLISTON-RICHMOND, VT

Rotary members are invited to join Mandy and Erik Wells, Town Manager, as they present the Future of the Community Justice Center on June 26 at the Williston Federated Church. The gathering starts about 7 am, with speakers at 730. This talk will also be broadcast on Zoom for Rotary members, and, later, posted to Rotary YouTube for general viewing. Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88470047013?pwd=H4ECYAlGN3h9e8iaaBhkJuplJjHe9W.1> .

## RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### IN APRIL AND MAY OF 2025...

WCJC volunteers attended 28 panels.

### IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS ...

the Williston Community Justice Center has closed 20 cases and  
provided more with assistance.

“I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR A SECOND CHANCE...”

*“... Thank you for the opportunity to go through the CJC panel process. It has helped me learn a lot about myself in more ways than I anticipated. By giving me this second chance you saved my career and my home. I will always be thankful for your generosity and kindness. I promise to do better and ask for help! (By referred participant)*

*“... I am sorry... Thinking about the affected parties is ... a much bigger picture [than I initially thought]... I now see that one action has many [consequences]... Reviewing the situation I could have handled it a lot better. I think if I would have used the calming techniques that I researched, I think I would have been able to take control of my anxiousness and stayed at the scene [of the accident].... I thank you for giving me the opportunity to work [on this].” (By referred participant)*

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#### **WILLISTON COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER**

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*Please share this resource!*