

# YOUR WILLISTON COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER



August 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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*“Hi Officer... last month I attempted to take something without paying for it. I attempted to steal... I know this might sound weird but referring me to the Willison panel has been a[n opportunity for] learning, feeling and wanting to give back! Thank you for the chance to be better... I’ll always be grateful...”*

*(Quote by referred participant, with plants propagated for giving below)*

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## AT THE WCJC

The Williston Community Justice Center is staffed by Mandy Ferland, Restorative Justice Program Manager. You’ll find Mandy at the WCJC, Monday through Thursday, typically between 9am and 9 pm.

Evening hours accommodate Restorative Justice panels, held weekly. Panels are made up of staff "responsible party" (the person who committed the crime), the “impacted party” (victims of crime), should they choose to attend, and as many as five volunteers (who are representative of the community where the crime occurred).

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

We have also welcomed five new panel members since last update: Anna, Cecilia, Mychaela, Renzo, and Sage! More have expressed interest, and, over the fall, we expect to further increase the number of active volunteers!

The WCJC appreciates the time and skill each of our volunteers brings to this work! Our thanks to them too for getting the word out about this important work.

## IN JUNE AND JULY OF 2025...

**WCJC volunteers facilitated 29 panels.**

### ACT 180 UPDATES

The Town of Williston, and other Chittenden County CJC's, are currently working to combine services regionally. Beginning July 1, per Act 180, the Attorney General's Office (AGO) now manages and funds the pre-charge diversion referrals for the state. Williston has created an Advisory Board for assistance in this task!

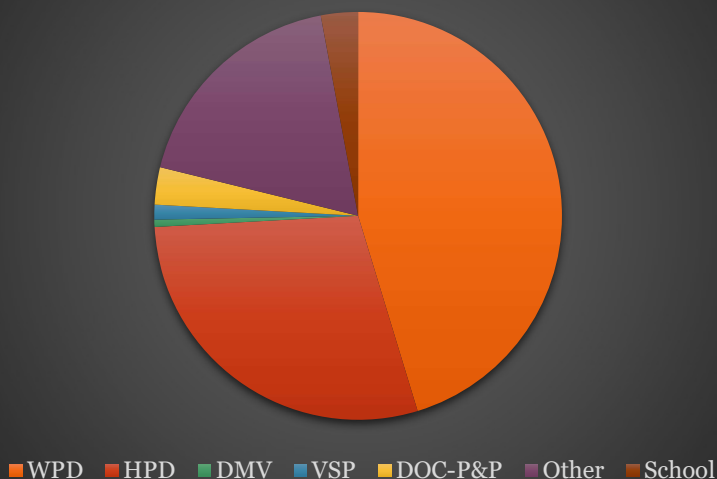
The Board provides advisory input on matters specifically related to the Town's transition to the regional governance structure established under Act 180. You can find detail on the Town's WCJC Advisory Board page. Follow these links to this volunteer opportunity and application:

[https://www.town.williston.vt.us/index.asp?Type=B\\_BASIC&SEC=%7bBB52CD8E-C106-41D4-BD5A-E5C1436BFEFA%7d](https://www.town.williston.vt.us/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC=%7bBB52CD8E-C106-41D4-BD5A-E5C1436BFEFA%7d) and [https://www.town.williston.vt.us/index.asp?Type=B\\_JOB&SEC={0A9DF7A4-550B-4702-A6C0-BB142EFF8D21}](https://www.town.williston.vt.us/index.asp?Type=B_JOB&SEC={0A9DF7A4-550B-4702-A6C0-BB142EFF8D21}).

### CONTINUED WORK WITH OUR PARTNERS

Thanks to our partners for their continued pre-charge referrals! Each month the WCJC sees referrals and, with robust numbers, we are scheduling additional panels to meet these needs. Last year, the WCJC worked on 181 active cases.

#### FY 25 Active Cases



# IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS, JUNE AND JULY ...

## the Williston Community Justice Center has successfully closed 15 cases through volunteer panels.

We too thank the WPD for their invitation to join Detective Avery Lemnah at the Williston R.E.C. Zone this July to meet with Williston retailers. We appreciate their support and our inclusion!

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Join the WCJC in thanking the Williston-Richmond Rotary for their support!

You know, many in our community face significant barriers to food security. As part of our pre-charge work the WCJC often meets with individuals in order to assist with community resource navigation; we are, at times, the first provider. As we work with our neighbors to secure food resources, such as through 3SquaresVT application and local food shelf information, we are, at times, tasked with providing emergency provisions. This need is greatest for our low-income and unhoused neighbors. “Blessing bags” are provided, when possible, to those in imminent need. A monetary grant by the Rotary has allowed for the continuation of this needed, practical support! Our many, many thanks!



### NEEDS

The WCJC is in need of toiletries – toilet paper, nail clippers, deodorant, sunscreen – as well as bottled water and hydrating drinks -- like Gatorade, Powerade, VitaminWater.

## SHARING OUR RESOURCES - BIVY BAGS AND BOOKS

A bivy bag, short for bivouac sack, is a lightweight, waterproof bag designed to protect a sleeping bag and sleeper from the elements, acting as a minimalist shelter. These can enhance warmth and provide wind and rain protection.

The WCJC has provided these emergency shelters to our municipal and community partners, among them the PDs of Hinesburg, Richmond and Williston.

Bivy bags were also provided to the Dorothy Alling Memorial Library, for emergency use. Children and youth books, previously purchased by the WCJC, were given for circulation and resources.

The WCJC has a small library of adult titles for borrowing too. Please take a look when next you're here or schedule an appointment! We've available copies of the Little Book of Race and Restorative Justice for giving.

## SHARING THEIR SUCCESS



By referred participant, depicting self-reflection and hope, and the inevitability of change: "Thank you so much for helping me."

*"As a boss I should always be a good roll [sic] model and act respectfully. .. [but] I made a huge mistake and set a terrible example... I'm sorry... Nobody is perfect but mistakes should always be addressed..." (Quote by referred participant)*

*"... I decided to put my needs first instead of other drivers/members of your community... I was not aware of how fast I was going but knew I was not being a safe driver... I put a lot of parties in danger and it was very irresponsible of me. I am also lucky and fortunate you were kind [and] generous... [I] needed this wake up call so thank you... you didn't have to do what you did and offer this program to me... I've learned a lot since you pulled me over but more importantly how my actions can affect other people."*  
(Quote by referred participant)

### **WILLISTON COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER**

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Williston VT 05495

*Please share this resource!*