

# YOUR WILLISTON COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER



October 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 to 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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*“... Thank you for helping me when I was in trouble and thank you for all you do for the community...”*

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*“Taking the time to build community, to get to know your people will have long-lasting benefits.”*

— CLIFTON TAULBERT —

## TRANSITION UPDATES

The Town of Williston, and other Chittenden County CJC's, continue to work 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 and has community volunteers Pat Brown, **Skyler Bryan**, Richard Byrne, Brant Dinkin, Rob Michalak, and Lauralee Keach. The Board will provide advisory input to the Williston Town Manager and WCJC staff on matters specifically related to the Town's transition to the regional governance structure established under Act 180.

## CONTINUED WORK AT THE WCJC

The Williston Community Justice Center continues its work. The Center is staffed by Mandy Ferland, Restorative Justice Program Manager. Joining Mandy in the work are many volunteers.

Currently, there are 32 active volunteers working on restorative panels. Some have been volunteering for years and some are newly engaged in this work. Each is appreciated!

We welcome our newest volunteers. This fall, panels were joined by Janice, Jeff, Julie, and Nikita!

Panels are made up of as many as five trained volunteers, a staff person, and the responsible party or person who committed the crime. Impacted parties, or victims, are always welcome should they choose to attend. Others may join the panels, on invitation. Panels have been joined by parents, siblings, spouses/partners/significant others, foster parents and guardians, legal guardian ad litem, police officers, probation officers, mental health workers, and other supports like friends and pets.

## **IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER OF 2025...**

**WCJC volunteers facilitated 28 panels.**

## **IN THESE LAST TWO MONTHS...**

**the Williston Community Justice Center has successfully closed 8 cases through volunteer panels.**

### **PANEL WORK**

Panel work involves creating a safe space for dialogue between people, ensuring a structured, informal conversation focused on addressing what happened, who was harmed, and what actions can be taken to make amends and prevent reoffending. At Williston CJC, volunteers facilitate this work.

Facilitation in restorative justice panels guides participants through the discussion, ensuring that all voices are heard, that confidentiality is maintained, and that a collaboratively developed agreement is reached to address the harm and support the person responsible for the harm in their community integration.

**OUR FACILITATORS...** Demonstrate enthusiasm for restorative justice principles \* Display compassion and empathy \* Have the ability to think creatively and suspend judgment \* Possess excellent communication skills \* Value inclusion, equity, and cultural competency

## RESOURCES FOR FACILITATION

Free online learning is available at Alison and Open University. Consider enhancing skills with Alison's Facilitating Adult Learning Groups and Open Learn's Facilitating Group Discussions.

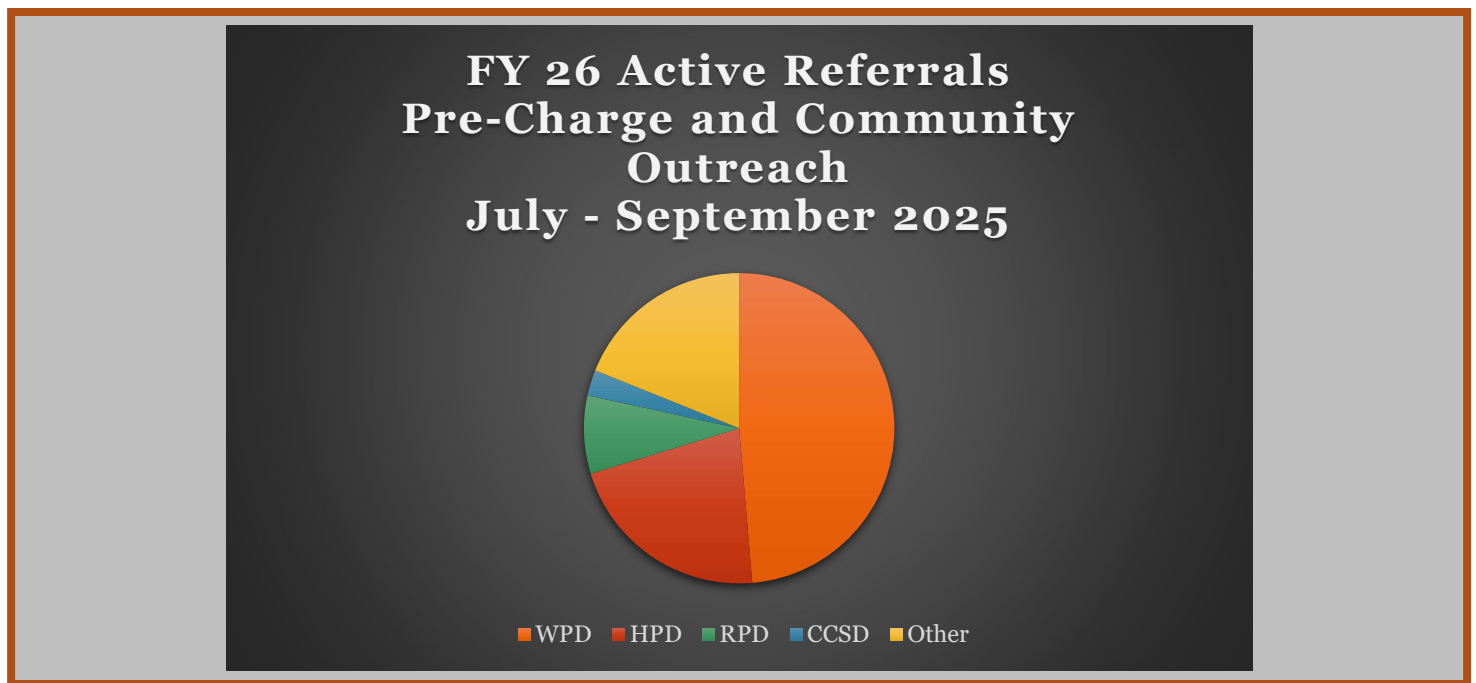
## THANK YOU

The WCJC is grateful to be the recipient of donations from our neighbors and grateful to pass these items onto those in need. These resources are shared on a weekly basis. Ongoing thanks to all our partners for their continued support!

We are currently in need of toiletries – toilet paper, toothpaste, deodorant, sunscreen – as well as bottled water and hydrating drinks -- like Gatorade, Powerade, VitaminWater.

## OUR REFERRING PARTNERS

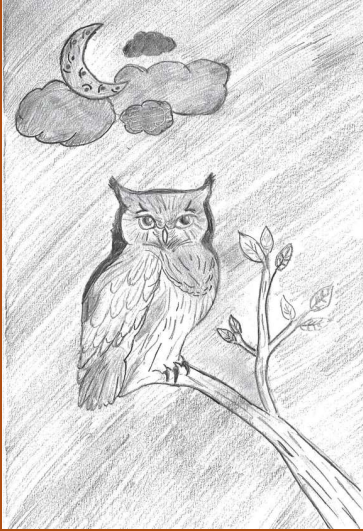
Thank you to our partners in law enforcement for their confidence in our restorative work with the community and for their pre-charge referrals!



## THANKS, OFFICER....

*"I am writing this ... to say thank you for recognizing and using your judgment to see more than just the crime... I want to give you the recognition of everything that you must go through on a daily basis and yet you are still able to see and help those by referring [me to restorative justice. The Williston].... CJC helped me by breaking down things into steps and helping me to be accountable for my actions, but also not forgetting those that were affected... It takes a lot of support [to learn and change]... but it has also shown me how much support is out there if I am willing to accept it..." (Quote by referred participant)*

## EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE



*By referred participant, in card reading "Thank you for being... one of my ... supporters..."*

*"... I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to learn through Williston's restorative justice program... [T]he panel I spoke to held me responsible while also not villainizing me, which helped me learn in a constructive manner. Through the process I now recognize the severity of my actions... I subjected myself to being charged with a felony offense that would affect the entirety of my future... I am grateful on behalf of myself and my family and friends that you gave me the opportunity to learn..." (Quote by referred participant)*

*"I am grateful... for my home and family, they are my backbone.... for my friends, they are keeping me alive... for myself, for I am taking small steps everyday to becoming a better person... [the] feeling of walking into a space where you know you're welcome... People who check on you, just because... The joy of seeing your neighbor's friendly wave... The resilience you've shown through hard times... The bravery it takes to ask for help when you need it...." (Quote by referred participant)*

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### **WILLISTON COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER**

7928 Williston Road  
Williston VT 05495

*Please share this resource!*