

YOUR WILLISTON COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER



February 2026

BECOME A VOLUNTEER!

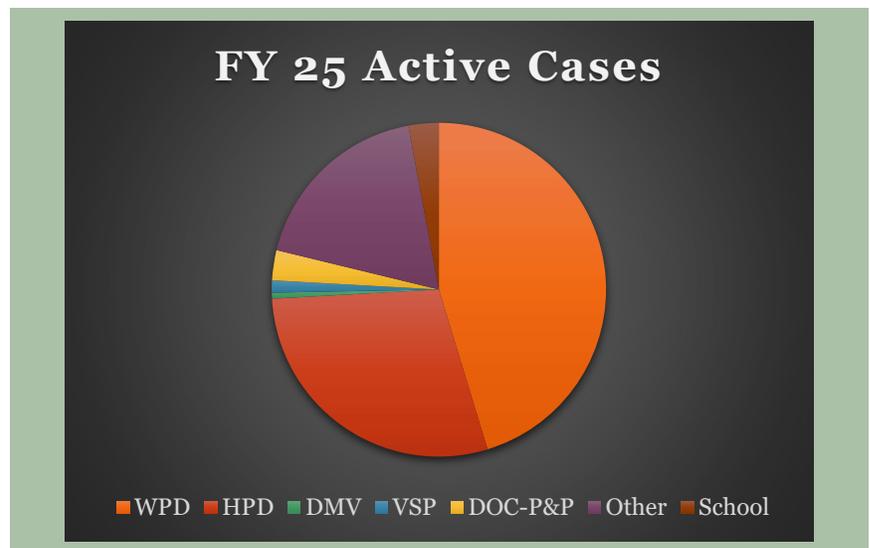
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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.



WCJC REPORTS, 2025 WILLISTON TOWN REPORT



The Williston Community Justice Center (WCJC) is committed to promoting the safety and wellbeing of our community by providing resources that support positive change, dismantle patterns of inequity, and repair harm through restorative practices. These practices are tailored to meet the unique needs of both affected and responsible parties.

WCJC operates in alignment with best practices in restorative justice and is guided by its core values of **equity, trustworthiness, responsibility, caring, and relationships**.

During Fiscal Year 2025, WCJC operated under the leadership of an Executive Director, supported by a full-time Restorative Justice Specialist and dedicated community volunteers. Volunteers served in both panel roles and on the Executive Board.

Over the course of the year, WCJC handled a total of **181 cases**, referred from a variety of sources.

These included **96 criminal cases, 11 civil cases, 24 juvenile cases, 41 non-offense referrals, one Vermont Department of Corrections Probation and Parole referral, and six cases of unknown or unspecified origin.**

Despite broader changes to restorative justice services in Chittenden County, WCJC continues to serve Williston residents and process referrals as it always has. The Center is currently staffed by **Mandy Ferland, Restorative Justice Program Manager**, who works alongside a strong volunteer base.

WCJC is supported by **seven Advisory Board members**, who provide guidance to the Williston Town Manager and WCJC staff on matters related to the Town's transition to the regional governance structure under Act 180. Additionally, **34 active community volunteers** currently serve on restorative justice panels.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SERVICES ARE CHANGING AND WE'RE LISTENING

Vermont is reshaping how pre-charge diversion will work statewide starting on July 1, 2026. In Chittenden County, the municipalities of Williston, Essex, South Burlington, and Burlington are collaborating to co-create a centralized administration hub.

In February, two listening sessions were held, by these centers, offering:

- An overview of what's changing
- Context about the transition timeline and local impacts
- Space to ask questions, share perspectives, and help shape what comes next

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The WCJC is grateful to our partners for their continued support!

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

Thank you to our volunteers. It is with them that the work of the WCJC gets done!

Thank you to all those who have donated to the WCJC to better address our neighbors' needs. As part of our pre-charge work the WCJC often meets with individuals in order to assist with community resource navigation; as we work with our neighbors to secure resources we are, at times, tasked with providing emergency provisions.

A special thank you to the Williston-Richmond Rotary for their support in this work. The WCJC is the proud recipient of their financial support in providing needed, practical support for our neighbors' struggling with food insecurity.

“Dear Officer... I appreciate... the chance to reflect on my actions... I understand now even more how speeding affects myself and those around me... I am grateful for your referral to the community justice center. It has been a good opportunity to take responsibility, learn from this mistake, and show that I can make better decisions going forward... This experience has made me realize that saving a few minutes is not worth the risk to myself or others. I am being more intentional about planning ahead, following speed limits, being mindful, and driving in a way that reflects the responsibility of holding a drivers license.” *(Quote by referred participant)*

THE WORK DONE

IN DECEMBER OF 2025 and JANUARY OF 2026...

WCJC volunteers facilitated 26 panels.

IN THESE LAST TWO MONTHS...

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

MORE THANKS

The WCJC thanks those impacted parties who gave their voice to the process. Always invited to participate, we acknowledge the courage and emotional investment of those who choose to participate.

Too, we thank those referred, responsible parties who engaged in this process to better understand our shared responsibilities.

“I want to apologize for the actions [I took]... I want you to understand that it was purely accidental. Despite this people were greatly affected by these actions and I am looking to make amends... I would greatly appreciate it if you would connect me with the maintenance crew or janitorial staff so I can work with them...”

(Quote by referred participant)

“Dear People in the trailer... I am writing this letter to apologize. I now realize my actions were very immature... parking lots are shared spaces for pedestrians, families, and other drivers... I have looked back at this situation as an important reminder to be mindful... Driving is a privilege that can turn dangerous in a matter of seconds... I am very sorry for ... [my] actions that night, and... that you guys did not feel safe in your home...”

(Quote by referred participant)

“... What I did was very impulsive and a very poor decision... I will continue to work hard as a person and hopefully make a meaningful impact like you some day. I know what I did was dangerous and very disrespectful... [and] I’m deeply sorry... Still through these events, you found it in your heart to forgive me... I greatly appreciate [this and] you as a person.”

(Quote by referred participant)

A STRONGER COMMUNITY

“I... acknowledge what I have done... without any excuses and without shame. I made a mistake and though I regret my actions I also recognize that a single mistake does not define me... I understand that holding on to this guilt will not help me grow, but learning from my actions will. I take full responsibility, and I will also allow myself compassion. I am allowed to grow beyond my past and be better because of it. Since then, I have... become more aware of how my choices impact myself and others. I am going to move forward in life with intention, respect, and kindness...”

(Quote by referred participant)



(Gift delivery by referred participant)

“Dear officer ... I’m sending you this letter as part of my contract... I am truly grateful for you[r] generosity... Did you have any ideas in mind of a charity ... to donate the money [that I would have been ticketed] to...”

(Quote and donation by referred participant)



“I... apologize... I take full responsibility for my actions and I... regret what I did... Since the incident, I have spent a great deal of time reflecting on my actions... I have learned the importance of accountability... [and] respect for community...”

(Quote by referred participant)

**WILLISTON COMMUNITY
JUSTICE CENTER**
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(Sign by referred participant)

Please share this resource!