

Strength Based Restorative Repairs

RYCNC Lunch & Learn Series 2025



www.rjnc.us

Why RJ Strength Based Repairs Work Best

RJ interventions attempt to foster growth and reintegration into the community.

Because youth are still forming their identities and developing socially and cognitively, they are more responsive to interventions that encourage the development of their personal prosocial identities.

REINTEGRATION



PROSOCIAL



MEANINGFUL

What Makes It Restorative?

1. **A preservice orientation on the restorative approach for both the youth and the community member in charge.**
2. **An opportunity for the youth to learn the value behind contributing and to feel more connected to their community.**
3. **Engaging in meaningful (nonmenial) service projects that provides tangible benefits to the community.**

4. As much as possible, connecting the repair to the harm done while considering the youth's skills and preferences.

5. The repair is proportional to the harm done.

6. Community members interact with the youth on a personal level while performing the same work as the youth.

RJ Repairs deliver:

1. **Meaningful work.**

2. **Increased Self-efficacy**

3. **Community Connectedness**



Categories

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

COMMUNITY SERVICE (NOT-SHAME BASED)
PROJECTS TO HELP OTHERS
PROJECTS TO MAKE AMENDS

MAKING AMENDS TO THOSE HARMED

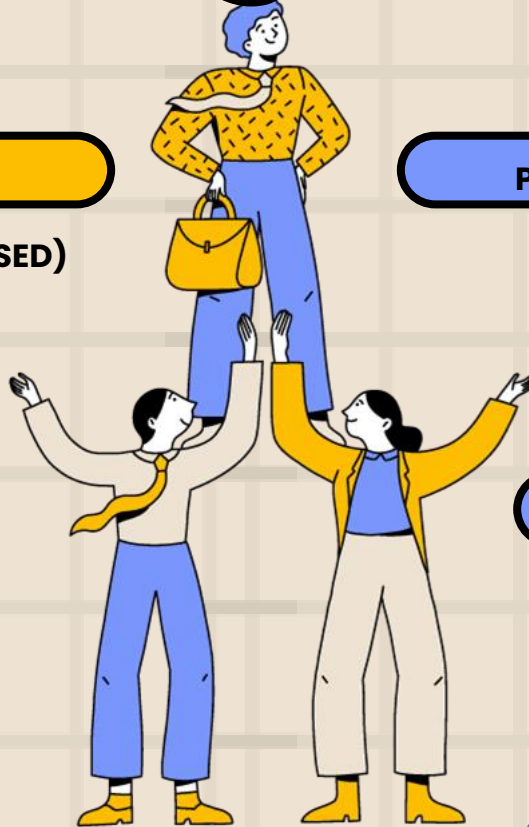
RESTITUTION THROUGH WORK
REPAIRING EMOTIONAL HARM
REBUILDING TRUST

PAYING IT FORWARD WITH THEIR PEERS

JURY DUTY FROM TEEN COURT
PEER CIRCLE
MENTORING OTHERS

SELF REFLECTION AND GROWTH

COMPETENCY BUILDING
INDIVIDUAL IMPROVEMENT



Group Community Service as a Restorative Repair

- Homeless Shelters
- Soup Kitchens
- Second-Hand Shops
- Community Centers
- Helping at School Events
- Helping other Non-Profits like a car wash at a Senior Center
- Cards/gift bags for Kids in the Hospital
- Cards for the Military Overseas
- Care Packages for the Homeless
- Food Prep like cutting up vegetables



Projects to Help Others as a Restorative Repair

- Yard or Neighborhood Clean Up
- Clean up what was Hurt or Damaged (graffiti, B&E damage)
- Help to Repair what was Damaged (replace dry wall, replace broken windows, repair fence, repair mailbox)





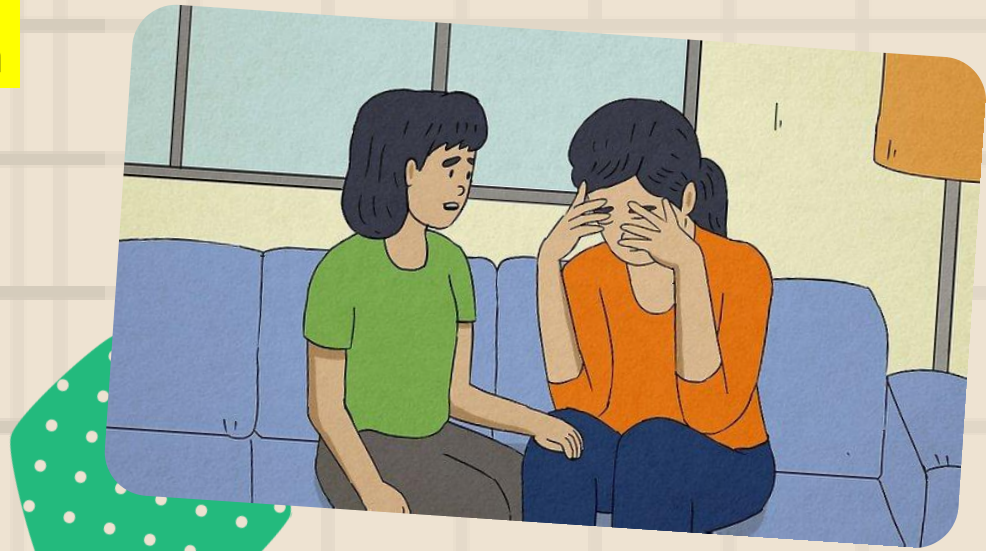
Projects to Make Amends Directly to the Person(s) harmes as a Restorative Repair

- Write a letter detailing all the harm caused, taking full responsibility for the actions and how things will be done better in the future. (to the SRO, Principal, Neighbor, Parent, etc.)
- Volunteer for a cause that was important to the person who was wronged, and making efforts to make a difference in that community.
- Using creative talents such as art, writing, music or performance to create a gift for someone that was harmed.



Repairing Emotional Harm as a Restorative Repair

1. Acknowledge the harm done.
2. Reflect on your behavior.
Understand your own motives.
3. Offer a sincere apology.
4. Validate their emotions by
actively listening and
understanding their perspective
without becoming defensive.
5. Be specific about your mistake.
6. Make amends if possible.
7. Give them space.
8. Learn and grow.
9. Rebuild trust. This takes time
and consistency.



- Put yourself in their shoes. What would they want? What do they need?
- Words hold immense power. They can build bridges or tear them down, heal wounds or inflict pain.

Restitution Through Work as a Restorative Repair

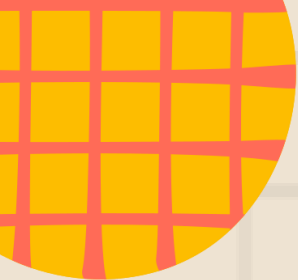
Payment For Damage Done

- **Through Community Service Money Earned**
- **From Salary**
- **From Family**
- **Sell something like an Xbox**

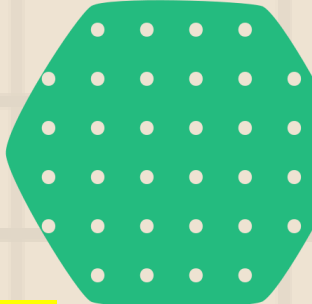


Rebuilding Trust: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AlIDh2yeTWU>





Trust-Building Ideas that Understand Trust is Fragile



1. **Apologize** for violating their trust, without expecting anything in return.
2. The words used are less important than speaking from the heart.
3. **Ask** what can be done to regain their trust. Give them time to think about an answer.



4. **Spend time** with family to rebuild trust with them.
5. **Demonstrate** responsible actions. Do chores. Keep promises. Follow the rules. Tell the truth.
6. Demonstrate through caring actions. **Acts of kindness.**
7. Controlling emotions. Showing respect.

AMEND-MAKING ACTIVITIES

DEVELOPS EMPATHY

Youth attitudes towards themselves and others are likely to change as a result of demonstrating competence, value and reliability during meaningful service projects.



ACCOUNTABILITY

These types of activities may provide youth with evidence that they can control their maladaptive behaviors in other environments, such as school.

These activities provide opportunities to develop self-control and self-efficacy as they require more focus.



Paying it Forward...



1.

TEEN COURT JURY

2.

PEER CIRCLES

3.

MENTORING OTHERS

Serving on a Teen Court Jury as a Restorative Repair

- Most Teen Courts in NC include:
 - **Community Service Hours**
 - **Peer Jury Duty**
 - **School Attendance & Grades**
- Other Repairs that are often included:
 - **Training Classes**
 - **Written or Verbal Apologies**
 - **Restorative Projects**



Being a **Peer Circle Volunteer** as a Restorative Repair

- Peer Accountability Circles &
- Responsive Circles both utilize peer processes
 - **As volunteers**
 - **As youth in the program to pay it forward**



Mentoring Others as a Restorative Repair

Have a youth who is struggling to understand “differences” work in the special education classroom.



Assign an experienced juror from Teen Court to mentor a new juror.

Assign a youth who has been doing community service for awhile to mentor a youth just coming on.

Self Reflection and Growth...

Called **"Competency Development"** by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency (OJJDP). They endorse:



1.

PROSOCIAL SKILL BUILDING

2.

MORAL REASONING SKILL BUILDING

3.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS

4.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SKILL BUILDING

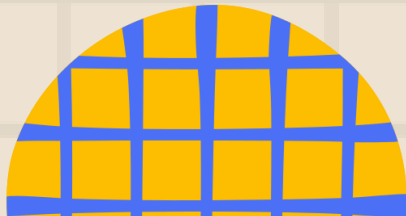
5.

ACADEMIC SKILL BUILDING

Thank you!

Please join us on the third
Friday of each month.

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www.rjnc.us



Resources Used in this Presentation

- Community Service Outcomes in Justice-Involved Youth, Comparing Restorative Community Service to Standard Community Service, Criminal Justice and Behavior, 2021, Vol. 48
- Strength-Based Restorative Justice Agreements: Using Art to Make Things Right, Lindsey Porter, PhD



Circle time

Now, it's your turn to engage with us. We invite you to join us in discussing Restorative Repairs

