

Mediator Interview with Renee Soto

By Helmine Bigler

Renee Soto has been a VORP volunteer mediator since 2002. She first learned about VORP while working on her concentration area in the Masters Program of Peacemaking and Conflict Studies at Fresno Pacific University. She was required to mediate VORP cases for a class and has had good experiences with the program. Renee believes that the way VORP teaches minors to deal with conflict is a needed tool in the Juvenile Justice System. In her opinion, it would be ideal if this alternative Restorative Justice program was the first option in all juvenile offender cases. Renee says community members, especially parents, should be more informed about VORP. She finds that Community Justice Conference (pre-sentencing) cases are very rewarding. In her last case, the offenders were happy with the outcome of the agreement, the victim was also pleased, experienced emotional recovery and reconciliation took place at the mediation.

Renee works as a Field Compliance Coordinator with an insurance company. Even at her workplace, she is able to use the communication skills and ways to deal with conflict she has learned through VORP.

Renee, we really appreciate your volunteer time that you give to VORP and to the community. Gods richest blessings!

Mediator Recognition List

The following is a list of all mediators who have received a case referral since Spring 2002 until present.

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