

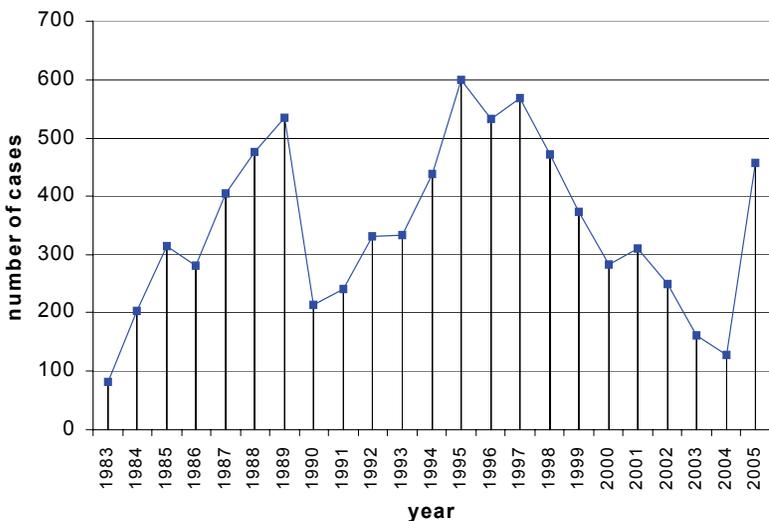
VORP News

Volume 24, Issue 1 January 2006

From the Administrator

We have been letting you know about the sudden increase in cases VORP has received toward the end of 2005. This graph of case referrals over the life of the program may give you a better idea of just how big a change we are experiencing. The bulk of the new cases are petty theft and vandalism. We continue to receive regular referrals of other types of cases. The important thing for us on a short-term basis is to develop our capacity and methods to handle the increased flow of cases. This requires more volunteers and money no matter how we go about it, and we have been letting you know some of the ways we are working at these things. Based on the number of cases we have been receiving we could be looking at 2,500 cases in 2006. Thank you for your continued support. Mediator trainings are coming up in January, February and March.

VORP cases per year 1983-2005



Volunteer Mediator Training

February 10-11, 2006

March 17-18, 2006

Friday 6:30pm - 9:30pm

Saturday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Call 455-9803 to reserve a spot.

Victim Offender Reconciliation Program

of the Central Valley, Inc.

4882 E. Townsend Ave., Fresno, CA 93727

Phone: (559) 455-9803; Fax: (559) 252-4800

Email: vorp@fresno.edu | http://vorp.org

Affirmation From Fresno County Juvenile Probation

It was 1:07 a.m., one spring day in Fresno when two teenaged boys decided to vandalize a wall. While doing so, they were spotted by a Fresno Police officer who pulled up to the scene. The boys ran from the police and were detained after a short foot pursuit. It was later determined that the boys had not only vandalized a wall, but had also spray painted a trailer with their monikers. In making contact with the owner of the trailer, it was determined that the amount of damages was approximately \$1,400.00.

The boys had their day in Court and because they had little to no prior record they were allowed the option of participating in the Community Justice Conference, better known as the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP). Both boys jumped at the chance to make good of a bad situation. Their parents were also very supportive and wanted their sons to pay restitution to the victim for damaging his property.

During the mediation process both boys and their parents met with the victim to determine how restitution should be paid. The victim did not want monetary compensation, which was a great relief to the boys and their parents. However, the mediator along with the victim came up with a plan of action, which would not only hold the minors accountable for their delinquent behavior, but would also give them an opportunity to spend time with their fathers. The plan went something like this: The boys would be required to write an article for their school newspaper on the subject of tagging and how it affects the victim. This article would

New Faces at VORP

Hello! My name is Joe Montanez. I am married and a father of three. I am thankful and excited about graduating from Fresno Pacific University's Peace Making and Conflict Studies Program (PACS). As part of my internship, I have created a workshop on cultural competence values. This workshop will focus on applying cultural competence values to VORP's reconciliation process and is designed for VORP mediators. I would like to invite you on February 18, 2006 from 9:00am-2:00pm. A catered meal is included. If you are interested in attending the workshop, contact me or Jenna Preheim at 455-9803. Please sign-up ahead of time.

Thank you.

-Joe Montanez

To access mediator forms go to:

<http://vorp.org/forms>

PLEASE CALL VORP AT 455-9803 IF: You have time to volunteer helping coordinate projects and supervising kids while they work. Or if You have a project at home that you could use a little help with: house-keeping, cleaning out the garage, yard work, washing the car, taking down outside Christmas lights etc.

VORP Staff

Duane Ruth-Heffelbower	Administrator
Johnny Phouthachack	Agreement Manager
Jenna Preheim	Mediation Manager
Joe Montanez	Intern
Barry Guenther	Finance Manager

(Probation Affirmation Continued from Pg. 1)

be edited by the victim and be anonymously submitted to their school newspaper for publication. Further, the boys would be required to repaint the victim's trailer over a two week period with their fathers supervising their work. Finally, the boys would be required to wash the victim's company trucks two Fridays a month for two hours a day for a period of four months. All parties were in agreement with this plan of action and thus the case was resolved. Since the incident, neither one of the young men has had any further contact with law enforcement.

The above article was written to illustrate how beneficial the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program can be to both the victim and the offender. The victim benefits by being allowed to participate in a process wherein they are able to communicate their frustrations to the offender while being an active participant in determining the type of restitution that is appropriate for the offender. The offender benefits from participation in the program, as they are able to rectify wrongdoings while being given an opportunity to become a productive member of the community rather than a dependent member of society.

Beatrice F. Sanchez, DPOIV
Fresno County Probation Department

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Michael Blue, Chair	Arthur Wint
Dave Purvis, Secretary/Treasurer	José Chaparro
Eleanor Richards	

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