

VORP News

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:

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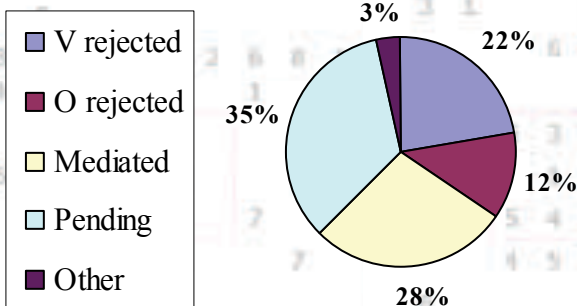


THE NUMBERS ARE IN

As we are closing out most of our cases from 2007, and transitioning into 2008 we always like to look at our numbers and get a snapshot of all that happened at VORP as far as the cases are concerned. We had a total of 271 standard probation cases and 281 box cited cases. Of those cited cases only about 63 were actually workable simply because either the offender or victim was not locatable, or there were other circumstance which did not allow us to pursue the case. Thus, the total number of workable cases was 334 which is a little less than in 2006.

Last year our mediators did an excellent job and were able to mediate 100 cases all of which ended in an agreement. This is typical for our program. One thing that mediators can be encouraged by is the fact that once you bring the victim and offender together, there is almost a guarantee that they will reach an amicable agreement, regardless of age, gender, or experience. 34% of the agreements were monetary, whereas the rest were non-monetary. This is an interesting shift in agreements. In the past there had been that the majority of cases were monetary, I am not sure why the shift has taken place, but people still seem to be happy with the mediation outcomes as our evaluations show.

VORP Case Outcomes 2007



Snowball of Passion

I am excited, and you should be too. These have been an exciting two months for me. As I have gotten more acclimated to the job here, I have been able to talk to our mediators more and more and get to know them. I have been able to hear about their cases, and how the Victim and Offenders are responding. Next month I hope to be able to share with you a case which I think is utterly amazing. It is going into a joint mediation this week! Some things I have felt encouraged by, are first the great staff here at the office, as well as the wonderful mediators who I have enjoyed talking with about their cases.

The Lord has also has used relationships from my previous job to open doors of mediation. Last week we were having difficulty getting a hold of the victim of a case, when I ran a cross the name of a principal I had worked with for the last three years. I called him up, and we were able to contact the victim and set a time to meet with her. I enjoy Fridays the most it is a time I set aside to contact the mediators and catch up with them and their cases.

As I talk with my colleagues I am encouraged by what seems like the District Attorneys desire to test the waters of restorative justice with wider case loads here in Fresno. I am very excited to share as well that we had about thirty people attend our mediation training in early February, as Visalia and San Diego try more and more to revitalize their VORP Programs.

Finally I would ask for prayer as we have had several mediators become ill, and one specific case is held up currently by language barriers. I look forward to being able to share with you a very special case next month. Until then thank you for all your support and may God bless you in all that you do.

-Morgan Crawford

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to VORP:

\$200 \$100 \$50 Other _____

Name: _____

Change of Address or Phone #: _____

Important Up Coming Dates, Conferences, and Resources

American Society of Victimology Symposium Fresno Pacific University March 5-7, 2008
Register: www.american-society-victimology.us

Association for Conflict Resolution Annual Conference "Mediation: A Collaborative Investment in our Community" CSUF Smittcamp Alumni House March 14, 2008, 8:30-4:30 PM Register: www.mediate.com/acrcentralca

ALSO YOU CAN NOW DONATE TO VORP ONLINE USING PAYPAL JUST VISIT

<http://vorp.org>

WE NEED INTERPRETERS!!

If you speak any other language in addition to English, we need your help. We are building a strong database of interpreters and are in special need of Hmong, Vietnamese, Cambodian. Without interpreters, these cases become very difficult to coordinate and mediate. Thank you for your help.

VORP Staff

Noelle Daoudian	Director
Johnny Phouthachack	Agreement Manager
Morgan Crawford	Case Manager
Norma Cabrera	Bookkeeper

Office Intern

Hello, my name is Christopher Kelm and I am one of the new interns here at VORP. I started about mid-January and have had many great and meaningful experiences here thus far. I have had the opportunity to see the organization from the inside and have gained a different perspective of it. Through working on sending out the newsletter, I've been able to see just how many people this organization reaches. Through compiling contact information for VORPs across California, through finding job and community service resources that would benefit the people we work with, through following up on agreements that are made, and much more, I've learned a lot about the organization and the mediation process and I'm happy to have been given the opportunity to do so. I'm currently working on my Criminology degree with a Victimology option at Fresno State and am working on getting a couple certificates as well. After obtaining my degree, I'd like to go back to school to get my master's degree. In the meantime, I am appreciating the experiences that I am getting while working here. Being a part of the process that helps make things right between victims and offenders is something that is a very rewarding and I am glad to be a part of it.

Volunteer Mediator Training

March 28 & 29

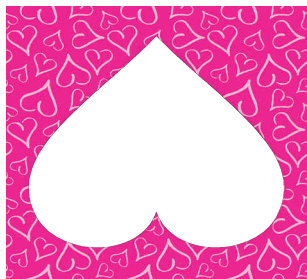
Friday 6:30pm - 9:30pm

Saturday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Call 455-9803 to reserve a spot.

VORP Board Members

Michael Blue, <i>Chair</i>	Arthur Wint
Dave Purvis, <i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	José Chaparro
Ron Blalack	Magi Fainer-Towne



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