

**Victim Offender Reconciliation Program of the Central Valley, Inc**  
4882 E. Townsend Ave. Fresno, CA 93727  
phone (559) 455-9803 fax (559) 252-4803 <http://vorp.org>

## Community Justice Conference

I recently worked on a case involving a hit and run with the new Community Justice Conference (CJC) pilot project we have running through juvenile court. You might remember reading about this program a few months ago in our newsletter. The court has provided a conference room in which our CJC Case Manager, Salvador Bueno, meets with the juvenile offenders and their families as they go for their first hearing. Once the youth has accepted responsibility and their case meets a level of criteria then they are automatically sent to the CJC program. When they meet with Sal he explains the process which is much like the VORP process and sees if they would like to participate. Once they have agreed then the case is assigned out to a mediator and then they contact both the victim and the offender in order to get the affirmation from the victim that they would like to participate as well as get to meet the offender and go over their ideas for the agreement and their apology letter. This all needs to happen in six weeks and then once an agreement is made it is sent to the

referring Judge and department and then the sentence will be the CJC agreement.

My particular case involved a youth racing without a license and then once the he hit the victim's car, he took off and ended up hitting a light post, only then to flee the scene. The victim was stuck in her car, injured and very upset, to say the least. The victim was very appreciative for the opportunity to meet with the offender to tell him how much pain and hardship this had cost her and her family, as this was her parent's car. The offender felt bad for what he had done, and his parents had not even known what had happened until the day of court. When the parties came together I was a little apprehensive because it seemed that what the victim wanted and what the offender thought he was responsible for did not quite match. But I trusted the process as always, and did not try to negotiate prior to coming to the table.

(Continued on back)

## Case Manager Hand-Off

Many of you who are mediators have had the opportunity to get to know our case manager Morgan Crawford and have formed a great working relationship with him. However, Morgan, who was only part-time here at VORP, recently took a full-time position with Families

First a great social work organization. We will miss Morgan but are confident he will succeed at his new job. The new case manager is Daniella Bove who has already been working in the office for about a year. She began helping Morgan towards the end of his time here and now has taken

over and is doing very well. If you have not met or spoken with her yet, then it's probably been a while since you last took a case so you might want to give her a call to say hello as well as take on a new case! She would love to hear from you!  
- ND

### VORP Board

Arthur Wint,  
President

Jose Chaparro,  
Vice President

Magi Fainer-Towne,  
Treasurer

David Purvis,  
Secretary

Jason Ekk

### VORP Staff

Noelle Daoudian,  
Director

Johnny Phouthachack,  
Agreement Manager

Daniella Bove,  
Case Manager

Norma Cabrera,  
Bookkeeper

Derek Geitner,  
Sustaining Friends  
Coordinator

### Center for Peacemaking Staff

Ron Claassen,  
Director

Holly McFarlin,  
Administrator

Duane Ruth-Heffelbower,  
VORP Webmaster



**\*\* In order to better serve you we would like your response if you are interested in the following\*\***

**Please cut off and send back in the enclosed envelop or call the office 455-9803.**

**\_\_\_\_\_ YES! I would like to receive the VORP newsletter online instead of in paper form:**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_ YES! I would prefer to use an automatic electronic monthly deductions to make my contribution to VORP.**

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

## CJC Continued

I know that is always a temptation to go back and forth to resolve the differences the mediator encounters during the initial meeting. I always find that once the parties come together they are able to work out their differences, this case was no different. During the story telling phase, the victim shared, through tears, that she saw these two little lights coming at her in her rear-view mirror, so fast she didn't have time to react. Then the impact hit her so hard that she saw car parts fly over the hood of her car. When she saw the offender take off and then hit the light post, she thought for sure that he was dead. Then once they ran off she was infuriated that they didn't come to check to see if she was ok. She could have been dead for all they knew! The offender apologized for what he did and the fact that he ran off and did not check to see if she was ok. He knew it was stupid to be racing and regretted doing it. He said he and his family would do whatever it took to make things up to her and her family. The agreement process went quite

smoothly from then on as we agreed to get their insurance company involved and we worked out a community service plan as well. Overall I was quite relieved that we were, first of all, able to reach an agreement and second that it was exactly what the victim had requested. I know that since then the insurance has paid for the car and the offender has completed the majority of his community service. *This whole process was completed in 3 weeks*, which is unheard of in VORPland. It was easier to work because of the meeting with the offender at the court house, thus by the time I received it the offender had already agreed! This program has been receiving a referral a day since July and we are in need of more mediators. Thus if you are interested in becoming a CJC volunteer mediator contact the VORP office (559) 455-9803.

Noelle Daoudian



## Year-End Giving

As we approach the end of the year we appreciate for our supporters to remember VORP in their year-end charitable donations. Our program relies primarily on donations from individuals like you in order to continue our operations. We realize this is a tough economic time, so we greatly appreciate all of those who have chosen to continue to give in the midst of these times. In order for us to count your donations towards your 2009 taxes, please be sure to have all of your donations postmarked by December 31, 2009.

**Thank you for your support and donations! May you and your family have a blessed Christmas!**

**We're on Facebook!  
Become a fan!**



or <http://vorp.org>

## Attention Reedley Residents!

VORP has recently partnered with Reedley PD, initiated by Chief Wright. VORP did a training December 5th at the MCC/ Victim Services office for 17 Reedley community members. The Chief has indicated that he would like to start making referrals to VORP directly from the Police Department hopefully starting in January. If you live in Reedley and are a trained mediator or interested in becoming involved, please contact the VORP office (559) 455-9803.



HTTP://VORP.ORG  
(559) 455-9803  
FRESNO, CA 93727  
4882 E. TOWNSEND AVE.

VICTIM OFFENDER RECONCILIATION PROGRAM  
OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY INC.



Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Clovis, CA 93612  
Permit # 376