



Testimonials of Restorative Conference Participants

from surveys returned post-completion of plan
 Compiled from March 2009 data set (two years of data)
 April 15 2009

| Respondent | Comment |
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| Family | Everything was great. Keep helping youth with their problems, they need it so much. Very well done, thank you. |
| Law Enforcement | I think you guys do a great job. I feel blessed to have been able to watch, learn and grow—and to see how it was truly restorative for both the victim and the offender. |
| Law Enforcement | The plan the young offender had to follow was far more thorough than any probation or jail time he would have received. Nice work. |
| Law Enforcement | Sometimes in my line of work I can be skeptical of things, but I truly believe your program works. |
| Law Enforcement | I think this program gives the most meaningful and personal consequences. Instead of being rushed through the system, young offenders have to truly face their actions. |
| Law Enforcement | Each conference is conducted very professionally and efficiently. Everyone in attendance has an opportunity to speak and express their feelings. |
| Law Enforcement | All involved parties had an opportunity to express their views and concerns about the impact of the suspect's actions. |
| Law Enforcement | The conference was a special time and done well. The offender followed through with his end of the bargain. |
| Offender | The conference gave me a better perspective on life. Now I think before I act. |
| Offender | All the hate was gone after we talked. |
| Offender | The most meaningful part was the contact with the victim, because I found out what harm I had caused the family. |
| Offender | The conference was so personal—that gave it a lot of impact. |
| Offender | I learned that before you act, you should think twice. |

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| Offender | The conference showed me another side of my parents, sister, and boyfriend. I understand how I affected them also, and how much they really want me to do better. |
| Offender Support | The best way you can improve your program is to expand and offer it to more young people and crime victims! |
| Offender Support | It gave everyone an opportunity to express to my nephew how his actions affected them. It was important for him to hear this. It helped him take a better path. |
| Offender Support | The fact that there was a process to make amends other than punishment helped her learn to take responsibility for her actions. |
| Offender Support | I was deeply moved by the change of heart the victim's mother had toward the offender. |
| Offender Support | This process is far more productive than confinement. |
| Offender Support | The conference really helped people get their feelings out in the open. It gave the family of the victim a change to give input into the plan. This was very effective. |
| Offender Support | Your staff show genuine concern and support. |
| Offender Support | We were able to hear each others' sides. This made it very meaningful. |
| Offender Support | I was impressed with the genuine concern for the offender and the many ideas presented for his benefit. |
| Offender Support | The conference was a profound example of how things should work in the world. I am very glad to have the chance to participate. |
| Offender Support | I was very impressed with the conference I attended, with the thoughtful preparation leading up to it, and with the consistent and comprehensive support and accountability to help the offender complete the program successfully. |
| Offender Support | Our facilitator was excellent! She addressed the most important issues and was direct and fair with the offender. He really learned a lot. |
| Other | The full process from start to finish was very powerful for our offender. |
| Other | I love being a part of this process. |

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| Other | The conference was a safe place to come together and communicate. We saw the offender begin to understand the impact his actions. It was much more meaningful than any punitive measures. |
| Other | This process helped her become aware of the seriousness of her substance abuse problem. It really increased her motivation to be drug free. |
| Other | The conference was a powerful experience of reconciliation. |
| Parent | Thanks for your support, kindness and understanding. |
| Parent | I hope you can expand this program so more young people can have the same opportunity my daughter had. |
| Parent | Everything was very good; it helped us very much, especially our son. |
| Parent | You have a great program. Thank you for all your help! |
| Parent | For my child, the consequences of his actions became real; it became a crime with a face. It allowed him to understand how he impacted his victim. |
| Parent | The conference was an excellent forum for everyone to express their feelings about what happened. Staff were excellent! |
| Parent | This process helped me understand that I wasn't alone in trying to deal with a mistake my son had made. |
| Parent | The program provided all parties involved the opportunity to heal from the offense. The plan addressed everyone's concerns. |
| Parent | One of the things that made this conference so powerful for my son was that he had to face his victims' anger and hurt. That had a lot of impact on him. |
| Parent | Your staff was wonderful and very instrumental in changing our daughter's attitude. It made her come to terms with her offense and deal with it. She has changed in a very positive way. |
| Parent | After a shaky start, our son positively bloomed as he completed his contract. He seems so much happier now. |
| Probation | The conference addressed deep issues and by the end of it there was a plan to address those issues and move on with life. |

| Respondent | Comment |
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| Victim | I learned a lot from the creation of the plan in the conference. It is an excellent evolutionary process. As the victim who reported the event I appreciated the ongoing contact with the young offender as he completed a part of his plan. I hope that contact helped him see and understand the human element involved in and affected by his actions. |
| Victim | Although the conference was very difficult, I think it was very effective and meaningful. It brought everybody together in one place and let us see and experience each others' humanity. |
| Victim | What was most meaningful was getting to tell my story and my experience to the young offender directly. I felt involved in a healing process rather than a process that was merely punitive. |
| Victim | A great opportunity for the offender to really see the harms their action caused. |
| Victim | An outstanding conference—in my opinion, much better than jail time for the perpetrator. |
| Victim | I appreciate being able to meet the offenders face-to-face and express the impact their action had on me. |
| Victim | The follow through after the conference was spot on. |
| Victim Support | The circle was a transformative experience, even for the arresting officer. |
| Victim Support | The whole process was quite unique because it addressed all sides of the issue. |
| Victim Support | It gave my daughter a chance to heal from her experience. |
| Victim Support | Not only did this process powerfully advocate for the victim, we came away with hope for the offender's rehabilitation. |