Restorative Justice Projects

Repairing the Harm and Rebuilding Community Relationships
To Experience Justice Crime Victims Need:

- Compensation for losses.
- Answers to their questions:
  1. What happened?
  2. Why did it happen to me?
  3. What if it happens again?
- An opportunity to express feelings.
- Empowerment and Safety.
To Experience Justice
Offenders Need:

- To be accountable and responsible.
- Understand the human consequences of what happened.
- Face up to what one has done and to whom.
- Be part of the process and take steps to repair the damage.
Victim Offender Conferencing

Some of our graduates have had the courage to meet face to face with their victims.

Their victims were able to ask questions and express feelings.

These graduates had the opportunity to hear and see the individual(s) that were directly impacted by the crime they committed.
Letters of Apology and Expressions of Gratitude

- Directly addressed to the victim/victims of the crime.

- Sent to family members or friends that have endured the consequences of their loved ones addiction for far too long.

- Police officers involved in the arrest.
Volunteering in the Community

- Loaves and Fishes
- Cops, Kids, and Toys
- Patchwork Riding Stables
- Ithaca Community Recovery Inc.
- Friendship Center
- The Reconstruction Home

...just to name a few.
Direct Amends to the Community

A graduate convicted of felony DWI involving a crash in the village of Trumansburg spent a day volunteering at the Trumansburg Fire Department.
The graduate wrote the following about his experience,

“Our shared experience together that day was definitely a positive thing. It was encouraging for them to see that someone can change and even express gratitude to them for something that they all too often see repeated. As for me, I must never forget what it was like and what happens when I drink. I never have to relive that experience, but I must always remember it.”
A grandmother remembers:

A blanket was handmade and then donated to the Pediatric Unit of the Cayuga Medical Center. This was done by a grandmother who was convicted of a felony DWI involving a crash with her granddaughter in the car.
In her own words:

“I have contributed this blanket in hopes it can help keep at least one child warm. I had my precious granddaughter in the vehicle I was driving while apparently comatose on alcohol. I truly regret this. I love my granddaughter dearly and am very grateful I am back in her life.”
Making Direct Amends to Family

Two enclosures of porch balconies were completed at a senior complex in Freeville, NY. Also, a security gate was installed for a family member’s swimming pool.
In his own words:

“To do the projects I have chosen will give me the insight and encouragement to continue giving back to all the people who have unselfishly been there for me. This will continue to make me realize there is life without alcohol. Every day of sobriety gives me new insight into all the possibilities of all my tomorrows.”
No more empty promises

A graduate who had regained custody of her daughters while in the program designed and planted a flower garden with her children. This is a “Before” picture.
“After” Picture:
In her own words:

“The reason I chose a garden is because both girls wanted one but it was just another empty promise from their mother. I like the fact that it was something we created together and this time I made a promise and kept it.”
Drug Courts Make a Difference

“The people who come before our courts charged with substance abuse related crimes are our loved ones and community members, not nameless, faceless, ‘others’. I know I am privileged to be a part of a program that responds differently to these issues and utilizes a model of supervision and treatment that works.”