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Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program

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FALL/WINTER

NEWSLETTER

2005

Program Philosophy

SLV-VORP brings young offenders, victims and the community together to search for reconciliation and solutions to "make things right." We also serve 1) Schools—facilitation, training and development around conflict resolution, peer mediation, and restorative discipline; 2) Families—Parent-Teen Mediation.

Bullying Prevention Initiative Kicks Off this Fall

A major focus of VORP since last Spring has been activities associated with the start-up of a 3-year Bullying Prevention Initiative. This initiative is a partnership with Tu Casa and 5 after-school sites' funded through the Colorado Trust. A series of trainings through the Summer and Fall has targeted the adults at each site. These trainings have focused on awareness of bullying dynamics, as well as on the Olweus Bullying Prevention model. Participating after-school sites include Alamosa, La Jara, and Monte Vista Boys & Girls Clubs; Valle del Sol in Capulin; and St. Andrews Youth Guild in San Luis.

The Olweus model combines both prevention and intervention components. Its key strategy is to strengthen the awareness, will, and hands-on skills of both youth and adults to say "no" to bullying—especially the 85% of youth who are typically by-standers to the verbal, physical or relational bullying underneath the adult radar.

Three sites have already kicked-off the program this Fall, with parent open houses and on-going weekly educational sessions with youth. Capulin was the first to launch the initiative in late August, followed by the Alamosa & La Jara Boys & Girls Clubs in September & October. The Monte Vista Club has their kick-off scheduled in late November, with discussion still underway about the time & format for the San Luis kick-off. VORP is also in conversation this Fall with some of the neighboring schools, to share information about the initiative and explore possible options for school-based utilization of this model in coming years. For more information, contact Luke Yoder, VORP School Program Coordinator, at 589-5255 or slvvorp@amigo.net.

☞ "If crime is a wound, justice should be about healing." - Dan Van Ness ☞

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Holiday Open House: Dec. 7th, 3:30-5:30
Sacred Heart Fireplace Room

VORP Mediation Training for new volunteers:
Feb. 17th & 18th, Hospice Mtg. Room

Olweus Bullying Prevention consultation:
Jan. 18th & 19th (tba)

Volunteer Recognition Dinner & Annual Meeting, Jan. 19th-Fireplace Room

For more information call 589-5255 or email slvvorp@amigo.net

SLV Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

December 7, 2005

3:30-5:30 p.m.

Sacred Heart Church (Fireplace Room)

709 4th Street

Alamosa, CO

SLV-VORP is a member of Valley Community Fund



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