

# THE NORTH SHORE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SOCIETY



## 2017 Annual Report



Our mission is to build capacity and connectivity with the North Shore community to prevent and respond to conflict and harm. We will do this through values-based processes that engage elders, adults and youth.

# The North Shore Restorative Justice Society

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2016 has been an exceptional year for the North Shore Restorative Justice Society (NSRJS). We are proud to acknowledge that it was a year of significant growth for the organization and we are now supporting more North Shore youth, adults and elders through our school-based and police diversion programming.

The Restorative Response program has continued to provide an invaluable service to residents of the North Shore. In 2016, the program almost doubled its referrals from the North Vancouver RCMP and the West Vancouver Police Department. In order to provide the best support possible, we established the *Restorative Response Advisory Committee*, where key policing stakeholders could provide



MLA YAMAMOTO & NSRJS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SIGNED DYER

feedback regarding our program activities and strategic planning. In our Schools Program, we have developed a formal partnership with the North Vancouver School District, which has strengthened and deepened our ability to support children and youth. NSRJS staff are working hard to meet the demand on the North Shore as both these programs continue to grow.

In regards to public awareness and outreach, 2016 was a year of expanded community engagement. We hosted our first *Justice Day* event with community tables, family friendly activities and a facilitated panel where attendees

were invited to learn about the many ways justice is facilitated in their community. We hosted another successful SpeakOut event entitled *Culture & Identity*, which offered youth from many lived experiences the opportunity to share their stories and build community. In June of 2016, Board members, staff, volunteers and supporters participated in the Scotiabank Charity Challenge and raised almost \$8,000 for our programming. We also connected with many North Shore residents at various community days, including, Lynn Valley Days, West Vancouver Community Day, Blueridge Day



FROM L: SPAC MEMBER KULVIR MANN, GALA CO-CHAIR JACQUIE GALLIVAN AND RRP FACILITATOR TRAVIS WOOLF SELLING RAFFLE TICKETS AT THE 2016 GALA





SOME OF THE NSRJS SCOTIABANK CHARITY CHALLENGE TEAM!

and Deep Cove Days. In November, we hosted our annual gala and raised \$15,000 towards our Circles in Schools program.

2016 also brought some wonderful additions to our staff team. Laurisse Noel, Schools Program Coordinator, left NSRJS to pursue a Masters degree in Costa Rica and soon after we welcomed long-time volunteer Zofia Switkowski as her replacement. In the fall, NSRJS welcomed Jacob Muir into a new position as Schools Facilitator and in early 2017 we welcomed Travis Woolf as the new Restorative Response Program Facilitator.

NSRJS is made up of a small and passionate team that is committed to helping build a safe and connected North Shore community. NSRJS staff and Board members would like to thank our funders, partners, and sponsors for their ongoing support of NSRJS as well as the many individual donors and sponsors. We also want to acknowledge the incredible dedication of our volunteers. We simply could not do this important work without their support and we are truly grateful for the energy and commitment they bring to NSRJS.

On behalf of the Board Chair and I, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the incredible staff who truly embody the values of NSRJS in their daily work. To the Board members who served in 2016, we thank you for helping to move the Society forward. A special thanks to outgoing Treasurer Ruth Hanson for her support over this past year.

We are looking forward to another great year in 2017 as we celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> year of providing restorative processes on the North Shore.

Sioned Dyer

Executive Director

Adam Munnings

Board Chair



FROM L: DWV CLR. BOOTH, SIONED & DWV CLR. GAMBIOLI AT THE 2016 WVF LAWN BOWLING TOURNAMENT

**NSRJS Values: Compassion, Forgiveness, Trust, Respect, Humility, Sharing & Inclusivity**



## PROGRAM REPORTS

### THE RESTORATIVE RESPONSE PROGRAM

2016 was the largest year of growth for the program with 138 files referred by our police partners, the North Vancouver RCMP and the West Vancouver Police Department. This is almost double from the number of referrals from 2015, where we received a total of 74 referrals. In particular, our strengthened partnership with the West Vancouver Police Department has resulted in a 166% increase in referrals from frontline police officers.

Our program continues to address crime and conflict across the whole North Shore community and in 2016, we served a total of 340 victims and offenders. 58% of our files involved adult offenders and 42% of offenders were under 18 years old.



FROM L: MINISTER MORRIS, SIONED DYER, ALEX ZUUR,

ADAM MUNNINGS & MLA YAMAMOTO

**"Thank you for treating me with such respect, care and understanding. I really appreciate this opportunity to be learned from rather than punished for" - Offender**



SOME OF THE NSRJS STAFF TEAM!

Theft Under \$5000 was the most common file referred to the program, followed by mischief and arson. This year we also facilitated restorative processes for new charges, such as 'distribution of pornography' and 'cause suffering to an animal'. We also started to develop specific restorative responses to conflicts that occurred on schools-grounds on the North Shore and plan to deepen this aspect of our programming in 2017. Other highlights include facilitating financial restitution on several files, resulting in a total of over \$3,000 of funds returned to victims

and facilitating the completion of over 200 hours of community service by offenders. Other examples of outcomes include apology letters, completing First Aid Courses and personal and community service work.

This year we also facilitated our *Advanced Volunteer Facilitator Training*. Over the course of two months, 19 volunteer committed over 47 hours in order to become Restorative Response facilitators. They were trained in a range of topics, such as restorative values and principles, communication skills and trauma and had the

## The North Shore Restorative Justice Society

chance to practice mock facilitations. We are grateful to everyone who brought their energy, curiosity and passion to the training and now to the Restorative Response Program!

Additional trainings for current volunteers on the topics of 'Decolonization' and 'Understanding Parent/Teen Family Dynamics' were provided to ensure that facilitators and program staff are continually meeting the evolving needs of the North Shore Community.



**PROGRAM MANAGER ALEX ZUUR WITH SOME MEMBERS FROM SQUAMISH NATION AND WVPD GOING OUT ON THE WVPD CANOE!**

**NSRJ was able to use a holistic, well-rounded approach to their facilitation training. Not only did the training prepare us as facilitators, but it was also able to teach us how to become active listeners, passionate learners, empathetic communicators and even better members of our own community – Feedback from Facilitator Training**

2016 also saw the creation of the new 'Restorative Response Advisory Committee' (RRPAC). The mandate of the RRPAC is to support the strengthening and deepening of the Restorative Response Program by offering diverse and expert perspectives on the program's processes, and by providing considered advice regarding the strategic growth of the Restorative Response Program. We are grateful to have senior Inspectors of both WVPD and North Vancouver RCMP as members of the committee and for their support of the Restorative Response Program.

Alex Zuur

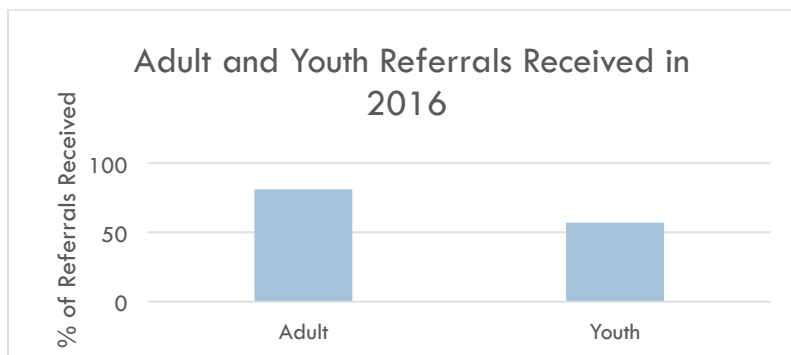
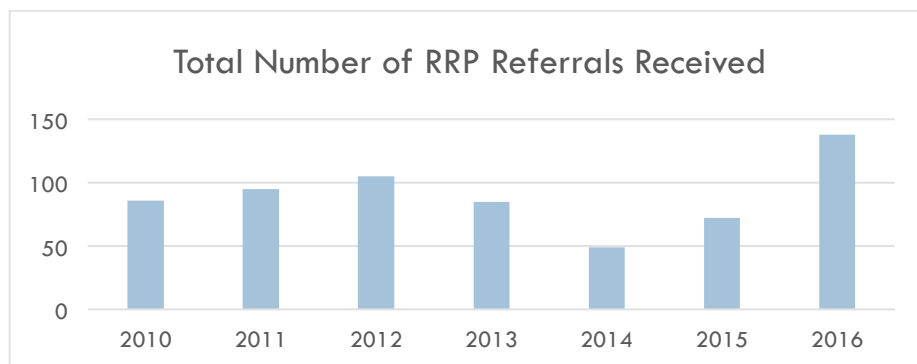
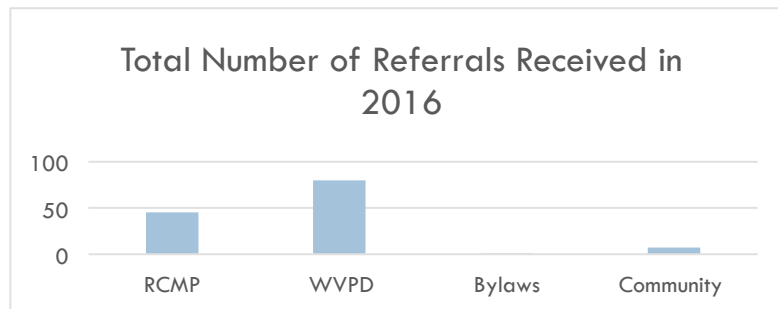
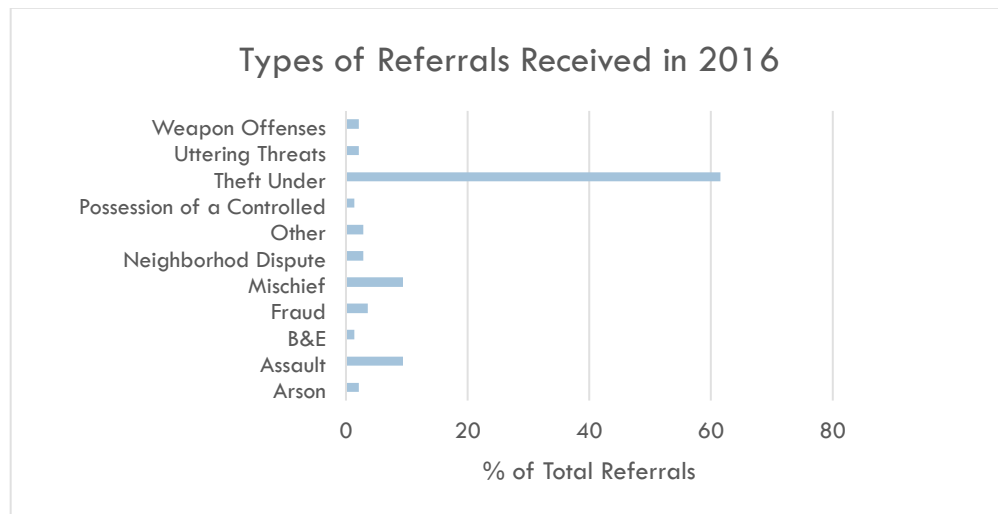
Program Manager

### SURVEY RESPONSE SNAPSHOT:

- 100% of victims said that they would choose this approach again
- 83% of victims said that they gained more understanding of the incident after going through the restorative justice process
- 100% of offenders said that they felt 'respected' and 'cared for' by the facilitators
- 90% of supporters felt that the process met the needs of the participants

**"The entire process from start to finish was 100% professional, helpful and supportive throughout" - Victim**

STATISTICS AT A GLANCE:



## PROGRAM REPORTS

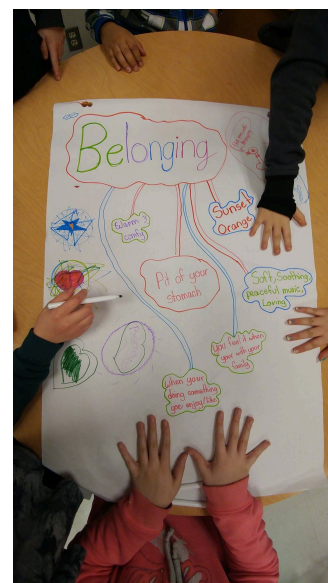
### THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

2016 saw an increased demand for Circles in schools, as well as requests for more restorative responses to school-based conflict. After a summer of strategic planning, the decision was made to reduce the number of schools we facilitated Circles in, in order to deepen a restorative culture by increasing the number of Circles in a select number of 'partner schools'. This was aided by a formal relationship with the North Vancouver School District where we worked alongside District Principal Brad Baker to facilitate these partnerships. We have established a *Memorandum of Understanding* with each partner school, which includes a financial contribution to the Schools program. This has brought great sustainability to our Schools program and has allowed us to better meet the goals we set out when this program began in 2013. However, we still do have a waitlist of classrooms requesting Circles and this continues to be a challenge that we are trying to find creative ways to meet.



In 2016 we provided strengths based learning throughout the entire school year for 30 classes in 20 schools. Each participating class has 24 weeks of circles between September and June. With two facilitators in each circle, and additional out-of-circle time estimated conservatively at 3.5 hours per circle, each classroom receives more than 100 hours of support from our organization each school year.

In addition, we were invited to take part in many school Staff Meetings and individual school Professional Development days. We presented at the District Principal Meetings as well as Parent Advisory Committee Meetings. All our partner schools participated in staff back-to-school community building circles. These opportunities to meet with administrators, teachers and parents outside the classrooms are an integral component to our work in Circle. It allows us to be responsive to each schools needs and also to grow the awareness and learning of Circle processes beyond the classroom.



With the huge growth in our Schools Program and increased demand for Circles, the School Program Advisory Committee (SPAC) was created to ensure that the programming and strategic planning meets the current goals and objectives of the schools and school districts we work in. NSRJS feels honoured to have the expertise and commitment of so many stakeholders in the community who joined the SPAC upon invitation.



Teachers, principals, administrators and parents from both North and West Vancouver School Districts, as well as our private school partner, are contributing to our strategic planning for the school program.

**One only had to be at our recent graduation ceremony to realize some of the impact that NSRJ Circles Program has had on our student population. Graduating students' praised the program by noting it as either some of their most memorable moments or alternately as one of the programs for which they were thankful. It has proven to be one of the most popular programs in the school - teacher**

Additional activities included being invited to speak at a number of forums, conferences and academic institutions including: The Justice Institute of BC, University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and Kwantlen University. In early 2016, Lindy and long-time volunteer Pejarn Pirgheibi were invited to speak about restorative justice on Roundhouse Radio. In June, Schools staff co-facilitated with Equitas, the *Be The Change Pre-Teen Conference* at Gleneagles Community Centre to empower middle years students to effect positive change in their communities. A presentation highlight was being invited to facilitate a workshop at the Dalai Lama Centre for Peace and Education's HeartMind 2016 conference entitled: *Circles in Schools: Cultivating Resilience through Courage, Compassion and Connection*.

## **SCHOOLS WE PRESENTLY FACILITATE CIRCLES IN:**

### **NORTH VANCOUVER SCHOOLS:**

- Seymour Heights: 1 Circle (3 classes of grade 6's combine)
- Eastview: Gr 6/7 & Gr 4/5 (2)
- Larson: Gr 6 (2)
- Queen Mary: Gr 3, 4, 5 (3)
- Braemar: All French Immersion and English Gr 6 (4)
- Norgate: Gr 5/6 & Gr 6/7 (2)
- Mountainside: 1 Social Justice & 2 Girls' Groups (3)

### **WEST VANCOUVER SCHOOLS:**

- Gleneagles: Gr 2/3 & Gr 6/7 (2)
- Collingwood: Gr 4 & Gr 5 (3)
- ACCESS @West Van Secondary (1)

### **ADDITIONAL SUPPORT:**

Staff facilitated additional Circles and provided resources and agendas to waitlisted schools including Queensbury, Ridgeway & Cleveland.

Lindy Pfeil

Program Manager

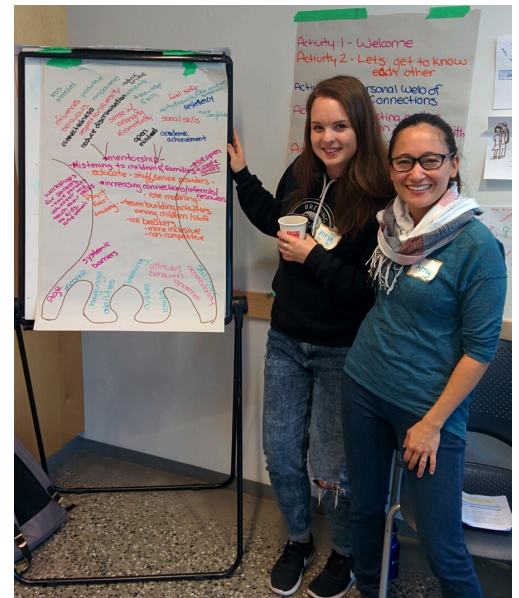


**FROM L: VOLUNTEER KELSEY ROBICHAUD, SIGNED DYER, RET. SGT. WARREN WILSON & FORMER SCHOOLS PROG. COORDINATOR LAURISSE NOEL AT LYNN VALLEY COMMUNITY DAY**



## WHAT KIDS ARE SAYING ABOUT CIRCLES:

- I love the atmosphere that's in circles. No one ever judges you about your opinions and ideas. Gr 6
- I loved how circles can be fun and funny but also serious and you can share personal stuff. Gr 7
- Probably my favourite part about circles is the fact that everyone gets to be heard. Gr 5
- One of my favourite parts about circles is that you don't have to speak if you don't want to. Gr 7
- I liked how nice everyone acted and because of that they actually made being nice daily! Gr 4
- It made the class closer. Gr 6
- What I enjoyed most about Circles was that I could speak my opinion and it would stay in the circle. Gr 6
- This program makes you think about how your decisions affect everybody and you need to think first. Gr 7
- I liked to express my feelings and how I was doing it made me feel more calm, and more at home. Gr 5



**SCHOOLS PROGRAM COORDINATOR ZOFIA SWITKOWSKI PLANNING FOR THE EQUITAS CONFERENCE!**



**VOLUNTEER PEJMAN PIRGHEIBI & PROGRAM MANAGER LINDY PFEIL SPEAKING ON ROUNDDHOUSE RADIO**

**It was the best subject in my life. Gr 7**

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER

DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER

DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

NEPTUNE TERMINALS

THE BEEDIE FAMILY

NORTH VANCOUVER RCMP

WEST VANCOUVER POLICE  
DEPARTMENT

DEEP COVE LIONS

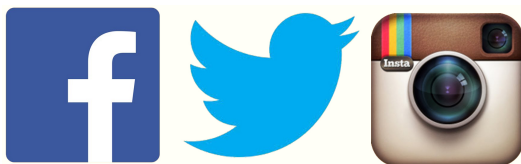
SYNERGY FOUNDATION

COAST CAPITAL SAVINGS

NORTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT



\*In addition to these donations and funders, we appreciate the generous financial gifts from many individual donors\*



North Shore Restorative  
Justice Society

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