

The Restorative Communities Collaborative (RCC)

Programs in the **Restorative Communities Collaborative (RCC)** are partners in alleviating poverty by promoting social justice for vulnerable populations in transition. The overall goal of the RCC programs is to provide a bridge to functioning in the community for those who are seriously challenged in making these critical life transitions. Participants are dealing with homelessness, returning from incarceration or military service, surviving domestic violence, and, often, recovery from substance abuse. While their issues are daunting, each person also brings a wealth of life experience, talents and potential with which to begin a new chapter in their life. Most impressive is participants' tenacity in completing this intensive three to five month-long program.

From Poughkeepsie to Brooklyn, RCC programs support one another, learn together and promote the restoration of their communities as they welcome everyone to their tables. Program leadership participates in monthly **Coordinator Meetings** to share new learnings and brainstorm challenges.

To enhance learning, ensure fidelity to the RCC model and cultivate the best of restorative practices, the Beck Institute provides **Learning Collaboratives** throughout the year. Recent topics include: Working with the Restorative Life Practice Curriculum, Trauma-Informed Practice, Restorative Group Facilitation, and Storytelling and the Healing Journey.

Restorative Communities Collaborative Partner Programs

New York City

Catholic Charities —EOP
Phoenix Rising—Housing+Solutions &
First Unitarian Congregational Society
Panim el Panim
Rauschenbusch Metro Ministries —
Living Well
Xavier Mission—Homecoming & L-STEP
Riverside Church—Coming Home

Westchester & Poughkeepsie

Rye Presbyterian—Coming Home
Bronxville—Coming Home
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship—
Living Well & Coming Home

Memorial United Methodist—
Coming Home

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FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

THE JESUIT UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Coming Home

A Restorative
Communities
Collaborative
Program

at

MEMORIAL

United Methodist Church



250 Bryant Ave
White Plains, NY 10605
www.memorial4all.org

What are Restorative Communities?

Restorative Communities build trust and safe space, recognizing our shared humanity as well as our common struggles and achievements. Here, all have a voice and a role in participating in a community that models healthy support systems. Rituals and routines are developed, sharing responsibilities. Everyone contributes.

Restorative Communities are dedicated to social justice in action by cultivating fellowship and connection with people in transition. Boundaries of “us” and “them” blur and dissolve when communities gather together. Compassion and forgiveness are cultivated both for ourselves and for others.

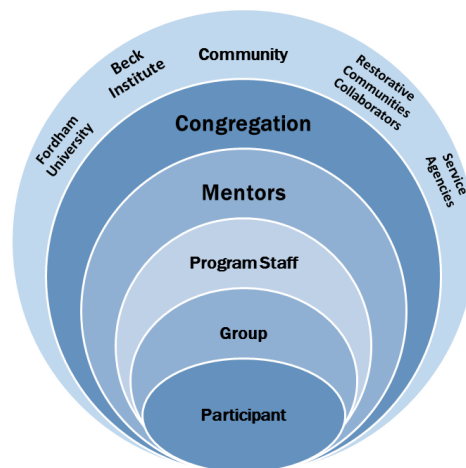
Restorative Communities generate a sense of belonging. Program evaluations from the Beck Institute report participants finding a family, often for the first time. Community organizations and congregations provide a safe place at their table where all are welcome to gather.

Restorative Communities nest these new-found families into the folds of the broader community. Important connections between mentees and existing social agencies, the broader inter-faith community, divisions of the criminal justice system, and to local businesses, artists, and restaurants are facilitated. Mentors help make connections and introductions to a wide variety of community resources that offer pathways to meet their life goals for jobs, housing, education and full membership in productive community.

Essentials of Coming Home

In Coming Home, these Restorative Practices combine to support participants through a 24-session program targeted at decreasing symptoms of trauma while increasing their ability to cope and sense of social support.

- **Restorative Community** – participants, staff, volunteers, and mentors meet in a safe space welcoming one another to “break bread” together. This environment fosters the development of core relational skills.
- **Trauma-informed practice** – utilizing the S.E.L.F. framework, participants begin to understand how what has happened to them affects how they live in the present.
- **Mentoring** – each participant is paired with a mentor based on interests and compatibility. Mentors share meals with the group and walk with them on their program journey.
- **Integrative Life Practices** – education on concrete and relational skills is targeted to participants’ stated needs and can include: budgeting, improving relationships, finding employment, managing stress and more.



Mentoring through Restorative Practice

Mentors support individuals as they set and reach personal goals. Core qualities essential to a mentoring relationship include:

empathy, authenticity, respect and acceptance, and a strengths-based perspective while partnering for the future.

These core conditions comprise a frame of mind which will enable mentors to be successful in helping their mentees create their future.

Over time, the core conditions help the mentee begin to feel safe. As trust develops, the relationship deepens and change can occur. It can be very difficult for some to trust others and to believe in themselves. The change process requires patience to allow the seeds that have been sown to bear fruit.

In restorative practice, mentors must honor the role they are playing as partners on their mentee’s journey to full, functional selves. The mentor is not alone, yet is supported by program staff and the broader community. Mentors provide a vital bridge between programs and the world at large.

Mentor Training Date

Saturday January 6th, 2018

at

Memorial United Methodist Church

To register email:
cominghome@memorial4all.org