

## How can you help?



Provide a project, large or small, where an appropriate youth may work alongside other volunteer community members to accomplish a meaningful task.

Work alongside a youth, not as a supervisor or boss, but as a community partner. Engage them in conversation, work with them, and encourage and commend good work.

Give of yourself. You are the greatest asset this community has to address harm in an effective and meaningful way. Holding youth accountable, by having them contribute service of value, and thereby drawing these offenders into the fabric of the community, is one of our most effective long-term crime prevention responses. No one can do that job better than you, the people of Clark County.

If you would like more information about Restorative Community Service please contact LaQuinta Daniels at 564-397-4084

## Restorative Community Service

Clark County Juvenile Court  
500 W 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
PO Box 5000  
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000  
Phone: 564.397.2201



## Restorative Community Service



## Accountability Integration Change

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PO Box 5000  
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## The Way It Has Been

Community service programs that require offenders to give unpaid services to the community are a common feature of the justice system. By both legal definition and general understanding in the community, this service is seen as a punishment for the crimes committed.

This view greatly limits the potential value community service has to offer victims, the community and offenders. This view too often results in creating an attitude in offenders that they are doing community service only because the judge or their probation officer is making them do it. They may see little, or no, connection between the harm they have caused and the service they are providing. They may leave the service experience feeling they have wasted their time or that they have been "victimized", or treated unfairly, by the justice system.

This outcome of community service is of limited or no benefit for victims, the community or the offenders. It does not have to be this way. There are rich opportunities for community service to achieve very meaningful outcomes. These outcomes can be achieved when community services is done **restoratively**.



## Restorative Community Service

Community Service is done restoratively when it enables offenders to see their service as:

- **A personal obligation**, not a punishment.
- **An opportunity to make right**, even if only symbolically, the wrong they have done.
- **Work that is valued** by victims and/or the community.

And then in addition to holding youth accountable for their crimes, **Restorative Community Service** provides them with the opportunity to be **integrated** into the community as people capable of making a positive contribution. This integration creates **change** in both the youth and the community.

The value of Restorative Community Service is that it holds youth meaningfully accountable while sending the message that they are positive members in our community.

Accountability  
Integration  
Change

## How does it work?

Crucial to making community service **restorative** is **preparation**. Community members and organizations are provided information and support from the justice system. This enables them to take on an active partnership role working with juvenile youth on community initiated projects. Youth are prepared through intentional conversations with justice system staff. Staff help youth to understand their community service as both a personal obligation and an opportunity to make amends for harms done.

With the support of the Restorative Community Service Coordinator, community groups identify meaningful projects where youth can work side by side with volunteers from the community. A youth who works alone, or only works with other youth, minimizes the value of community service. Projects that enable youth to work in partnership with community members create opportunities for meaningful **accountability, integration and change**.

Community organizations help by providing these opportunities. They also provide the personal contacts and relationships (i.e. mentoring and role modeling) that are the crucial difference in making community service truly restorative.

## How do victims benefit?

Restorative Community Service focuses on both the accountability of youth and on changing their future behavior and thinking. These objectives are viewed by many victims as the two most important goals for our justice system. They want youth to learn from the offense and to never again victimize other people. In addition, victims of crime have voiced a desire to see youth become better people, people who will contribute in positive ways to the community.