



2011 ANNUAL REPORT



Mission: To enhance the quality of justice in the communities we serve through restorative measures

Reflections of 2011

In 2011, CERA continued to prove to its stakeholders that it is an invaluable organization, which lives up to its mandate of promoting safer and more harmonious communities through the utilization of restorative justice values. Through its hard work, dedication and endless passion, CERA solidified its image as an organization that is distinguished for its effective and efficient approach to both dealing with youth crime and preventing it.

At a time that non-profits are experiencing difficulties in a fiscally challenging climate, CERA not only sustained funding from past funders, but was able to secure funding from new sources as well. This is attributed to the positive influence that CERA's fine work continues to have in the Municipalities it serves, and the efforts that CERA has made to dignify the great results that emerge when addressing conflict through restorative justice measures.

2011 saw renewed support from CERA's primary referring partners. In addition, an expansion of referral sources was also observed. We are proud of the relationships that have been cultivated with Coquitlam RCMP, Port Moody Police, New Westminster Police and Crown, and are also delighted to see that School District 43 and the community as a whole are turning to restorative justice in addressing crime and conflict.

We are eternally grateful to our community partners, referral partners, and Municipalities we serve for their steadfast support of restorative justice. The accomplishments that our organization has experienced would not be possible without their commitment. We also wish to recognize the great work that staff, Board, and volunteers have done in 2011; work that has resulted in neighbourhoods, schools, and communities becoming safer and more peaceful.

Marjorie Staal
Chair, Board of Directors

Gurinder Mann
Executive Director

Overview and Accomplishments

CERA was privileged to welcome two outstanding new Board members. Both Linda Western and Kim Williams joined the Board, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience. CERA was sad to see the departure of Jasmine Moore and Nasima Nastoh, who made a very valuable contribution to CERA.

2011 validated CERA's reputation as a leader in restorative justice, both regionally and provincially. CERA continued to host the Lower Mainland Restorative Justice Collaborative meetings, and played a key role in advocating for restorative justice on a larger platform.

Our relationship with post-secondary institutions was certainly reinforced, especially SFU and Kwantlen University College. Following the Vancouver Stanley Cup riots, CERA accepted an invitation from Kwantlen University College to facilitate a discussion among students on the reaction to the riots.

In collaboration with Dr. Brenda Morrison, SFU Professor and Co-Director of Restorative Justice Centre, Executive Director Gurinder Mann instructed students completing their Teaching Education at SFU on the practices of restorative justice and its applicability in a school setting.

CERA was recognized for its work and expertise in the field of restorative justice by the media. In the days following the Vancouver Riots, Gurinder Mann was interviewed by the Tri-City News in regards to the possibility of dealing with the rioters through restorative justice.

Stronger connections were established with community partners and stakeholders through conducting presentations. Among them were presentations to the Family Court Committee of New Westminster and the Joint Family Court Youth Justice Committee of the Tri-Cities.

Funding from all Municipalities served, which include Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, New Westminster, Anmore, and Belcarra validated the financial strength and successfulness of the Society. Furthermore, CERA confirmed funding from private funders such as Coast Capital Savings, Coquitlam Foundation, and the R R Smith Memorial Fund Foundation.

Groups of students undertaking projects for Youth Philanthropy chose CERA as their Charity. CERA proudly welcomed a number of groups from schools in Delta and the Tri-Cities that wished to learn more about our Society's work and vision.

School District 43 entered into a fiscal partnership with CERA to deliver restorative justice mediation services to schools throughout the School District 43. This would support the use of restorative justice processes to address conflict, instead of the more punitive approaches such as suspension.

The Community Youth Justice Program referrals increased by a substantial margin in comparison to recent years. Furthermore, in addition to the number of referrals, the sources of referrals were diverse. The program now accepts referrals from the police, Crown, School District 43, the community, and ICBC.

CERA also strengthened its connections to the police forces. Throughout 2011, twelve presentations were conducted at morning watch briefings for police personnel.

Programs

CERA programs are well recognized throughout the communities and neighbourhoods. This is confirmed by the consistent funding, number of referrals, and increased interest in our services. Furthermore, CERA has been distinguished in the media, validating its effectiveness and credibility.

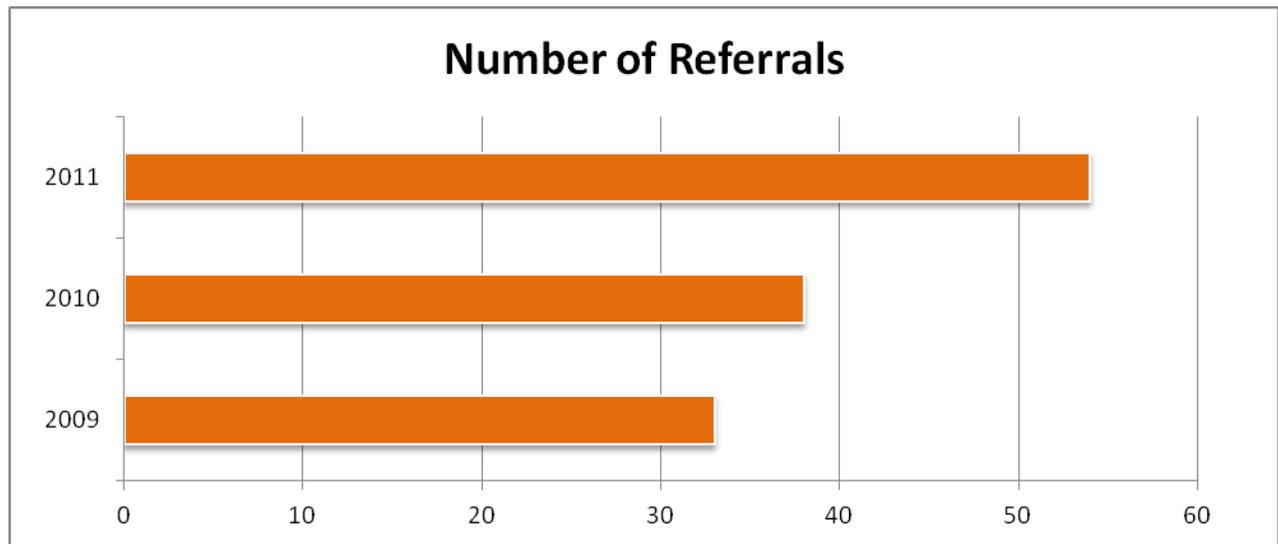
In addition to implementing its two programs, in 2011, CERA attempted to further support the municipalities served through helping resolve conflicts in the community. CERA confirmed its existence as a community organization by assisting in resolving conflicts, hence supporting peaceful neighbourhoods.

Community Youth Justice Program (CYJP)

The CYJP accepts referrals from police, Crown Counsel, School District 43, ICBC and the community. The program receives referrals relating to youth offences, and is an effective and efficient alternative to the court system for offences committed by youth.

2011 CYJP Activity

The CYJP completed 2011 with 54 referrals; a significant increase from the previous year.



Empowering Youth (EY) Program

Empowering Youth is a joint initiative between CERA and School District 43 to train and support students in the use of restorative justice principles.

2011 Empowering YOUth (EY) Activity

During the 2010/11 year, Empowering YOUth extended the program to an additional three new schools. Furthermore, successful outcomes of Empowering YOUth training lead to CERA establishing a partnership with School District 43, accepting referrals from schools to assist in resolving conflicts using restorative justice mediation processes. Initially conducted at Centennial High School, as an alternative to more punitive measures, restorative justice processes proved to be very successful when utilized as an alternative to options such as suspension. Remarkably, students for which mediation was used as an alternative, the re-offence rate was close to nil.

2011 Funders

City of Coquitlam
City of Port Coquitlam
City of Port Moody
City of New Westminster
Village of Anmore
Village of Belcarra
Province of British Columbia
School District 43
Coast Capital Savings
Coquitlam Foundation
R R Smith Memorial Fund Foundation

2011 Board of Directors

Marjorie Staal
Nasima Nastoh (until June)
Rob Behrouzian
Jasmine Moore (until September)
Lisa Wolfe
Saeid Zahabioun
Linda Western
Kim Williams