



Talking Circles

WCCC
Washington County Community Circles

"Repairing harm to victims, holding clients accountable and building a better community."

www.peacemakingcircles.org
Contact@peacemakingcircles.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Gratitude is the Best Attitude



As November approaches, we at WCCC are very thankful. I would like to focus on our partners, new and long-standing, that make our work possible. While many organizations hope for partnerships to strengthen their organization, we at WCCC know that we are only successful if our partners in the community support us and work with us. We have gratitude for our partners that provide reason to hope and believe that our

organization is steadily becoming sustainable in Washington County. We hope to continue building a better community for generations to come.

We would like to thank a new partner, [Ogletree Deakins](#), who has generously offered to sponsor a matching grant for **Give to the Max Day**. Ogletree Deakins, a national leading Labor and Employment Law Firm with a local office in Minneapolis, will be matching contributions up to \$500.00. Your donation, any time in November, will be matched dollar-for-dollar. Please pass along the word – and let's make this the best November fundraising effort in WCCC history!

We also thank our long-standing supporter and champion Maureen Walton and congratulate her on over 25-years of service in Washington County Community Corrections. Read about how Maureen has supported WCCC in numerous ways since supporting our founding in the late 1990's. We hope Maureen enjoys her retirement.

We hope you are enjoying your fall, and we hope that you will continue to partner with us by referring cases, financially supporting our organization through Give to the Max Day, volunteering on cases, serving on or with our Board of Directors, donating in-kind services or space, inviting us to speak about Circles to your organization, or supporting us in the many, *many* ways you all do by spreading the word about Circles and WCCC.

Many thanks,

Katie Schurrer



Upcoming Events

- **October 2015**
 - Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- **November 12, 2015**
 - Give to the Max Day!
- **January 2016**
 - Circle Keeper Training
- **May 4, 2016**
 - Gerten's Spring Flower Fundraiser
 - Pickup at King of Kings Church (Woodbury)
 - 5 pm to 7pm

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



WCCC has an intern! That's right. We are plowing through so many initiatives, all thanks to our talented intern, Samantha Fahey.

Volunteers come in all sorts of capacities. WCCC values the time our circle volunteers put in, but sometimes we need help with the paperwork.

Want to know more about our ambitious intern?

WCCC intern's name is Sam Fahey. She is a current student at Concordia Saint Paul. She is mastering the mind by majoring in Psychology. Her internship leads to completing her degree, which helps Sam gain some experience and insight so she can begin a new career path in a very different field. For the past 10-years, Sam has been working in a large organization that specializes in truckload transportation. She's also a chief multi-tasker, while she is raising three daughters in the midst of all of her work.

Why the change, Sam? She responds by saying, "I decided it was time to reignite my interest in furthering my education, as well as exploring a field that has always been a passion of mine."

WCCC is a great fit. Having a strong connection with WCCC Board Chair, Katie Schurrer, Sam was convinced by Katie's unwavering support for Restorative Justice. Sam says, "It seems like a wonderful way to give back to the community."

When asked about what she has learned so far about Restorative Justice and the WCCC community, Sam's response was very insightful (see, she's already gaining insight about RJ). "The passion of the volunteers is remarkable. Taking time out of their lives to enrich those of others who are in need of support or a second chance. Over the past months I have gained a new perspective on what it means to not only be involved in helping others, but also what a community can mean to those who are in need. I hope to continue to learn more through the remainder of my internship to apply as a volunteer in the future."

From all of us at WCCC, thank you Sam!

Volunteer Opportunities are always available through WCCC.

For more information or to learn how you can join a Circle, please contact us at contact@peacemakingcircles.org





GIVE TO THE MAX DAY

Raising money doesn't have to be a headache! Give MN's goal for Give to the Max Day is to create an unparalleled state of giving in Minnesota on November 12. The day makes it *easy for you to give to your favorite charity* (we hope we're on the list!). Your tax-deductible online donation, of any amount, big or small, goes directly to the Washington County Community Circles and organization that gives directly BACK to the community through its work with restorative justice and support Circles.

Here's how your contribution will help:

We are proud to announce we have a \$500 matching grant this year! **The leading Labor and Employment Law Firm of Ogletree Deakins** in Minneapolis is generously matching any contributions made to Washington County Community Circle on Give to the Max Day dollar-for-dollar up to \$500.00. Your donation of \$50.00 will actually result in \$100.00 to our organization!

Your donation directly funds our operational costs, including Circle celebrations for clients, outreach efforts, including participation in community expos and events. We are an all-volunteer organization so your donations are key to our sustainability and are greatly appreciated.

Your donations also allow us to potentially win the following benefits:

- GiveMN Golden Tickets of \$1,000.00 awarded hourly through a random drawing of all donations transacted during the previous hour on Thursday, November 12th.
- Super-Sized Golden Tickets of \$10,000 each, one awarded randomly to a successfully transacted gift scheduled online from November 1st-11th, and one awarded through a random drawing of all Give to the Max Day donations.

This year, we hope you also maximize your benefit by doing the following:

- Check with your employer about Dollar for Dollar Match opportunities.
- Many local business will match your donation to maximize your generosity.
- Donate yourself! Help us take full advantage of our matching grant from Ogletree Deakins!

Send the link to THREE giving friends or family members. We hope you use this opportunity not just as a way to help us out and gain contributions for our organization, but also as a way to share with family and friends about restorative justice and the Circles WCCC does in Washington County. We hope to use this day not only as a way to help support us, but also as a way to raise AWARENESS of WCCC and restorative justice generally. Building stronger communities means not only financial support to organizations that give back, but making people aware of all we do for Washington County's community.

Visit our Give to the Max Day site at www.GiveMN.org

<https://givemn.org/organization/Washington-County-Community-Circles>

Partners in (Repairing the harm of) Crime

After 25-years with Washington County Community Corrections, Maureen Walton is retiring this Friday, October 30th. As part of our "Partners in (Repairing the harm of) Crime," Washington County Community Circles would like to acknowledge Maureen. Maureen has been more than a partner to WCCC, rather she has been an ongoing and enduring champion, since before WCCC was even formed.

In 1997, Maureen and other criminal justice partners from Washington County attended a Circle training in Minneapolis. Intrigued by this training, these Washington County criminal justice partners, a domestic violence prevention advocate, and community members signed up for training in Carcross, in the Yukon Territory in Canada, led by international Circle trainers Harold & Phil Gatensby, Judge Barry Stewart, and Mark Wedge. After a transformational and inspiring experience in the Yukon, the training attendees talked on the ferry ride from Skagway to Juneau, Alaska and developed a plan for doing Sentencing Circles in Washington County. What they discussed on the ferry became Washington County Community Circles.

Not only was Maureen one of the founders of our organization, but she has advocated and supported the organization for over 15-years. Maureen was instrumental in applying and providing support and oversight for a grant to hire a Circle coordinator in WCCC's early years. While an economic downturn resulted in the loss of that position, the grant allowed WCCC to grow and become a viable resource to the courts and the community as an alternative path to resolution of conflict in the community. Maureen also was a key member of Circle Council, the decision-making body of Washington County Community Circles before it was incorporated in 2007, for many years.

Maureen has continued to be a liaison between WCCC and corrections in Washington County, and a champion of restorative justice and the Circle process.

On behalf of WCCC, and the Washington County community, we congratulate Maureen on her retirement and thank her for over two decades of service to the community of Washington County. We hope to see you in Circle, Maureen!

Training and Networking Event Recap

"Pulling a good network together takes effort, sincerity and time." We agree with Alan Collins, an author and Human Resources professional. We also know this through our experience in Circle. On October 8th, we kicked off a first-of-its-kind WCCC Networking & Training Event in which Circle volunteers, citizens, and criminal justice partners came together to build relationships and learn about Chemical Health from a local expert.

About 20 people came together in Circle (the first time in Circle for some!) to talk about community, Circles, and what we can each do to make our community stronger. Following the Community Circle, Les Butler, Director of Haven Chemical Health in Woodbury, presented and answered questions from participants about Chemical Health issues. Board member and Stillwater Circle Keeper, Lynn Schurrer said of the event "It was very nice of Les to volunteer her time to come talk to the volunteers. Circle volunteers are always appreciative of any professional advice that we can use to help our community and clients."

Lynn was also glad to see criminal justice partners in Circle, saying "The volunteers don't do this work alone, we work with our partners and it was nice to have them spend time with us in Circle."

If you have ideas for the next Networking & Training Event, please send your ideas to contact@peacemakingcircles.org. Or, if you'd like to present at a future event, let us know! We hope to see you at the next event.

