



Renville
COUNTY
Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility

Restorative Justice 2020 Review Report

Community Circles



Background

- Started 9-17-2018
- Year 1 Program Development and Training
- Year 2 Implement Circles
- Year 3 see how things are going, and continue to grow the program.
- First Circle started 7-1-2019
- Referrals sources/Pandemic



January - March 2020

- Radio interviews
- 2nd intern started
- Two presentations to ministerial groups
- Articles in Olivia Register and Renville Sibley Coop
- COVID canceled the first Circle on the 3-16.
Zooming the following week.



April – June 2020

- Addition of 2nd family in Tuesday nights Circle
- Zoom support (visitations, meetings)
- Foster Parent Support (FPS) Circle started (monthly)
- Volunteer Check in and Recruiting Circle
- 2nd intern completed hours





July – Sep. 2020

- Training Circles began Wed @ noon (6 weeks)
- Addition of a Circle on Wednesday night
- Addition of Circle on Wed. @ noon (Sentencing)
- Initial Circles held in person
- Attended a Circle Facilitator training





October –December 2020

- Maintain 3-6 virtual Circles a week
- Facilitated 2 Family Group Decision Making Circles with Human Services
- Final Enhanced Rehabilitation Court participant graduation
- Keeping the ship moving forward





Renville
COUNTY
Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility

Number of Circles

July 2020

- 4 Circles 5 families
- 1 FPS Circle
- 18-28 volunteers

December 2020

- 6 Circles 8 families
- 1 FPS Circle (monthly)
- 24 active volunteers



Renville
COUNTY
Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility



The 60+ folks I am in biweekly/monthly contact with

- 11 adults (+ partners and X in-laws)
- 17 children
- 4 foster families
- 24 active volunteers





Renville
COUNTY
Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility

Comparing Demographics

2019

Ø5 adults

Ø8 children

Ø0 foster family
involvement

2020

Ø11 adults (+ partners
and X-in-laws)

Ø17 children

Ø4 foster families



Renville
COUNTY
Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility



Volunteer hours 2020

- 2020 Federal Volunteer Rate: \$28.15
- Accumulative of 1013.5 hours
- \$31,232.43 worth of volunteer hours donated to the Restorative Justice program.





Renville
COUNTY
Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility

Volunteer hours 2020

2019

- 2019 Federal Volunteer Rate: \$25.43
- Accumulative of 493.5 hours
- \$12,549.71 worth of volunteer hours donated to Program

2020

- 2020 Federal Volunteer Rate: \$28.15
- Accumulative of 1013.5 hours
- \$31,232.43 worth of volunteer hours donated to Program.



Renville
COUNTY
Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility

Volunteer Feedback

"It's an amazing program for all of us. I've learned to communicate better with people, been rewarding even in the midst of COVID. Got to go to some classes in the past to build better understanding."

"Appreciate the new volunteers coming in. Suggest a notebook for the circle you're in, there are questions you want to ask but then it gets to you, you forget. Life experiences, with such a well rounded group, when you don't think you have something to offer, you do. You might be able to ask something that others can't. It just works! It takes time to grow together, it's going to be a long haul. You will get more out of it then you ever dreamed possible. Been a great year for me and made some great friends from it."



Renville
COUNTY
Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility

Volunteer Feedback

"Going into this I didn't know what it was going to bring. It is crazy when you get your first family, but people start opening up and we feel that human connection. We don't have to be here, we aren't getting paid to be here, but simply are heart felt people who just want to help. It's not just about them but about all of us."



Renville
COUNTY
Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility

Participant Feedback

Volunteer asked: Do you feel when you look back when this all started, do you look at yourself and think I am not the same person emotionally?

- Participant 1: I do, especially getting the trouble out of the way instead of waiting till 19 or 20 and it's was a wakeup call emotionally, I can agree with that.
- Participant 2: I Think I have definitely grown, but I think everyone has grown since this happened. I'm just glad I got my trouble making phase out of the way before I was 18.



Renville
COUNTY
Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility

Participant Feedback

Volunteer complimented a mother stating, "You and Dad have done some incredible parenting."

The mother replied stating, "Thank you it has been a long and rough road. He's grown so much. In the beginning I wasn't sure how it will go. Now I have a great amount of hope and for his future. We are blessed to have him with us and to show him that non all families want to give up. I also believe in my heart that if it wasn't for circle he wouldn't be here either. He has grown so much from being in circle. I can't think God enough for all of you. You guys are the light we needed. I so glad we meet you and the rest of the crew. We Love You All."



Renville
COUNTY
Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility

Participant Feedback FPS Circle

"Just appreciate all the input from everyone, there is a lot of good things that come out that far out way the bad situations that come up. Don't get discouraged if something bad happens, and thankful for the circle."

"I'm two hours away and this is very helpful (began to cry). Our stories are so similar" ... the next round she was able to put more into words. "This was really beneficial knowing that I am not the only one who is dealing with this. It's a struggle. Just knowing we are not the only ones dealing with this at the same time and having someone to fall back on to talk to. Our social worker and GAL are great but having you guys here to listen to your stories is so beneficial and I know we are not the only ones to wait, say no, and wonder what it going to happen. Thanks for inviting and having me on."



Renville
COUNTY
Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility

Feedback from other Professionals

- Attorney: It's absolutely fabulous that we can discuss these issues without the court or the judge involved. I'm excited...I will rely this to my client, and know they will be encouraged.
- GAL: Everyone has great input, and it was refreshing to have an attorney here to speak on behalf of their client. Enjoyed the listening, and it was refreshing with no interruptions. Had good conversation about what needs to take place, and appreciate everyone.



Renville
COUNTY
Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility



2020 reviewed in just
18 slides...

...I wish it was
that simple!



Renville
COUNTY
Service • Stewardship • Shared Responsibility