



## Dispute Resolution Center CIRCLE TRAINING

Friday, February 3      1:00 - 7:00  
Saturday, February 4    9:30 - 4:30  
Sunday, February 5      1:00 - 5:00

The circle is a process that brings people together as equals for dialogue, in order to address conflict and crime, make decisions, gain understanding, offer support, cultivate healing - in any situation in which open communication, shared decision making, and relationship and community building are desired outcomes. Derived from Aboriginal and Native traditions, circles create a safe, supportive, respectful space for dialogue that is inclusive, encourages a sense of belonging, and enhances community and group well-being as participants learn to work together for mutual benefit, develop shared responsibility, cultivate shared values, and assume empowered ownership for resolving their own issues.

This training is grounded in the framework of restorative justice, since contemporary circles were first used in criminal justice cases. Circles are a powerful tool for community dialogue involving victims and offenders, for the circle process invites all participants to tell their stories, offering support for victims in their healing and the opportunity for offenders to collaborate in developing a plan for repairing the harm and facilitating their own re-integration and healing. Community members, along with victims and offenders, work together in the circle to prevent further crime.

Circles are now being used effectively in countless contexts in addition to restorative justice settings - for example:

- school behavior problems
- human resource/employment conflicts
- family problems
- strategic planning
- youth development
- diversity issues
- neighborhood concerns
- organizational/congregational transitions

Circles offer a constructive alternative to meeting processes that rely on power and control, adversarial positioning, and win-lose approaches to relationships and problem solving. This training is experiential, participatory, and interactive.

#### THIS CIRCLE TRAINING IS FOR:

- Teachers, school personnel, students
- Dispute-resolution/restorative justice practitioners and group facilitators
- Counselors, social workers, human services professionals
- Business and government managers
- Community and faith-based leaders
- Elected officials
- Victim advocates
- Law enforcement, court, corrections personnel
- Volunteers, community members
- Anyone interested in transforming conflict, improving communication, building community

#### PARTICIPANTS WILL LEARN:

- Restorative justice paradigm
- Core values and teachings of the circle
- Creating safe space
- Establishing roles and responsibilities in the circle
- Structure of the circle: stages & phases
- Role and skills of a circle keeper
- Practical applications for communities, schools, civic groups, businesses....
- Circle challenges and opportunities
- Power of storytelling

#### TRAINER INTRODUCTION: JEAN E. GREENWOOD, M.Div.

Trained in the circle process in 1998 by the Tagish and Tlingit nations in the Yukon, Jean has since provided circle trainings and facilitated circles in diverse settings, e.g. schools, churches, organizations, families, public housing, communities, as well as restorative justice. She is an Associate of the Center for Restorative Justice & Peacemaking at the University of MN and has served as community faculty at Hamline University (Restorative Justice, Leadership Skills for Organizational Conflict), United Theological Seminary (Conflict & the Congregation: Restoration & Resilience), and the University of Minnesota (Conflict Resolution & Mediation). She has been published in professional journals, textbooks, and U.S. Department of Justice monographs. Jean is also a mediator for the MN Department of Education, mediating special education conflicts, Presbyterian minister, writer, facilitator for an East African teen circle, and was the recipient of a Bush Foundation grant to study leadership in the context of conflict, change, diversity. She is currently writing a book for The Alban Institute on circle dialogue within congregations. Jean brings engagement and enthusiasm to her trainings.



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Location: Klas Center, Hamline University, Saint Paul, MN  
Cost:        \$250.00

Please fax, mail or email this form to: Dispute Resolution Center, 91 E. Arch Street,  
Saint Paul, MN 55130, [intake@drc-mn.org](mailto:intake@drc-mn.org), or 651 292 6065 (fax).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

The Dispute Resolution Center needs trained circle keepers to volunteer in Ramsey, Dakota, and Washington Counties. Gain hands-on experience and serve your community through volunteering.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

DRC supports the efforts of people from diverse backgrounds who want to obtain conflict-resolution skills in order to meet the needs of under-served parts of our community. Those wishing to apply for a full or partial scholarship should include a one-page description of their background and goals along with the registration form.

Preference will be given to those who:

- demonstrate their high motivation and commitment to offering restorative justice, mediation, or conflict-resolution services to people currently under-served in our society (e.g., economically disadvantaged, and/or culturally or racially diverse communities);
- are from culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds or have experience working with diverse communities (e.g. proficiency in a second language) in order to encourage a diversity of facilitators and mediators in the field;
- have financial need;
- have previously demonstrated actions and experiences that are consistent with peacekeeping and providing services to under-served segments of our communities;
- have flexible schedules and occasional daytime availability for volunteering; and
- have not completed other similar training programs.

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Case Development Team  
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