



Victim Offender Reconciliation Program of the Central Valley, Inc.
4882 E. Townsend Ave. Fresno, CA 93727
phone (559) 455-9803 fax (559) 252-4800 <http://vorp.org>

Introduction

Tim Nightingale

On July 25, 2012 Noelle and I went to a VORP Board meeting. It was at 7:30 am at Huckleberry's, a breakfast house in Fresno. Noelle, the Director had some very important news for the Board. I knew the news because Noelle is my wife. Let's take a few steps back.

In January of 2010 I was hired to work with Community Justice Conferencing (CJC). At the time CJC was a brand new project. Jason Ekk had been working for the Fresno Restorative Justice Framework Committee and the FPU Center for Peacemaking on an implementation grant with the California Endowment and it had come to fruition. CJC works with juvenile court cases, using the same process as VORP, just at a different place in the judicial system. The original projections for CJC had been about 50 cases a year, they had hired accordingly and to their surprise the projection had sky rocketed, CJC was receiving 5 times as many cases as they had planned on!

Jason Ekk and I had grown up together in Portugal, both of us were missionary kids and when I had come to Fresno Pacific we had reconnected. Since moving to Fresno I had learned Spanish and I had just graduated in Dec of 2009. I was planning on starting the Master Program at the Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies and I needed a job. Jason Ekk made me aware of their need for a Spanish speaking mediator and so I applied for the job. Thankfully I interviewed well enough to receive the job and began working with CJC.

CJC is a project that was funded initially by the California Endowment and the work is done by VORP and the Center for Peacemaking and Conflict Studies. All of this is to say, that being hired as the Spanish

speaking mediator began my time under the mentorship and supervision of Dr. Ron Claassen. Ron Claassen has been helping develop my skills and abilities as a mediator and as a leader since the beginning of 2010.

In September of 2010 I was promoted to CJC Intake Manager. This meant that I kept stats on the cases we received, continued doing Spanish speaking mediations and introduced our services to future participants meeting them at the court. As the CJC Manager, under the supervision of Ron Claassen, I came into close working contact with Noelle Daoudian. We quickly became friends and I proposed in December 2010. Noelle said yes, and we were married in May of 2011. We continued to work in the similar field of Victim Offender Mediations and I enjoyed the chance to learn from her experience.

Noelle was the VORP Director for 5 years and worked for VORP a total of 6 years. In July Noelle and I began to think about what her direction in life was. As I listened to her and as we prayed about it we both felt that, as much as she loved her job and had enjoyed her time at VORP she felt that it was time to move onto the next stage in her life. After making that decision, we spoke with Dr. Duane Ruth-Heffelbower the Director of the Center for Peacemaking and Dr. Claassen my supervisor and they accepted her resignation.

The next step was to present it to the Board, so on July 25, 2012 Noelle and I attended the VORP board meeting and Noelle announced her resignation. The next step was to figure out who might replace Noelle and I was thankful to be chosen by Ron, Duane, and the Board.

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VORP's 30th Anniversary

Tim Nightingale in collaboration with the VORP Board, Ron Claassen and Duane Ruth-Heffelbower all felt that having the VORP 30 year anniversary in the spring would give sufficient time to plan and organize such an exciting event. If you have any ideas about what might make the event exciting and memorable we would love to hear them, please feel free to call and or mail us the idea.

VORP Mediator Training

October 5 & 6

Fresno Pacific University

Fridays 6:30PM - 9:30PM

Saturdays 8:30AM - 3:30PM

Call (559) 455-9803 for reservations or check out our website for more information: <http://vorp.org/training.shtml>

VORP / CJC Stats

Thank you all for your continued support of VORP through these years and especially through this economically difficult time. Our program has been fortunate to continue and grow through these few years due to your support and a very generous donation from the California Endowment. Through their grant our program has grown and we have been able to change the juvenile justice system through collaboration from the justice partners with the result of cases which fit an eligibility criteria will automatically be referred to our program. This has produced wonderful results with a decrease in recidivism, increase of restitution collection and community service hours completed as well as high satisfaction from victims and offenders, this version of VORP is called CJC.

Studies done in collaboration with outside entities like Fresno State and the Administrative Office of the Courts have shown that juveniles offenders who meet with their victims to make things as right as possible are less likely to commit new crimes and more likely to pay restitution to the victim.

87% of juveniles who participate in CJC fulfill (or are on track to complete) the agreements that they made together with the victim.

25-29% of juveniles who **did not participate in CJC** were convicted of new criminal activity two years following their original crime.

10-11 % of juveniles **who participate in CJC** are convicted of new criminal activity two years following their original crime.

Thus those who participated in CJC are almost **3 times** less likely to commit a new criminal activity.

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VICTIM OFFENDER RECONCILIATION PROGRAM
OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY INC.



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