



A publication for Friends & Supporters of CCR

Spring 2023

PEACEBUILDING: KC AND BEYOND

CCR visits California school district to bring conflict resolution skills to students and educators.



Center for Conflict Resolution (CCR) recently ventured to sunny Thermal, California, home of Coachella Valley School District.

Here, a community-based alliance known as Alianza is uniting community members, nonprofits, and government to develop a healthy, thriving region. It's an initiative built around leadership development and an understanding that healthy and economically prosperous communities exist only when the population is represented in all decisions impacting their daily lives.

Part of this process is ensuring students and educators are well-equipped to manage the conflict that arises in everyday life. CCR's school team coordinated the workshop, with facilitators Caroline Atkinson and Greg Winship traveling to the school district located about 120 miles northeast of San Diego.

Once there, the middle- and high-school student participants enthusiastically embraced the conflict resolution concepts. Workshops covered principles of dignity, trauma and resiliency, empathy, emotional regulation, conflict choices, perspective and identity.

We also engaged students in our T.A.L.K process:

- T- take a breath
- A- ask for a person's perspective & share your own
- L- list the options to move forward
- K- keep it real; make a plan.

With students gathered around, our team listened to their experiences with conflict and led several exercises to help students gain insights on how identity is shaped by a person's background and experiences. There were also opportunities to respond to conflict scenarios such as avoidance, aggression, accommodation, compromise, and collaboration.

"The students really opened up and thoroughly enjoyed the process," says facilitator Caroline Atkinson. "It was rewarding for our team, as well, in seeing the ways young people can use their own strengths and knowledge to navigate difficult conversations and situations."

Visit [CCRKC.org](https://www.ccrkc.org) to learn more about our trainings and other educational opportunities.



FROM ANNETTE LANTZ-SIMMONS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello Everyone -

It seems like we blinked and another school year is already winding down. Along with the rising demand for our services, CCR's presence in schools continues to expand. On any given day, you'll find our talented team among seven schools around the metro. We have the awesome responsibility and privilege to interact with more than 2,300 students and hundreds of educators!

It comes as no surprise that managing classroom conflict plays a role in most teachers' lives. Even minor disputes can negatively impact the classroom environment and interfere with long-term relationships. This is why imparting the knowledge and skills to manage student conflict peaceably is such an important part of our work at CCR.

If we want to establish classroom cultures that value community, conflicts between students should be approached with true reconciliation as the goal. We can turn these situations into teachable moments by helping students understand their actions, the actions of others, and find solutions together.

How does this happen? One example is in simply teaching students to make thoughtful observations a part of their everyday language. Phrases such as, "I feel confused when you..." or "we work best together when..." help students make a connection in how their actions impact others, both positively and negatively.

Of course, the ultimate goal is to teach students these skills before conflicts arise. Your support of our school programs - and all of our conflict resolution services - allows us to do just that.

As always, we're grateful for your support and encouragement, and the opportunity to promote peace in all things. If we can help you or your organization, please reach out at info@ccrkc.org.

Sincerely,



The CCR Team: Meet Daniel Ramos Restorative Justice Facilitator



Daniel Ramos joined Center for Conflict Resolution a year ago. His work with another organization serving individuals who have been incarcerated, prepared him with unique insights and experiences for his role at CCR where he frequently works with residents at the Transition Center of Kansas City (TCKC).

"What I love most about my work at CCR is encountering humanity in its most raw, authentic, vulnerable form. You walk into a process and, through the creation of the space, people open up," he says, "sometimes for the first time."

An example he shares is a conversation he facilitated with a police officer and a TCKC resident who were experiencing a great deal of conflict. The facilitation made way for accountability, empathy, and the understanding that had not previously existed. "It was a rewarding experience to be a part of," he says.

In his free time, Daniel enjoys time with his wife and twin boys, taking in worship concerts, and Chiefs football.

CONNECT

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[Center for Conflict Resolution](https://www.youtube.com/CenterforConflictResolution)

TOGETHER

Just and peaceful solutions are possible as we work together to Prevent, Educate and Restore.

GIVE

Your gift in any amount helps sustain our vital mission. Please mail your check or give online at CCRKC.org. Thank you!

OUR MISSION

Building bridges of communication and understanding in our community.



CCR AROUND THE COMMUNITY



These faces have reason to smile: they are recent graduates of CCR's Interpersonal Conflict Resolution and Mediation Training. Among them are two residents from the Transition Center of Kansas City (a reentry center for the justice involved). On the day of their graduation, correctional officers reported that the two residents had personally initiated and successfully completed a mediation between two other residents who were experiencing conflict the night before.

It's a powerful testament to the healing effect that restorative justice practices can have in individual lives and its ripple effect throughout the entire community!



Responding - not reacting. Choosing one over the other makes all the difference!

When students learn to respond instead of react, the outcomes of their conflict can be constructive rather than destructive. Here's how introducing restorative justice initiatives help children at school:

- 1) Nurtures a sense of belonging
- 2) Develops empathy and emotional intelligence
- 3) Reduces disciplinary incidents
- 4) Empowers students and teachers
- 5) Cultivates a supportive learning environment



5000

Did you know: CCR served over 5,000 people in 2022?

As we work to Prevent, Educate, and Restore, we empower people with the knowledge and skills to communicate in nonviolent ways: preventing further harm, and/or improving the opportunity for successful relationships and helpful outcomes.

“Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”

– Marie Curie

To learn about our conflict resolution trainings for your school, workplace, neighborhood, or organization, visit [CCRKC.org](https://www.ccrkc.org)



PLANNING FOR A VIBRANT FUTURE AT CCR

Your contributions make all the difference!

Your gift to CCR in any amount does so much good in our community. You help support our peace-promoting programs. You can help transform the cultures of neighborhoods, places of work, and entire communities.

Share a gift in any amount:

- Mail a check to CCR, 6285 Paseo Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64110
- Give online with a one-time or monthly gift at [CCRKC.org](https://www.ccrkc.org)
- Share a gift of stock or other securities.
- Remember Center for Conflict Resolution in your will or trust.

Please call 816.461.8255 if we can assist. Many thanks for ensuring a thriving future for CCR!

FUNDER SPOTLIGHT

Breaking cycles of violence with support of Children's Services Fund of Jackson County

In Kansas City's Jackson County, violent crime occurs an average of once every hour. Even more tragic, 1 in 3 of the county's homicide victims are under the age of 24.

These disturbing realities are at the heart of CCR's conflict resolution services for children and youth - services that are funded in part by Jackson County Children's Services Fund (CSF).



CSF provides financial support to organizations promoting mental health and social-emotional well-being in Jackson County youth.

Through a 1/8 cent sales tax, CSF allows organizations like CCR to make a big impact, awarding over \$84 million to 129 projects across 85 partner agencies.

At CCR, Breaking Cycles of Violence is a prevention program which promotes healthy lifestyles among young people and strengthens families. CSF allows CCR to reach youth and families through school and community-based programming.

Because not every child who lacks social/emotional skills needs an intense intervention such as therapy, this program can support children who may feel unsafe or threatened at school; have unresolved conflict that undermines their community belonging; or are distracted by conflict to the point of missing valuable class time.



Conflict Resolution Education is effective in stopping violence before it starts. The Breaking Cycles of Violence program teaches school communities to use Restorative Practices to solve conflict before it escalates to violence.

This program initiates ways to interrupt ongoing trauma, learn interpersonal skills for healthier relationships, and to increase hope and well-being. Programs like this that foster a positive internal locus of control in young people are shown to decrease their likelihood of incarceration later in life.

CCR salutes the Children's Services Fund of Jackson County and all citizens whose tax dollars make these vital programs accessible to our community.

SAVE THE DATE!



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023
7:30 TO 9:00 AM
KANSAS CITY MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN
200 W 12TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, MO 64105

A complimentary breakfast event to benefit
CENTER FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Be our guest! Come learn about the vital work of Center for Conflict Resolution in our community.

Please consider supporting our success in any or all of these ways:

- Be a sponsor
- Serve as a table host
- Attend as a guest
- Share a donation

Learn more at CCRKC.org.

Support Rise for Peace

