

Community Engagement* Update – May 2024

*Fundraising / Marketing & Communication / Outreach / Training Promotion & Support

What We're Celebrating

- Our Second Annual **“A Celebration of Peacemakers”** event on May 5th recognized the work of all those who further the DRC's mission, and included presentation of the Evan Ferber Peacemaker Leadership Award to Rev. Corey Passons and a special tribute to Jody Suhrbier Leff, who will soon step away from her position as the DRC's Executive Director. The event was well-attended by a broad cross-section of DRC volunteers, supporters and community leaders. Thank you to everyone whose combined efforts helped make this event a success!
- Completion of **personal calls by Board members to 2023 donors** to thank them for their support. We're aware of at least two recent generous gifts that were prompted by calls from Curt and Eileen. Thank you to everyone who took part in this important stewardship effort.
- Our inaugural **10-Hour “Conflict Resolution Tools for Organizations”** online training on May 1st & 2nd was attended by 24 participants from a variety of businesses, state agencies and community organizations - and was well-received, as this participant's feedback attests:
"This was really helpful for ALL professional or personal relationships. It helped me to realize my own perspective, thoughts, and habits when in conflict and how to navigate those, as well as helping others to do the same!"



What's Happening Now

- **The Spring Fundraising Appeal** launched immediately after the Peacemaker event, with personalized letters to 350 key individuals mailed May 9th, followed by a broader email and social media appeal the week of May 13th. The theme for the appeal – and 2024, overall - is “Transforming Lives”, emphasizing the transformative effect of the DRC's mediation, training, facilitation and youth services on individuals, families, organizations and communities.



- Participation in the **Give BIG Washington** crowdfunding campaign on May 7th & 8th, encouraging support to non-profit organizations statewide. Our promotion focused on social media, piggy-backing on the significant media attention for this campaign.



- The latest full-page **DRC ad in the Thurston County Bar Association's "Legal Brief" e-newsletter** encourages legal professionals to take our 40-Hour Professional Mediation Training (which qualifies for Continuing Legal Education Credit) and consider becoming a volunteer mediator, as well as giving to increase access to our training resources to more members of our community. These bi-monthly ads, to run through the end of 2024, are an in-kind donation by the TCBA.
- A special **profile of Peacemaker Award recipient Rev. Corey Passons in Thurston Talk**, which will also highlight the DRC's mission and services -.
- Preparation for the **announcement and introduction of the DRC's new Executive Director** to volunteers, supporters and stakeholders, and the broader community, pending the Board's hiring decision and the successful candidate's acceptance of the hiring offer.

What Support We Need

- **Help generate support for our Spring Appeal** by sharing our appeal emailing with friends, family & colleagues who may have an interest in supporting the work of the DRC, and sharing our Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn posts with your networks.
- Help with planning and logistics for our annual **Volunteer Appreciation Picnic**, which is tentatively scheduled for July 31st (venue TBA).