



Dispute Resolution Center
OF THURSTON COUNTY

Community Engagement* Update – March 2023

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

What We're Celebrating

- WSECU has committed to renew its Business Partner support at the \$5,000 level, a doubling of its past financial support.
- Promotion of the new Conflict Crash Course series and Facilitating Effective Meetings training through a variety of channels, including the Chamber VOICE magazine, JOLT, Works in Progress, email and social media to reach new audiences. 31 people participated in the March 7th Crash Course training.
- Articles in Thurston Talk and JOLT (Journal of Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater) highlighting the DRC's resources, including Training and Mediation.
- Growing partnership with ASHHO Cultural Center, including participation in their Cultural/Resource Fairs and conversations re hosting a custom version of the Conflict Crash Course for the communities they serve.

WSECU



What's Happening Now

- Robyn is assuming primary responsibility for overseeing marketing and communication efforts, including training promotion, the DRC website, all digital communication and printed materials. Joe is shifting his primary focus to fundraising, donor records & acknowledgement, donor stewardship and community/business outreach, networking and relationship-building. Along with Robert Hunt's evolving role, our objective is a strengths-based Advancement Team that will also ensure cross-coverage and back-up for all key community engagement functions as a key internal capacity goal.
- Preparation for the new May 7th connection event, *A Celebration of Peacemakers*, including venue and food/beverage logistics, and promotion. This is a first step in the re-envisioning of donor/volunteer/community engagement events and activities, with more new and overhauled offerings to occur in the coming months.
- Planning for a spring fundraising appeal and Give BIG Washington crowdfunding campaign, tied to key remaining needs and goals as part of the Year 3 push for our Capacity-Building Initiative.
- The DRC is joining the Shelton-Mason Chamber of Commerce, as part of our efforts to build partnerships and raise awareness in this key part of our service footprint.

What Support We Need

- **Completing Thank You calls to individual financial supporters** to help strengthen connections, and sharing feedback and gleanings with the Board and staff that may help inform future programmatic and engagement efforts.
- **Help with preparation logistics and on-the-day set-up & tear-down for the May 7th event**, as well as schmoozing during the event – along the lines of last year’s Open House. Specific needs and requests to come in early April.
- **Spreading the word about the May 7th event and upcoming Year 3 capacity-building fundraising efforts** among your personal and professional networks, similar to what Board members have done in recent years. More specifics to come.
- **Review of Peacemaker Award nominees and recipient recommendation by Board sub-committee** (Matt, Eloise, Curt) ASAP after March 15th nomination deadline. Recommendation to and approval by full Board ideally needs to occur by the end of March to ensure adequate lead time for notification and publicity prior to the May 7th event.
- **Continued sharing of our social media posts and e-blasts** with friends, family and colleagues.
- **Continue to assess your personal and professional connections**, and discuss your comfort level and involvement in donor stewardship, business outreach and “affinity networking” with Joe.