Connecting the Vision

Strengthening connections is essential to us at the Dispute Resolution Center because engaging with one another is supportive, collaborative, inspiring, and honoring.

Connections bring us together, whether personal connections, community connections, or professional connections. It is my belief that all connections are personal because all relationships are personal.

“We have a vision at the Dispute Resolution Center of a South Sound community that has and uses healthy and respectful conflict resolution skills. It takes all of us - connected - to make that happen.”

We connect by:
- Celebrating each other’s successes;
- Innovating - bringing ideas together to form new, big ideas;
- Building support in times of struggle; bearing witness to suffering together; and,
- Shaping solutions to complex problems.

We must see each other as strands of the same web or threads of the same cloth, connected individually and as a community; we acknowledge and share our gratitude for one another; and we believe in each other, having certainty that when we reach out for support, someone will be there, ready to grasp our hand.

Thank you for joining us in this effort!

Jody M. Suhrbier
Executive Director

2018 Highlights

The DRC served 4,633 members of our community through mediation services, facilitation, training, conflict coaching, and our Conflict Resolution Resource Line - an increase of 35% from the prior year.

We experienced a 19% increase in mediations in the past year – 364 total mediation cases.

2,118 people participated in DRC trainings and community presentations.

We moved our offices into larger, more accessible and welcoming space in West Olympia.
Strengthening Connections

Community Organizations
Creative, collaborative partnerships with many local organizations, such as YWCA, Community Youth Services, SafePlace and Big Brothers Big Sisters, have enhanced our collective capacity to serve and support our community.

Schools
Through our Youth Empowerment Services, we are partnering with several schools in the Olympia, Tumwater, North Thurston and Yelm School Districts to sponsor Peacemaker Clubs, and provide ongoing training and support to students and staff.

Faith Communities
The DRC’s services and outreach are enhanced through the partnership of many local faith communities, which provide space for mediation and training, as well as financial and other support.

City & County Governments
The DRC provides mediators at every weekly session of Thurston County Small Claims Court, as an alternative conflict resolution option. Court sessions are held quarterly at area high schools. Cities call on the DRC when conflict arises in the community.

State Government
We support state agencies and the legislature. For example, The Washington State House of Representatives and Senate reached out to us to facilitate the development of policies for respectful interpersonal workplace conduct, which resulted in recently-passed legislation.

Businesses
We continue to expand services to employers, including increased workplace mediations, facilitations and custom training offerings. More than 30 area businesses help sustain the services of the DRC through financial and in-kind support, including participating in our annual event, The Toast.

“The DRC made sure the time our workgroup spent together was productive, while also demonstrating a thoughtful approach to sensitive conversations.”
Brad Hendrickson
Secretary of the Washington State Senate

“The DRC was instrumental in helping us form our own restorative justice center on campus and in creating a more supportive culture for students and staff.”
Blue Peetz
Olympia High School Teacher

Our Support
More than 350 individuals, businesses, foundations and organizations made an investment in the mission and work of the DRC in the past year through their financial support.
A total of $449,056 in financial support was received in 2018 and used to fund services as shown below:

Our Volunteers
The success of the Dispute Resolution Center is made possible by the efforts of more than 140 volunteers. These dedicated individuals collectively gave nearly 5,000 hours of their time in 2018 to help create a more civil and peaceful community.

Get Involved!
Volunteer - If you enjoy helping others solve problems, please consider becoming a volunteer mediator or phone conciliator. The DRC provides training to become a certified mediator, as well as continuing education to advance your skills.
Give - Your financial support makes it possible for the DRC to reach out and serve those in our community who would benefit from our mediation, training and youth services, but have limited resources.

You can give by mail, online at mediatethurston.org/donate, or by designating your Washington State Combined Fund Drive pledge.

Our Support

Income
\[ \text{Mediation Fees: } 14\% \]
\[ \text{Individual Donations: } 20\% \]
\[ \text{Grants: } 15\% \]
\[ \text{Government & Court Funding: } 19\% \]
\[ \text{Business Support: } 3\% \]
\[ \text{Other: } 1\% \]

Expenses
\[ \text{Conflict Resolution: } 38\% \]
\[ \text{Conflict Prevention: } 28\% \]
\[ \text{Youth Services: } 22\% \]
\[ \text{Fundraising: } 12\% \]
\[ \text{Training Fees: } 28\% \]

To learn more about our donors, funders and community partners, visit MediateThurston.org.

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