

Restorative Practices: Taking it to the Streets

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Ripple Community Inc. (RCI)

An affiliated
nonprofit of Ripple
Church
Allentown, PA USA



Purpose of the Project

- What happens when RCI applies Restorative Practices (RP) in an urban community context?

Based on needs of our community

- Brainstorming at
Ripple church
- Input from
community leaders
- Word on the street



Summer RP Sessions: Planning & Design

- 6 sessions, once a week for 2 hours
- Recruiting from Ripple and word of mouth
- Meetings held in downtown church hall
- Team of facilitators from church and community



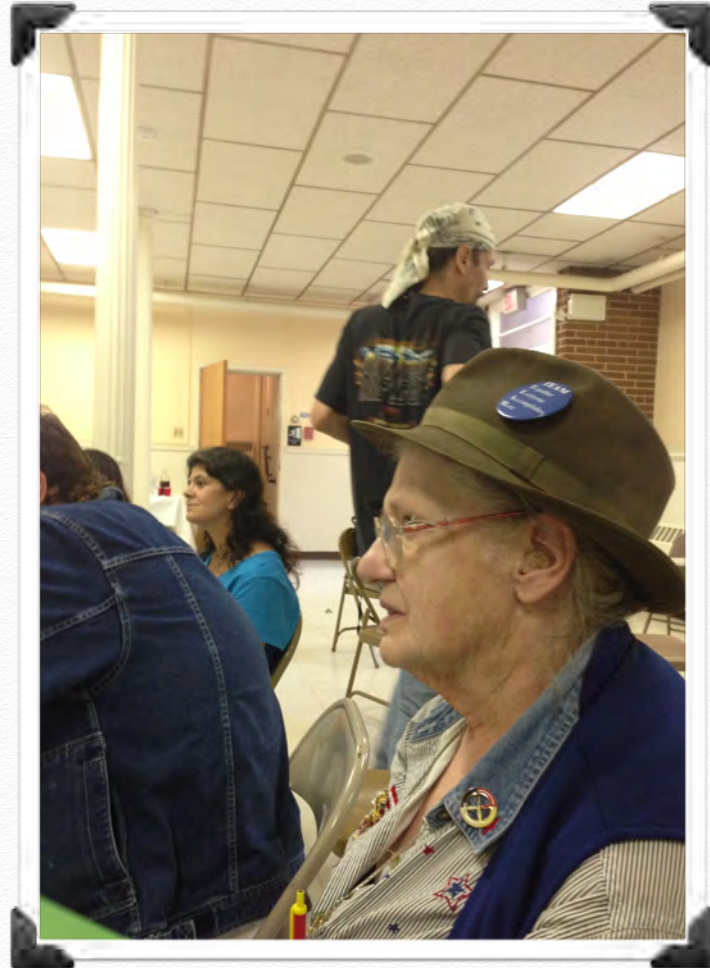
Participants

- Ages-16-80
- Racially Diverse
- Low Income
- Health Issues
- Urban Location
- Walking



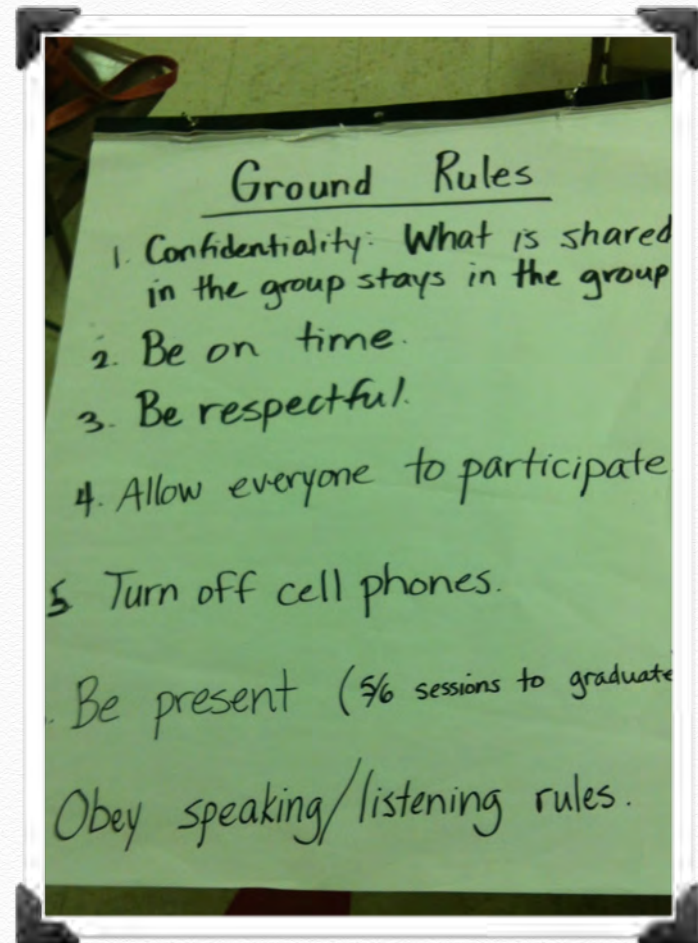
Agenda for the Sessions

- Opening circle & check-in
- Skill Training
- Practice RP
- Check out
- Snack - Fellowship
- Debriefing for facilitators



Skills and Restorative Practices

- Ground Rules
- Social Discipline Window
- Naming feelings
- Active listening
- Compassionate Witnessing
- Fish Bowls
- Informal -Formal Restorative Circles



Observations

- Surprises
- Concerns
- Disasters
- What I wish I had known



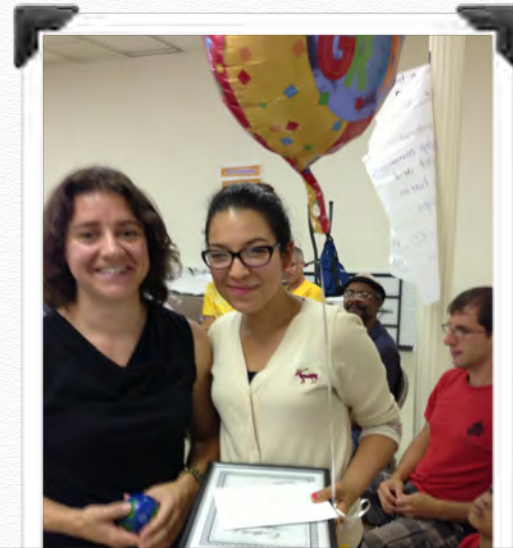
Lessons Learned

- Start with offering RP
- Listen and adapt
- Scheduling will not meet everyone's needs
- Plans for handling situations



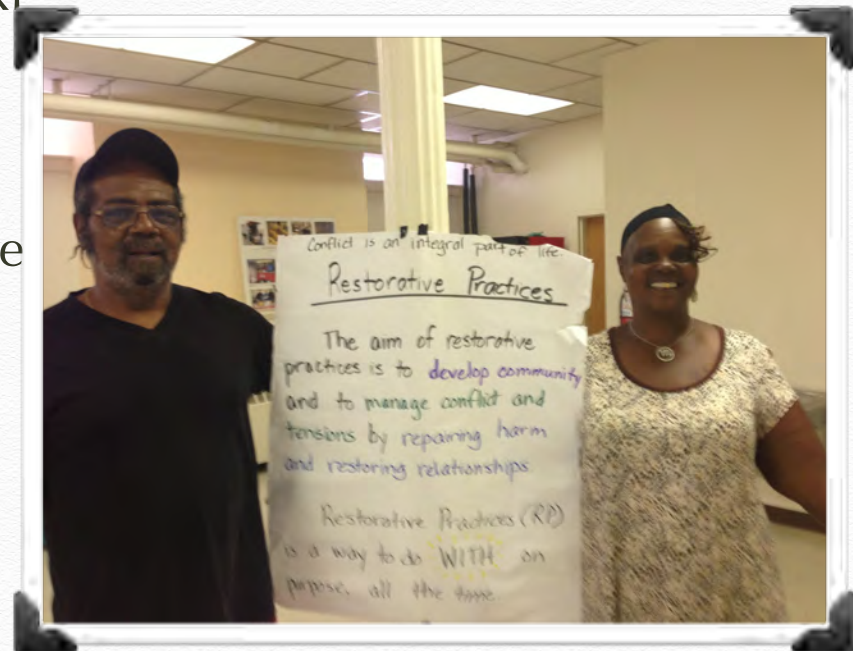
Celebrations

- Graduation was important
- Weekly fellowship time
- Interest in repeating/building on the process



Future Directions

- Envisioning ways to apply RP
- RP Space
- Continue reaching out in the neighborhood
- Participants running their own circles
- Sharing the Community RP model



Thank you!



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