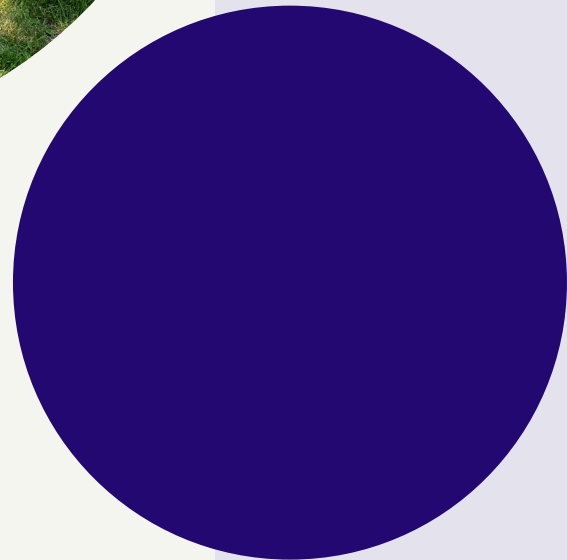




"I am because we are."  
Zulu Proverb



## Contact Us

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**Downeast Restorative Justice  
works in partnership with:**



### Our Mission

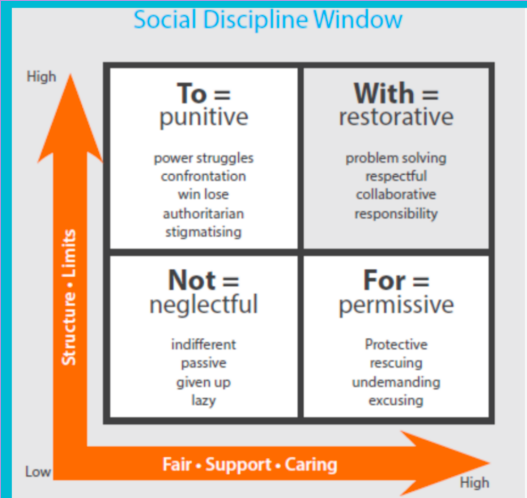
**Engaging in equitable community-based justice, Downeast Restorative Justice facilitates and promotes opportunities for community members to build relationships and repair harm caused by wrongdoing and incarceration.**

-  **Downeast**
-  **Restorative**
-  **Justice**
-  School and  
Community Supports

# Restorative Practices

Restorative Practices works to strengthen our connectedness so that mutual respect and dignity, inclusiveness and equality, choice and voice can grow. We use circle practice to check in and connect from inside schools and organizations, town meetings and private offices, to places of worship and family get togethers to connect.

If we notice that some are struggling, we can use a circle to support. To ask what they are having a hard time with, what they need, where their strengths lie, and what support they may like to have. Circles allow us to empathize and support each other.



"The underlying premise of restorative practices is that people are happier, more cooperative, more productive and more likely to make positive changes when those in positions of authority do things WITH them rather than TO them or FOR them." (The Restorative Practice Handbook, Costello and Wachtel)

- What Happened?
- What were you thinking & feeling at the time?
- What have you been thinking and feeling since then?
- Who has been affected and how?
- What can be done to make it right?

## THE FIVE RESTORATIVE QUESTIONS

### Restorative Justice

When a crime or violation is committed and harm is done, Restorative Justice (RJ) understands that this has a negative ripple effect on relationships. RJ pulls together all the people connected to the harm, their support people, and community members in a collective decision making circle where the group will talk about the harm, how it impacted others and how to repair and resolve the harm. We ask all participants the five restorative questions.

Restorative Justice solves problems and repairs harm in a non-punitive (not focused on punishment) and non-adversarial (not one side against another) process. This allows members of a community a stronger possibility to resolve the issue, and help begin healing.

# Our work with schools

[schools@downeastrestorativejustice.org](mailto:schools@downeastrestorativejustice.org)

Downeast Restorative Justice (DRJ) provide trainings, presentations and coaching to schools in Hancock and Washington Counties.

### RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

DRJ supports the use of restorative practices in schools (which leads to positive school culture). Using tools such as community circles, affective statements, and responsive classroom methods help to build positive school culture.

### RESTORATIVE POLICES

DRJ promotes the use of restorative policies that do not necessarily separate youth from school (e.g. suspensions, etc.), holding them accountable, yet connected to school.

### RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

DRJ can facilitate Community Resolution Circles in schools to address behaviors that lead to suspension or expulsion. This approach offers a structure for assessing the needs of the victim, school community, and offender in addressing the root causes of problem behaviors.