



# Conflict Solutions Center

Community Mediation, Training, and  
Restorative Justice Partnership

Serving Santa Barbara County Since 1989

## Mission Statement

We are committed to the development of community-based, non-adversarial responses to conflict and differences that strengthen social harmony and support individual healing. We serve the communities of Santa Barbara County by providing compassionate communication, appropriate dispute resolution and problem solving practices, Restorative Justice, consultation, training, and mediation services.

## Welcome Jammie Stone-Stevens and Esther Cortez

By Julia L. Kanner, B.A. Communication Candidate (Westmont College)

Conflict Solutions Center (CSC) has recently welcomed **Jammie Stone-Stevens** to its team as Programs Coordinator. Jammie received her BA in psychology from Brandman University and is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy and a license in Professional Clinical Counseling. Stevens believes that with the right tools “growth can be a significant result of conflict” and embraces the concept that conflict ultimately builds deeper relationships. Stevens maintains that regardless of a person’s situation, everyone deserves respect because “anyone in conflict has her own personal story.” There is a dire need for awareness that behavior of individuals in conflict is often the result of “needs not being met.” Jammie’s deep desire to transform the energy of conflict into personal growth will surely transform the lives of many in the Santa Barbara community.

**Esther Cortez**, a recent Criminal Justice graduate of Cal State Northridge, has been appointed as CSC’s new Restorative Justice Program Coordinator. Cortez enthusiastically shared “I have a passion for working with juvenile offenders and guiding them toward a future out of the criminal justice system.” Born and raised in Santa Maria, Esther has an acute awareness of the complexities of conflict from first hand experience, “I had many friends that came from challenging realities and gang lifestyles...I knew there was a need for change in my community and knew there was more that could be done for youth.” Prior to joining CSC, Esther mentored juvenile offenders, offering skills such as goal setting. The internship “was a life changing experience and reassurance that this is the population I want to work with.”

There is no doubt that with these two women as part of the Santa Barbara Conflict Solutions Center’s team, CSC’s mission of building community is one step closer to becoming a reality, “one peace at a time!”

Conflict Solutions Center

[www.CSCSB.org](http://www.CSCSB.org)

[info@cscsb.org](mailto:info@cscsb.org)

1530 Chapala Street, Suite C  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 963-6765

120 East Jones Street, Suite 133  
Santa Maria, CA 93454  
(805) 349-8943

**The Towbes Foundation** recently awarded a \$6,000 grant to CSC to support low-income bilingual/bicultural community members to receive mediation skills and conflict resolution training.

Please contact Jammie Stone-Stevens at (805) 349-8943 or [jstonestevens@cscsb.org](mailto:jstonestevens@cscsb.org) for information on the next mediation skills training.



### Small Claims Mediation Client Feedback

"Both mediators were very helpful. Understanding the whole process and getting a resolution was very helpful. Thank you guys again."

"The mediators did a good job teasing out the issues and facilitating discussion."

"I very much appreciated the empathy and professionalism of the mediators."

"Thanks to everyone involved. The issue was resolved because of their professionalism and understanding of both sides of the issue. Thank You!"

"I was reluctant at first, and satisfied at the end."

### UCSB Students Making A Difference

CSC is pleased to announce a wonderful partnership with UCSB's Community Affairs Board. 15 UCSB students have been selected to participate in a mediation training with apprenticeship taking place in Small Claims Court. These students will then serve the Isla Vista community as mediators for landlord/tenant, roommate, or other community living disputes. We are grateful to UCSB's Community Affairs Board for recognizing the value of positively resolving disputes through the mediation process.



40-hour Conflict Resolution and Basic Mediation Skills Training:

Spring 2016

Contact: Jammie at [info@cscsb.org](mailto:info@cscsb.org) or call 349-8943 or 963-6765



# Women's Fund OF SANTA BARBARA

## Restorative Community Network

Conflict Solutions Center received a \$60,000 grant from the Women's Fund of Santa Barbara to provide Restorative Programs to South County Santa Barbara. This generous gift supports workshops at the Santa Barbara Juvenile Probation Center, Community Meetings, Institutional Stakeholder Meetings, and an informational symposium highlighting local restorative programs. A summary report will be available in May 2016. We are grateful for the Women's Fund for recognizing the value of Restorative Programs.

## Alternatives to Violence Project Workshops

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) is a 20-hour participatory workshop providing an Alternative to Incarceration for the Juvenile Probation Department. The goal is to prevent future harmful behaviors and victimizations by teaching youth offenders the concepts of communication, cooperation, trust, and conflict resolution. AVP also utilizes a Victim Impact Panel (VIP) that provides a forum for victims to share their personal experience highlighting physical, emotional and financial impact that their crime had on them, their families, friends, and neighbors. Each workshop gives offenders the opportunity to develop accountability and empathy, and victims the unique opportunity to develop a sense of empowerment that may have been destroyed by the crime.

## Restorative Community Network

The Restorative Community Network (RCN) is a web of individuals and organizations committed to working together to address issues contributing to juvenile crime. RCN strives to create a harmonious and thriving community utilizing Restorative Practices and Collaboration.

## In the News:

Coastal View - **CSC presents on Restorative Justice to Carpinteria** -- August 6, 2015

Casa Magazine - **A New Approach to Restoring Justice** -- June 26, 2015

Santa Maria Times - **Restorative Justice Takes Focus off Punishment** -- FRONT PAGE -- July 26, 2015

