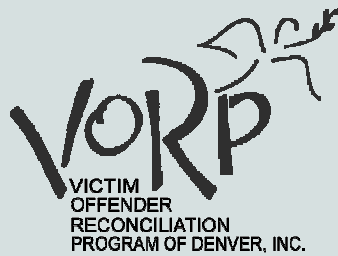


# NEWS FROM



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### Special points of interest:

• **Ronnie Rosenbloom joins VORP as Executive Director.**

• **RESTORE results extremely positive.**

• **Recent RESTORE referrals double**

• **Parent-Teen Mediation Program Re-Started.**

• **We NEED YOU!!!**

• **GIVING FIRST new opportunity for supporting VORP on-line.**

### In this issue:

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## Ronnie Rosenbaum Welcomed as Executive Director

VORP is pleased to welcome Ronnie Rosenbaum as our new half-time executive director. Ronnie has been a leader in nonprofit management in the Denver Metropolitan Area for many years. She served as the executive director of two agencies, People's Clinic in Boulder and Community Health Services in Commerce City; director of St. Anthony Hospitals Shared Beginnings, a department serving young families; and assistant director of Family Planning for the State of Colorado. The Rocky Mountain Chapter-Society for Adolescent Medicine honored her advocacy for youth with the 2007 award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Adolescent Health in the Rocky Mountain Region.

Soon after beginning to work with VORP, Ronnie was delighted and touched when she realized that VORP had been a recipient of the Virginia Mackey Memorial Award, which was established in memory of Ronnie's friend



Ronnie Rosenbaum (on the right) enjoys a beautiful Colorado day with her family.

who was instrumental in bringing restorative justice to Colorado and who introduced Ronnie to the concept in the 1990's. Ronnie experience with restorative justice includes volunteering as a restorative justice facilitator in a Denver public high school and facilitating Minors in Possession restorative justice groups for juveniles ticketed for underage possession of alcohol. Ronnie has a private practice as a mediator and facilitator, specializing in families, nonprofits and philanthropy. She has achieved professional mediator status from the Colorado Council of Mediators and Mediating Organizations; Jefferson County Mediation Services recognized her as their Divorce and Parenting Mediator of the Year for 2007. Ronnie lives in a co-housing community in Golden; her adult son, daughter, son-in-law and three-year old granddaughter reside in metro Denver.

## Parent-Teen Mediation Program Re-Started

Mediation between parents and teens was one of VORP's founding programs. The RESTORE program has pointed out that this program is still needed in our community and VORP has restarted the Parent-Teen Mediation Program as a result.

We need trained volunteer mediators to staff this program. Can you help? Call Rose Romero (yes, she's the very same Rose Herrera who is our able Program Manager) to volunteer for this important program.



### A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

We extend our deepest thanks to **First Mennonite Church** for generously and faithfully providing us with office and meeting space. They also continue to host a fall concert, which is not only extremely entertaining, but also our major fundraising event. Thank you so much to the congregation, pastoral team, and staff of FMC! We wouldn't be able to do this valuable work with out all of you!



## MAKING THINGS RIGHT IN OUR COMMUNITY

**We're on the web:**  
[www.denvervorp.org](http://www.denvervorp.org)

## RESTORE MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE

Based on 20 youth who met the criteria for being referred to RESTORE on or after July 1, 2008 and satisfactorily completed the restorative justice shoplifting program prior to December 1, 2008, only two youth (10%) have had law enforcement contacts, re-arrests, or court filings within six-months of program completion, as evidenced by Denver County law enforcement records.

An analysis of data from the pre- and post- program surveys of 2008 RESTORE program participants was completed in March 2009. Based on the data, RESTORE has had an impact with the youth in the program, on the awareness of shoplifting consequences and connectedness with adults. In the pre-test, 64 % responded that they agree or strongly agree in response to "I care what adults in my community think about me." This increased to 88% in the post-survey. This table shows the changes in the awareness of shoplifting consequences:

Awareness of Shoplifting Consequences	% responding agree or strongly agree	
	Pre	Post
Shoplifting hurt my community	45%	95%
Shoplifting hurt the store I stole from	60%	91%
Shoplifting hurt my family	85%	99%
Shoplifting hurt me	80%	96%

### VORP Board of Directors:

- Norm Dewhurst
- David Henninger
- Kate Goodspeed
- Ardell Swartzendruber
- Bruce McCrae

### VORP Staff:

- Ronnie Rosenbaum, Executive Director
- Rose Romero, Case Manager

### VORP Volunteers

- Too numerous to list!!!

## RESTORE Program Doubles

VORP provides RESTORE, a Restorative Justice diversion program for first-time shoplifters referred through Denver County Court and Denver Safe City. The RESTORE Program offers a voluntary opportunity for youth who have shoplifted to deal with their charge in a way that is meaningful to themselves and the community.

The youth and a parent or guardian attend two RESTORE sessions which provide awareness raising of the harm of shoplifting to the community via a panel of community members, followed by facilitated dialogue circles with other shoplifters and their parents.

The youth and his or her parent create a contract for community service and other ways to repair the harm done by the shoplifting. The youth return in 30 days to demonstrate in another dialogue session how they have completed their contract.

105 youth were referred to RESTORE in 2008. Of those, 86 (82% of those referred) completed the program.

Referrals in the first six months of 2009 doubled over those in the same time period in 2008. Based on that, it is anticipated that 170 youth will be served in 2009, compared to the 93 served in 2008.

## How YOU can help!!!

### Contribute:

Go to our website at [www.denvervorp.org](http://www.denvervorp.org) and contribute on-line. **NEW:** Beginning in December, you will be able to make an on-line donation by going to [www.givingfirst.org](http://www.givingfirst.org). 100% of your donation will go to VORP. Community First Foundation supports the nonprofit community by paying all credit card processing fees.

### Volunteer:

Click on "volunteer" on the left of our website's main page: [www.denvervorp.org](http://www.denvervorp.org). There's a downloadable volunteer application and a description of all the volunteers RESTORE and VORP need.

### In 2009-10

VORP's Board of Directors and staff will intentionally participate in Inclusiveness Training funded through a grant from the Denver Foundation. Lisa Calderon, a well-known trainer in this field will act as consultant and trainer to guide the board through this process.

### Many thanks to our faithful funders!!

We wish to thank the following for their financial support of VORP in 2009.

- City of Denver Safe City Program
- Office of the District Attorney, Second Judicial District
- Tony Grampas Youth Services Program
- Colorado Division of Criminal Justice Juvenile Accountability Block Grant.
- The Denver Foundation
- Park Hill Congregational Church, UCC
- First Mennonite Church
- Many community and civic organizations and individuals

Please accept our deepest appreciation for your gifts.