



Sam was arrested for misdemeanor assault. He graduated high school the year before and was going nowhere fast. He woke up every morning with no idea what to do that day. He was arrested because his buddy was in a fight and he jumped in. That’s what you do in his neighborhood. He wasn’t going to college because he had been told he wasn’t college material.

Sam was referred to [peacemaking](#) by the Assistant District Attorney assigned to his case. The Judge and his defense attorney agreed that he could give it a try. Sam came to his first peacemaking circle with a volunteer [peacemaker](#) and a community support person who had life experiences similar to his. The peacemaker and community support person asked Sam about his future plans. What did he want to do with his life? They talked with Sam about his behavior and how to make better choices in the future.

Sam took advantage of the opportunities offered through peacemaking; he attended a college lecture taught by the peacemaker, he met with a local business man to learn how to start a business, and he interviewed for a new job. He came to another circle and continued to reflect on his decisions. Sam got the job. It was full-time! Peacemaking reported back to the court and Sam’s case was **dismissed**.



Peacemaking was the meaningful intervention Sam needed. Peacemaking is about **people**. Peacemaking is about **community**. Peacemaking **changes lives**.

To refer a case to peacemaking, call Lisa at (315) 266-4350



Near Westside Peacemaking Project: 18-month Data

- Cases accepted into peacemaking: 31
- Peacemaking circles held: 86
- People in conflict who have sat in circle: 76
- Volunteers trained as peacemakers: 29
- Community support people that have participated: 49

