

NEAR WESTSIDE
PEACEMAKING
PROJECT

The Near Westside Peacemaking Project Celebrates One Year of Operation!



The Near Westside Peacemaking Project had an exciting first year! The Project provides free, community-based conflict resolution (peacemaking), and organizes place-based community projects led and developed by residents. It operates in a high crime neighborhood in Syracuse, New York. The Peacemaking Center is located at 601 Tully Street and opened its doors in March 2015. The Center was designed by an architect specializing in restorative justice who solicited community input at every step in the process.

Peacemaking Cases: During the first year, the Project accepted peacemaking cases diverted from the police, probation, neighborhood schools and community members. Twenty cases entered peacemaking, involving 45 individuals in conflict, 30 community support people, and 15 trained community volunteer peacemakers. We held 43 peacemaking circles. The Project also assisted three classroom teachers from neighborhood schools with relationship-building circles that reached 64 students.



Community Benefits Projects: The Project hosted 16 community projects last year, involving over 500 community members. Projects included:

- mapping broken streetlights in the neighborhood for repair
- holding a community dialogue around race and violence
- bringing firefighters and a fire truck to the neighborhood for kids to explore and learn about fire safety
- hosting two free family movie nights in a neglected outdoor grassy area

Take Back the Streets: The Project, in collaboration with other neighborhood agencies, launched a new anti-violence, crime-prevention initiative in the Near Westside called [Take Back the Streets](#). The initiative will plan and implement 50 community-based projects in 2016 to address violence, blight, and social disorder.

Near Westside Peacemaking Project

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