

Need help resolving a conflict? **Contact us!**



CRCSTL News & Updates

January/February 2023

Our Vision is for communities to have the tools to resolve conflict creatively and reach meaningful, equitable solutions.



Coming soon: CRCSTL Impact Report



Coming in early 2023, we will be releasing our annual Impact Report outlining the tangible ways in which we've helped our community.

You will be able to see where in the city we are doing the most work and the wide variety of programs we have to help in any aspect of conflict resolution.

Look for more information soon!

Upcoming Events

February 14th
Valentine's Day

February 20th
President's Day
CRCSTL offices closed

February 28th · 6pm–8pm
Renters Townhall
Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being • 1000 North Vandeventer Ave

March 9th · 9am–12pm
Landlord Appreciation Event (STLMHC)
St. Patrick Center • 800 North Tucker with an option for hybrid/online participation

Follow CRCSTL on social media to stay up to date on community events in St. Louis featuring us and our partners!



Out and About with CRCSTL



CRCSTL + City Corner Interview

September 21st
Watch Robin Boyce of City Corner and Executive Director Wolf Smith discuss the ways in which CRCSTL is helping the community, especially in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Link is above to watch the full interview.

North Newstead Crime Prevention Summit 2022

November 12th
Presented by the North Newstead Association, this year's summit explored topics around "The Realities of Policing in St. Louis". This was an educational opportunity to learn about how the current criminal legal system deals with crime and nuisance. Members of the public were encouraged to come and share their thoughts about crime and violence in North City.



"All Change Starts with Conflict" Lunch and Learn

November 15th
Every major innovation was borne out of conflict. Instead of demonizing conflict, we must learn to embrace conflict if we want to change and grow. In this session, led by CRCSTL Executive Director Wolf Smith, we explored some of the main ways to conceptualize conflict, our own default response to conflict, and how we can embrace conflict to help unleash our change-making potential.

Principia Upper School Mediation Tournament

November 18th-19th
This year, 14 schools from around country participated in this annual tournament. Students took on real-life cases and were judged on their communication and problem-solving skills. These exercises teach young people to think on their feet about complex issues while learning to become empathetic and compassionate peacemakers who can look at situations from every perspective. We love to see young people passionate about mediation!



St. Louis Public Library Health & Resource Fair

November 19th
We had a great time tabling with other community partners and making sure the needs of our local communities are being met. Look for us at other events near you soon.



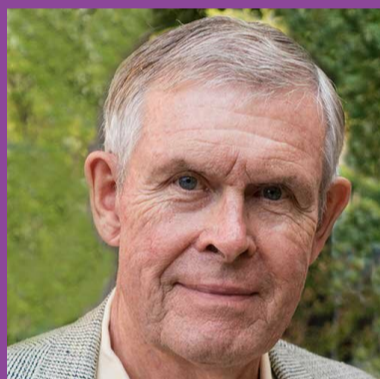
A Word from Our Executive Director

Wolf Smith

As we enter the new year, CRCSTL always takes some time to reflect on the previous year and set intentions. This year, we have so very much to celebrate.

2022 held a lot of firsts for us. We started the year off by completing our first ever audit, including the notorious federal “Single Audit,” with a perfect report from the auditors. In April, we released our first strategic plan. July saw both our first Mediator Apprenticeship Program Graduation and the launch of our Student-Led Peer Mediation program. This fall we officially rolled out our Workplace Solutions program, emphasizing supporting small to medium businesses and non-profits through conflict. Finally, we broke 1,000 clients served in a year for the first time.

Now, with our eyes turned toward the new year, we are excited for what comes next. I want to say thank you from all of us at CRCSTL for joining us on this journey of making St. Louis a more peaceful region!



Bill Duffe

CRCSTL Board H.R. Committee

Hear from a Board Member

Bill Duffe

My name's Bill Duffe and I'm a Board Member with the Conflict Resolution Center-St. Louis. My background is in Human Resources where I spent a career. This included many things, including labor-management relations. A saying in labor-management relations was that the resolution disputants workout between themselves is usually better than the one some third party, an arbitrator or court for example, mandates to them. People in disagreements with one another tend to look to some authority to mandate a resolution in their favor. It doesn't always turn out that way.

That's where mediation comes in. When parties in disagreement work out their own solution it is usually more agreeable to both parties but more important the relationship between them is far more improved than if a third party decides the issue. That's where Conflict Resolution Center-St. Louis can help. We providemediators to work with parties to a dispute to work out their own solution. It's not for us to come up with a solution but rather to help the parties to get to where they need to be. St. Louis is not the only city to have a mediation service like ours. The value of reconciling disagreements and disputes could not be more evident in a nation as divided as ours. Within the tensions of contemporary life we stand ready to make things easier.

Real-Life Solutions

An elderly man was having an ongoing conflict with his next door neighbor regarding property lines, and he felt as though he was running out of options. He had tried to discuss the issue with his neighbor directly but said he had been shut down at each attempt. With no potential solution in sight, the man's Neighborhood Improvement Specialist referred him to CRCSTL for mediation.

In this case, the other party to the conflict declined services, which meant CRCSTL was unable to proceed with mediation. As an alternative approach to conflict resolution, CRCSTL offered to engage in conflict coaching with the man to support him as he navigated his conflict. After speaking with his conflict coach, the man was able to successfully brainstorm potential solutions for his issue with his neighbor. Following his final coaching session, he expressed that not only had he felt heard, but he was also hopeful for the future.



Mediation is often used in legal disputes, but what happens when the same process is applied to children in order to deter conflicts and avoid the need for school administration intervention? In this article, Beatrice Connaghan discusses the process of training students to become peer mediators to deter conflicts in St. Louis Schools. Connaghan, a law student at SLU, was previously CRCSTL's Program's Intern. Impressed with the potential benefits of peer mediation and was inspired to write this piece. View the full article online, link below.

[Student Led Peer Mediation Program - Article](#)

[Check out our new video](#) that provides an overview of the Student Led Peer Mediation Program!



Partner Spotlight St. Patrick's Center

St. Patrick Center, a member of Catholic Charities of St. Louis, provides direct supportive services to individuals who are either unhoused or at-risk of becoming unhoused in St. Louis City, St. Louis County and surrounding communities. They have been transforming lives through sustainable housing, employment and healthcare, following the compassion of Jesus for the past 40 years. The work they do is driven by their values of compassion, collaboration, commitment, and creativity.

St. Patrick Center envisions a community where everyone has sustainable housing, income and healthcare. Individuals, families, and veterans of all age, race and background are falling victim to homelessness all over the country. On any given day in Missouri, over 6,000 of our neighbors go unhoused and homelessness has gradually gotten worse since 2019. Last year, St. Patrick Center served over 3,300 individuals and households by providing 61,367 direct services. This helped 1,209 households retain housing, 540 find new housing, and 522 prevented from becoming homeless.

CRCSTL believes deeply in these same core values and is proud to partner with St. Patrick Center to ensure that our neighbors throughout St. Louis have the tools they need to thrive.

Workplace Solutions

“The peace of mind that CRCSTL fosters is life and organization-changing. Their guidance and support remove the fear of staff or volunteer conflict and replaces it with the confidence that together, we can navigate challenging scenarios in a meaningful and equitable way.”

–Kelly Wells, Executive Director, KDHX Community Media

[Learn more about Workplace Solutions](#)

How can we help you?

Neighbor disputes? Landlord or Tenant Issues? We can help!

Get help from CRCSTL

Get in touch

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St. Louis, MO 63108

314.255.7449

info@crcstl.org



**Visit our
Website**



Conflict Resolution Center - St. Louis | 20 S. Sarah Street, St. Louis, MO 63108

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