

About Bridging US 23

Bridging US 23 was founded on the belief that when people unite for the greater good, positive change is inevitable.

Developed in collaboration by The Dispute Resolution Center (DRC) with The Association for Youth Empowerment (AYE), Bridging 23 is dedicated to transforming the way the people of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti and the surrounding communities relate to one another.

Our ultimate goal is to connect communities, inspire compassion and take action to call forth the beloved community.

History of the Walk

The Unity Walk was born out of a Bridging 23 restorative circle in 2017, when community members spearheaded the Walk as an annual fundraiser for the DRC. The Unity Walk builds on the foundation of taking action and bringing public visibility to the inequities between the Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor communities.

A Fundraiser for...

The DRC's Restorative Justice Program that keeps adults and youth out of the criminal legal system and brings healing and wholeness to families and our community.

MISSION

The Dispute Resolution Center offers affordable, constructive, restorative and healing approaches to conflict resolution.

VISION

We partner and collaborate with individuals, families and businesses to build peaceful communities.

VALUES

Respect, Integrity, Accessibility, Restorative Justice, & Inclusion.

The Dispute Resolution Center
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Questions? Contact Kevin Werner,
wernerk@thedrcmi.org

For more info, visit:

[thedisputeresolutioncenter.org/
events/unitywalk2024/](http://thedisputeresolutioncenter.org/events/unitywalk2024/)

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT PARTNERS!



THE DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER'S

8th annual

Unity Walk

Saturday June 8, 2024

10am- 3pm

BRIDGING US 23

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY,
CONNECTION, & CULTURE

Your dollars support the DRC's Restorative Justice Program

The Dispute Resolution Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit community dispute resolution program founded in 1983. The DRC partnered with the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office through the Restorative Justice Program in 2021.

Restorative Justice is an alternative to the traditional criminal legal system and offers a survivor centered and healing model to address wrongdoing, harm or crime.

The restorative justice approach is deeply rooted in North American Indigenous cultural and sacred practices to address harm or wrongdoing between all involved.

Restorative or healing circles aim to create safe space for all involved to:

- Address the harm(s)
- Enable the survivor to be heard
- Provide an opportunity for the person who committed the harm(s) to make amends
- Assist the survivor and the one who caused the harm to create a plan for re-entering their communities, and
- Foster understanding, connection, and reconciliation.

Learn more on our website:
thedisputeresolutioncenter.org

Sponsorship

\$5000 – COMMUNITY PEACE BUILDER
Your support can help sustain our free Restorative Justice Program to keep youth and adults out of the criminal legal system.

\$2500— JUSTICE CHAMPION
Your contribution can sustain an entire Restorative Justice program at a school for one semester.

\$1000 – CHANGEMAKER
Your contribution can support and pay a stipend for a returning citizen in our restorative justice facilitator training.

\$500 – AMBASSADOR
Your contribution can help support the restorative justice circle process for a family.

\$250 – ADVOCATE
Your support can help develop more outreach to youth, schools, and the community about restorative practices.

**All sponsorships include: website, social and program mention, registrations, t-shirts.*

**For sponsored walk teams, please email, Kevin Werner, wernerk@thedrcmi.org, for further assistance*

Use the QR code ----->
to become an event sponsor TODAY!



The Power of RJ

"When someone harmed our child, we were hurt, angry, afraid and felt so alone. The prospect of court proceedings and retaliation haunted our family. DRC Staff reached out at our lowest point. Our work together brought us into direct, safe contact with the person who harmed... but that was the start of enormous relief and healing. Our child got to ask "why" and taught us bravery and compassion in response. I did not expect or believe we could reach such forgiveness, empathy and understanding with one another. Much love to the DRC Staff and those we worked with... we won't forget."

~Client Testimonial

"...We believe that when people are empowered to do the right thing, they will. We believe when people are given the opportunity to problem solve, they can. We look forward to working with more community members, seeking not only just outcomes, but healing the harm."

~Belinda Dulin, DRC Executive Director

"This is an opportunity to both center crime survivors, giving them a voice in their own healing, and to promote true rehabilitation for those who cause harm. If we continue to simply punish without healing and restoration, we will continue to see the same harm done throughout our communities."

*~Victoria Burton-Harris,
Washtenaw County Chief Assistant
Prosecuting Attorney*