



SUMMIT COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION COURT



The Prem Rawat Foundation
PO Box 24-1498
Los Angeles, CA 90024

August 5, 2022

On behalf of the Domestic Violence Intervention Court Team, we would like to thank you for your ongoing assistance in implementing the Peace Education Program -in our Court.

The Peace Education Program has been invaluable not only for our Team but for the participants of our Program as well. The DVIC is a specialized Domestic Violence Drug Court certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio supervising felony-level domestic violence offenders within Summit County, Ohio. Since our introduction to the Peace Education Program in September of 2020, we have had the opportunity to utilize this program both professionally and personally. The Peace Education Program has been implemented as a requirement for our staff and Participants alike. Effective Spring, 2022, all staff and Program participants are required to complete the Peace Education Program.

The entire DVIC Team, including collaborative agency and community partners, participated in and completed the Peace Education Program together at the time it was initially introduced. As a team building exercise, the Peace Education Program solidified our collaboration and allowed us to get to know one another on a more personal level. This Program gave us a collective language from which to communicate and has significantly improved our Team's ability to communicate!

Upon completing the Peace Education Program, several DVIC Team members expressed how much this Program helped them deal with the stressors of our profession. As members of the criminal justice community, our Team works with individuals who pose a significant risk of endangering the community. The Peace Education Program and the lessons included therein, has provided a context that has afforded our staff and participants alike to maintain positivity and individual peace throughout the course of their day-to-day responsibilities.

Additionally, DVIC participants and staff engage with the Peace Education Program together. Most participants thus far have communicated that doing so has allowed them to see the professionals on our Team in a more "humane" light. Our officers have suggested that in permitting both staff and participants to complete the Program, the connection and bond formed between officer and offender has grown.

The Summit County Domestic Violence Intervention Court encourages any agency, particularly those who encounter violence, crime, and the repercussions of these actions on a daily basis, to investigate the benefits of the Prem Rawat Foundation's Peace Education Program. Its contributions to our Program have been immense and the support this Program continues to provide our staff is immeasurable.

If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Thank you again for all that you do to promote and share this incredibly powerful Program.

Dena Hanley, PhD

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