

Volunteer of the week - Sue Furtney

*By LaDaryn Backstrum
Volunteer Connection*

Sue Furtney started volunteering for Teaching Peace about a year ago. Originally, she practiced law as a criminal defense attorney and then became a stay-at-home mom.

Teaching Peace works with Longmont Community Justice to rehabilitate juvenile offenders without incarcerating them.

“When a minor’s involved, they’re referred into this program, and the people in the circle will create an agreement,” Furtney said. “The agreement stipulates that the person who committed the harm assists the person directly affected.

“It makes it real, makes it human and allows people to take responsibility for their actions, repair the harm, change their behavior and make better decisions in the future,” Furtney said.

Amanda Mahan of Teaching Peace said, “Sue has made a huge impact with our organization and the lives of our clients.”

“Often when you’re immature, you don’t think things through, and sometimes the ramifications are greater than the person thinks,” Furtney said. “When everyone in the circle understands what occurred, a great deal of anger can dissolve. You end up having good citizens from this process who might have chosen a different path.”

For more information about Teaching Peace or other volunteer opportunities, call Volunteer Connection at 303-444-4904 or visit www.volunteerconnection.net.

