

Rita Renjitham Alfred

*Co-Founder, Restorative Justice Training Institute
Restorative Justice and Crisis Response Consultant*

Rita consults with schools and trains district personnel, students and parents in the Oakland Unified School District in Restorative Justice. She is also a Crisis Responder in the event of emergencies and homicides.

She had served as Restorative Justice Coordinator for Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (RJOY) at Cole Middle School in the Oakland Unified School District. The pilot program at Cole was so effective in significantly transforming the school culture to one that was more caring, and centered on relationships. This culture change was instrumental in the dramatic decrease in the referrals to expulsions, suspensions, and violence on campus, that the staffs at approximately 20 additional schools within the District became interested and now are at different stages in bringing restorative practices to their sites.

Presently she is lead trainer at the Castlemont campus of 4 schools which is a 'Building Healthy Communities' site, a initiative funded through The California Endowment. In the last 3 years, Rita and others have trained about 1000 certificated, classified and support staff at these additional schools, and is now moving into the implementation phase. Rita assisted in the writing of the Restorative Justice Resolution that was adopted and passed by the Oakland Unified School District Board of Education in January 2010.

Rita completed her B.A. in Psychology in 1990 from California State University, Hayward. She has completed the coursework required to attain a Ph.D. in Psychology from the Institute of Imaginal Studies in Petaluma , CA .While attending school, she also raised two sons as a single parent.