

The concern of a young driver involved in a collision is high on most parents fear scale - How will this affect the persons involved, future driving record, schooling, summer job applications. An unknown program to our family, and publicly little know program called the Diversion program, has been created to provide parties of traffic collisions and various other situations - with a means of collaborating together, with the focus on healing, forgiving and carrying forward from their particular circumstance/incident.

We found out about the diversion program after a collision which involved a family member - the concerns and feeling of guilt about all parties involved was overwhelming at first, as any parent would contest. At the scene of the collision - our family was informed of the Eden Praire Diversion program. Once we were told of the programs goals and requirements - we were immediately thankful that such a program existed, and saw how such a program can be applied to many cases involving young adults/teenagers, and in our case new young drivers.

As a parent - the foresight of designing a program around young adults/teenagers whom have been involved in an accident or other situation - is a real testament to how far our legal system has advanced in it's forward thinking of helping both parties involved in an incident. Our experience with the program and Randy Thomson was outstanding. The program provides excellent and all positive attributes for both parties - including volunteer work to assist others for one party and communication/healing for the other party. Not only did we embrace the importance of volunteering, and learning the importance of giving time back to your community - it teaches the aspects of empathy and communication with a recipient party to say you're sorry for that situation, the healing process and help with the growth of a teenager/young adults commitment of responsibility and respect.

The conversations with our recipient party was nervous and emotional to start - and migrated into an extremely uplifting, positive and forgiving conversation that focused around both parties abilities to move forward and Learn for the overall experience. This program brought out the best in us as people, and brought out the best end results for the situation. There is nothing more powerful than being able to do what is right for others - complete tasks which give back to the community, and most importantly to give each other the opportunity to discuss a difficult situation, share how we intent to learn from each other, and forgive/more forward and give back. The other option is court and a harsh, non forgiving environment which would never produce the end results which occurred with a forward thinking and extremely positive Diversion program - which teaches communications skills under conflict, giving back to your community and the steps towards forgiveness and a very positive outcome.