



March 2017

Center for Dispute Resolution and Restorative Justice

Dear Beloved Community,

This year, the Board of Directors for Resolve has made the difficult decision to forgo *The Imagine Awards* for April 2017. This decision was not made lightly or without a great deal of discussion about long term sustainability.

The Imagine Awards began in 2003 as a recognition event sponsored by Resolve (then Mediation Works; Community Dispute Resolution Center) for individuals who actively and constructively advance peaceful conflict resolution and community building in southern Oregon. It became an annual event with the exception of breaks during 2008, 2010 and 2011. Over these many years, *The Imagine Awards* has been a lovely, warm community gathering in support of the work of Resolve. Through *The Imagine Awards*, many good friends have given so much and cared so deeply; and for this I am eternally grateful.

Board members agreed that *The Imagine Awards* excelled each year as a community consciousness raising event that helped people understand the importance of mediation and restorative justice services and education through Resolve. *Imagine* has also been a purposeful way to honor the leadership of our community who share Resolve's fundamental dedication to community building and peace making.

However, as a fundraising mechanism, *The Imagine Awards* has been less successful. Intensive staff and volunteer hours were required to produce the event each year. These were hours that could have been focused on service and program delivery. Taken together with the many costs of event production, what remained in terms of proceeds to support Resolve was not at a level that supports sustainability. Currently, the Board is working on a new, more sustainable fundraising strategy.

In the meantime, dear Beloved Community, Resolve remains committed to the value of bringing community together. So please do attend Resolve's two appreciation events; one in the summer and one in the winter. July 27, will be the Community and Volunteer Appreciation event from 4:30 to 7pm (location TBA)—please come! As the holiday season rolls around, the Resolve Holiday party on December 7th is a great time to gather for the warmth of our friendship, dedication to community building, and good cheer.

Thank you for your understanding, steadfast support, and excitement as Resolve continues and grows its mission and services to our region.

Deltra Ferguson, Ph.D.
Executive Director