



## Who Ya Gonna Call?

*Difficult topics + High emotion + Multiple points of view = A job for a Just Solutions facilitator*

When you see headlines about controversial events in our community, you may not know how often **Just Solutions** gets a call to help.



Janet Jernigan

Following public showings of the documentary "Two Towns Named Jasper," **Just Solutions** executive director **Janet Jernigan** facilitated discussion about prejudice and ways to deal with it.



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**Just Solutions** is working in conjunction with Metro United Way and with the Louisville Metropolitan Authority in the Clarksdale community. Through trainings and facilitations of discussions on that community's issues, **Camp Edwards**, Director of Community Relations with Just Solutions, is helping to move forward the agenda of the new neighborhood.



Camp Edwards

# Conflict Resolution Workshops a Hit!

Have you ever experienced a situation like one of these?



- Your neighbors' dog barks and awakens you several nights a week! Don't they know it's bothering everyone? Why don't they do something?
- You disagree with a developer's plans for building in your neighborhood! Everything's wrong with the plan. What will this do to property values?
- Teenagers are hanging out at neighborhood businesses and along sidewalks. It's scary to walk there now and who knows what they'd do if you say anything!

Are you frustrated by not knowing what to do? Or have you taken action and been disappointed with the results? You're certainly not alone. In fact, more than 100 people from over 40 different metro Louisville neighborhoods attended the first, free "Resolving Neighborhood Conflicts" workshop earlier this year.

"It's a HUGE topic," says Melissa Mershon, director of the metro Department of Neighborhoods, sponsor of the workshops. "We get a lot of calls from people just looking for ways to resolve differences." As a result, three more workshops are planned in the next several months.

The skills needed to negotiate a workable outcome for everyone are what these workshops deliver – participants learn to communicate better, how to listen to gain understanding, and how to focus on finding win-win solutions.

**Just Solutions** executive director Janet Jernigan says the key is "focusing on interests, not positions." In the barking dog example above, your "position" might be expressed as, "that dog's gotta go." But in fact, your real "interest" is being able to sleep without being disturbed.

These workshops are all about resolving conflicts that already exist, before they escalate into costly litigation or even violence. Even better, Jernigan points out, is learning the communication skills we all wish we had to prevent conflict from occurring in the first place.

For more information on the Resolving Neighborhood Conflicts workshops, or other training opportunities available through **Just Solutions**, visit online at [www.just-solutions.org](http://www.just-solutions.org) or call 581-1961.



It's a Draw!

The graphics used in this newsletter are from the unique "Better Facilitating with Graphics" course taught through Just Solutions. Call 581-1961 today for information on 2005 class dates, fees and more information.

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Here's An Idea



Give the gift of a mediation workshop to the young couple you know who are to marry soon. Learning strong communication skills might be just the thing for a strong start in the relationship. Pass it on.



Conflict causes Friction which slows Progress. Mediation oils all 3.

## Interested in Becoming a Board Member?

Like many non-profit organizations, **Just Solutions** has a small, paid staff while relying on the many contributions (financial and otherwise) of its Board of Directors. **Just Solutions** is always interested in hearing from unique, community-minded individuals interested in serving on the board. The job isn't passive – an ideal **Just Solutions** board member raises his or her hand to say, "I'll take care of that," or "I know someone who can get that done for us," or "I have an idea and I'm willing to make it happen." The primary criteria are a belief in the mission, and a passion for the value of achieving peaceful solutions to conflicts. To express your interest, mail a letter to executive director Janet Jernigan stating why you'd be a good candidate for the board. *Every letter will be acknowledged.*

