

MINDFUL SELF-COMPASSION GROUP PROGRAM

Based on the research of Kristin Neff and the clinical expertise of Christopher Germer, Mindful Self-Compassion (MSC) is a training program designed to cultivate the skill of self-compassion.

Rapidly expanding research demonstrates that self-compassion is strongly associated with emotional wellbeing, less anxiety, depression and stress, maintenance of healthy habits such as diet and exercise, and satisfying personal relationships. And it's easier than you think.

After participating in this workshop, you'll be able to:

- Practice self-compassion in daily life
- Understand the empirically-supported benefits of self-compassion
- Motivate yourself with kindness rather than criticism
- Handle difficult emotions with greater ease
- Transform challenging relationships, old and new
- Manage caregiver fatigue
- Practice the art of savoring and self-appreciation



Brenda Ponik, MSW, RSW

Brenda has been a trauma therapist for over 30 years. She has worked extensively within the queer and trauma services communities. She was lead social worker at a local Family Health Team until she recently went into full-time private practice.

647-228-4582
www.brendaponic.ca



Shailla Vaidya, MD, MPH, CCFP(EM)

Shailla is a physician practicing Mind-Body medicine in Toronto. She incorporates yoga into her Medical Psychotherapy practice helping people cope better with stress. She is a teacher trained in the Mindful Self-Compassion program.

416-536-5555
www.theYogaMD.ca

Wednesdays

8 weeks

October 12 - November 30

1-3:30 PM

Retreat

Saturday, November 12

1-5 PM

Location

1466 Bathurst Street (at St. Clair), Suite 306

Prerequisites

No previous experience with mindfulness or meditation is required to attend MSC. To insure safety, participants are asked to provide background information when they register for the program.

Registration

To register call Clairhurst Medical 416-536-5555
State your interest in the Mindful Self-Compassion group and we will get back to you.

\$500 + OHIP + a \$75 refundable cheque depending on attendance.

This includes 8 sessions and a 1-hour individual pre-group intake.

Deadline to register September 23, 2016

Self-Compassion

The three key components of self-compassion are self-kindness, a sense of common humanity, and balanced, mindful awareness. Kindness opens our hearts to suffering, so we can give ourselves what we need. Common humanity opens us to our essential interrelatedness, so that we know we aren't alone. Mindfulness opens us to the present moment, so we can accept our experience with greater ease. Together they comprise a state of warm-hearted, connected presence.

Self-compassion can be learned by anyone, even those who didn't receive enough affection in childhood or who feel uncomfortable when they are good to themselves. It's a courageous attitude that stands up to harm, including the harm that we unwittingly inflict on ourselves through self-criticism, self-isolation, or self-absorption. Self-compassion provides emotional strength and resilience, allowing us to admit our shortcomings, motivate ourselves with kindness, forgive ourselves when needed, relate wholeheartedly to others, and be more authentically ourselves.

What To Expect

Program activities include meditation, short talks, experiential exercises, group discussion, and home practices. MSC is a workshop rather than a retreat. The goal is for participants to directly experience self-compassion and learn practices that evoke self-compassion in daily life.

MSC is primarily a compassion training program rather than mindfulness training like Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), although mindfulness is the foundation of self-compassion. MSC is also not psychotherapy insofar as the emphasis of MSC is on building emotional resources rather than addressing old wounds. Positive change occurs naturally as we develop the capacity to be with ourselves in a kinder, more compassionate way.

It is said that "love reveals everything unlike itself." While some difficult emotions may arise when practicing self-compassion, MSC teachers are committed to providing a safe, supportive environment for this process to unfold, and to making the journey interesting and enjoyable for everyone.

MSC includes 8 weekly sessions of 2.5 hours each, in addition to a 4-hour retreat. Prior to registering, participants should plan to attend every session and practice mindfulness and self-compassion at least 30 minutes per day throughout the program.

Recommended Reading

It is recommended that participants read one or both of following books before or during the program:
Self-Compassion: The Proven Power of Being Kind to Yourself, by Kristin Neff and/or
The Mindful Path to Self-Compassion, by Christopher Germer