



# Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

## BRIDGES

August 2017  
Vol. 14 No. 8



### NEW CLASS OF MEDIATORS



Pictured from left to right are Denise Drake, Tom Morrow and Susan Hannah.

Three members of the 2017, 40-hour mediation training class have now completed their observations and are full-fledged mediators. So, congratulations are in order for Bob Charlton, Denise Drake and Amy Stikovich. We are delighted to have them on board.

### SPEAKING OF CONGRATULATIONS

Our very own Case Manager Kirstyn Horan has recently been unanimously approved to serve on the Board of the Char-Em United Way. Actually, Char-Em United Way is the real winner. Kirstyn will be a most positive asset for them. Additionally, Kirstyn will be participating in the Citizens' Academy sponsored by the Petoskey Safety Department

### TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

In October 1993, NCM became an official entity. Since this is such an exciting date for NCM, we will begin the celebration 12 months in advance. So, be looking for the festivities to begin in November of this year. There will be newspaper articles, billboards, special parties, and the list goes on.

### USELESS FACT

Before there were clocks, there were candle clocks that burned a set amount of hours. If you wanted a reminder or alarm, you pushed a nail at the desired time length in the candle and when it melted to that point, the nail would fall and clank on the metal holder alerting you.

### MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO AROUND

Approximately one-fourth of Northern Community Mediation's funding comes from the State Court Administrative Office. In simple terms, for every court filing in district court, \$3.00 is set aside for the Citizen Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP). Of that \$3.00, \$2.00 stays local and \$1.00 is pooled money that is distributed among the 18 CDRP centers. The distribution is based upon a weighted caseload and number of disposed cases on a yearly basis. Although NCM receives the second least amount of the money that remains local in comparison to the other 17 centers, year-after-year, NCM receives the most or second greatest amount of the pooled funds.

Through the lobbying efforts of the association formed by the executive directors of the 18 centers, the legislature approved \$500,000 as a line item in the budget. It needs to be pointed out that those lobbying efforts were primarily accomplished by Elizabeth Giddings from the center in Holland. The \$500,000 has been distributed among the centers based upon the above described formula, which means that NCM received the second greatest amount, which totaled \$38,386.11. In that salaries and benefits for staff are nothing to brag about, these funds will be used to help supplement salaries and fringe benefits of staff.

### SUICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE

Kiersten's Ride is sponsoring a Suicide Prevention Conference in Gaylord from September 26 through September 28. Anyone interested in attending the conference can get the details and registration information at <http://www.northernmediation.org/state-84/> on the NCM website.

### NEW LOOK FOR THE WEBSITE

NCM has contracted with Abuzz Creative to redesign its website. Although the present website is passable, it lacks vitality, is cumbersome, is dated, and is not compatible with the various social media of today. Marcie Wolfe is in the process of this redesign. Hopefully, the new website will be ready to go within the next month. Funding for this project has been made possible through grants from the Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and the Charlevoix County Community Foundation.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Events will take their course; it is no good of being angry at them. He is happiest who wisely turns them to the best account. ~ Euripides