



# Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

## BRIDGES

October  
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### DAY OF CARING



Thanks to the volunteer efforts of Mallory Pardee and Ken Stanley coupled with the Northern Community Mediation staff, the NCM office is sparkling clean. We all worked together to scrub down all of the woodwork and wash the windows and blinds. Additionally, all of the carpeting was cleaned. Of course, our hard work had to be rewarded; so, we celebrated over lunch at City Park. We also need to thank United Way for arranging for 583 volunteers to work at the various non-profit organizations on the Day of Caring.

### UNBELIEVABLE

As you can well imagine, there is not much that our Intake Coordinators have not heard. This one, however, is a doozie. Intake was being done with the husband in a divorce case. When the subject of his affair came up during the intake, the man's response was, "Well, I wouldn't really describe it as an affair. It's more of a friendship with benefits." If you were the Intake Coordinator, how would you respond?

### THINKING OF YOU

Our sympathy is extended to Pat Pulver on the death of her father.

Joyfulness is extended to Jim Minder on his recovery from serious surgeries.

Due to a career advancement in employment of her husband, Kirsten Cochrane has moved downstate. Kirsten had been a mediator for NCM for over 10 years. We will miss you.

### ETHICAL DILEMMA

In a divorce mediation, the parties reluctantly agree that they must put their beach house on the market at a low price to sell it as soon as possible. The mediator knows her sister is looking for a beach house in that area.

- a. May the mediator mention this to the parties during the mediation?
- b. After the mediation ends, the mediator calls her sister and tells her to look for a listing of a beach house at a certain address. Has the mediator done anything unethical?

### SAVE THESE DATES

**Tuesday, November 9:** Another mediator roundtable is scheduled from 4:00pm to 5:30pm on It will be held at the NCM office. If you have any specific issues you would like to have discussed, let Jane know.

**Wednesday, November 17:** The Honorable Ralph Guy, who presides over the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Federal Court of Appeals will be the guest speaker at a dinner party held at Birchwood Country Club. Cost is \$35.00/person with a cash bar. You will receive an invitation the beginning of October.

**Tuesday, December 14:** NCM will host its annual holiday party from 4:30pm to 6:00pm. You will receive an invitation the beginning of December

### A FEW REMINDERS

As mediators, you are not responsible for collecting fees. The most that is expected is that if a party comes with money, take it, thank him/her, and put the money in the packet.

The staff tries to remember to make certain that the windows above the doors of the mediation rooms are closed. If, however, we forget, please close them. The reason for this request is that people in the hallway can hear everything that is being said when the windows are open.

### CHARLEVOIX OFFICE WATER

When mediating a case at the Charlevoix office, please use the carafe and glasses for water at the mediation table. The exception to this is when the mediation has so many people at it that it would be impossible to keep the carafe filled. Then, use the bottled water. Thanks for your cooperation on this matter.