



# Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &  
Charlevoix Counties

May 18, 2017

For more information contact Jane Millar at 231.487.1771

## Annual Appreciation Luncheon

On Monday, May 15, Northern Community Mediation (NCM) held its annual Appreciation Luncheon. At noon, guests gathered at City Park Grill in Petoskey for lunch and social time. Kathy Lane, a mediator and past executive director of NCM, introduced the keynote speaker, The Honorable Frederick Mulhauser. She stressed the important role that Judge Mulhauser played in establishing innovative programs, such as the Child Protection Mediation, the Victim-Offender Mediation Program and Lakeview Academy.

During Judge Mulhauser's speech, he reflected on his years on the bench and talked about the importance of preventative approaches and the value of restorative practices over punitive methods. As a result of his pioneering attitude, he explained that more and more communities are working with youth in a less adversarial and less litigious way than in the past. It is important to stress the positive rather than the negative.

Following Judge Mulhauser's talk, Executive Director Jane Millar presented the annual awards. Normally, only one person is recognized in each of the categories. In two categories, however, two people were acknowledged because they had contributed substantially and equally.

The Rookie Mediator of the Year Award goes to a mediator who has been trained within the past two years and goes above and beyond "the call of duty." The recipients of this award were Rob and Ruth Brown. The Veteran Mediator of the Year Award is presented to a mediator who has been mediating for more than two years and exhibits dedication and willingness to go out of his/her way. Again, two individuals were honored: Lou Diaz and Susan Hannah.

The Advocate of the Year Award is bestowed upon an individual who supports and promotes mediation. Wendy Viles from the 90<sup>th</sup> District Court was asked to come forward to accept this recognition.

There was a fourth award that was presented. The Leah Award is one that is not necessarily given every year. Its name is in memory of Leah Green, who was a mediator, trainer, and advocate for mediation. The Leah Award is for someone who has been dedicated to the cause over a period of time and has made a significant contribution to the field of mediation. The Leah Award was presented to Judge Mulhauser not only for his years of service, but also for the significant contributions he has made in the field of law over the years.

Northern Community Mediation is a non-profit organization that provides an alternative means of resolving conflict. Trained mediators, who meet with the parties involved in a dispute, facilitate so that the individuals themselves can resolve the conflict

Anyone interested in learning more about Northern Community Mediation should contact Dr. Jane Millar at 231.487.1771.

Pictured from left to right are Ruth Brown, Rob Brown, Lou Diaz, Wendy Viles, Judge Mulhauser, and Susan Hannah.

Main Office  
415 State Street  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
231.487.1771 (voice) 231.487.1770 (fax)