



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

July 2004
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LOTS OF FUN!

Set aside **Saturday, October 9!** Northern Community Mediation will host a picnic for all mediators, staff members, and their families (including the kids). The exact time is yet to be determined, but it will be in the afternoon. The location is Depot Beach in Charlevoix. There will be food to eat, drinks to quench your thirst, conversation with friends, and even games like badminton and horseshoes for those who choose to play. Hopefully, **October 9** will be a sunny, fall day in northern Michigan. If in climate weather descends upon us, however, we will have a shelter to protect us. Details of our party will follow in future newsletters. In the mean time, call if you have any questions.

UPDATE TRAINING

In order to maintain our high quality of mediation services, NCM will be offering three, update-training workshops each year. They will be held in the months of February, May and September. Our goal is to have each mediator attend at least one of these sessions each year.

With alterations in policies continuously occurring and modifications in procedures being instituted by the State, it is essential that we have a means of explaining those changes in detail to our mediators. The time commitment for each of the workshops will be no more than three hours, and in all probability will be closer to two hours.

We would like your opinion as to the time of day that would be best to hold a workshop. Let us know when you would prefer we held these sessions: morning, afternoon or early evening.

The first update-training workshop has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, September 14. As soon as we get some feedback relating to the best time of the day to hold a session, we will let you know so that you can put it on your calendar.

VOLUNTEERISM

In a recent, representative survey, 46.1% of those interviewed reported having volunteered in 2003. Women volunteer more often than men, with 52.1% of women volunteering and 39.3% of men. The major reasons cited for not volunteering were being too busy (59.4%), health/illness (12.1%), being too old (6.6%), and defunct organization (5.6%).

The age bracket of 25 – 29 had the lowest volunteerism rate (25.9%), while the 30 – 39 age group had the highest participation rate (66.6%).

Of those surveyed, education (26%) drew the most volunteers followed by religion (23.5%), youth development (17.7%), human services (15%), health (10.3%), political organizations (7.4%), arts/culture (7.1%), and environmental organizations (5.2%).

FORTY-HOUR TRAINING

The dates for the forty-hour training have been finalized.

Dates & Time

Thursday	September 16	5:00 pm–9:00pm
Friday	September 17	8:30 am- 5:30pm
Saturday	September 18	8:30 am-5:30 pm
Thursday	September 24	5:00 pm–9:00pm
Friday	September 25	8:30 am- 5:30pm
Saturday	September 26	8:30 am-5:30 pm

For those individuals who are willing to mediate for NCM, there will be no charge.

Help us spread the word of this upcoming training.

SYMPATHY

Our thoughts are with Janet Vandenberg on the death of her father.