



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARDS



Pictured from left to right: Doug Van Epps, Annette Wells, Jane Millar, Bonnie Hanes

On Monday, June 30, Governor Rick Snyder recognized five finalists in each of eight categories at the fourth-annual, service-awards ceremony, which was held at the Gem Theatre in Detroit. The Citizen Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) was one of five finalists for the Outstanding Volunteer Program Award in the state of Michigan. Representing the CDRP were Doug Van Epps (Executive Director of the CDRP for the state of Michigan, Annette Wells (Executive Director of the Gaylord center), Bonnie Hanes (Executive Director of the Oakland center, and Jane Millar (Executive Director of Northern Community Mediation). Although the CDRP was not the winner of its category, the evening was one of celebration and festivities. In addition to the introduction of all 40 finalists and the announcement of the winners within each of the eight categories, Toppermost performed a tribute to the Beatles.

FUTURE MEDIATOR

Last month we were able to let you know that mediator Analisa Charlton had given birth to a little girl, but we had no details. Now we have the full scoop. Daisy Rachel Charlton was born at 1:12pm on Tuesday, May 27. She weighed 6 lbs. 13 oz, and was 19 inches long. According to Analisa, her husband and she are starting to get their "parenting sea legs." Daisy does prefer to be awake at night rather than during the day. Aren't newborns wonderful?

USELESS FACT

Children laugh about 400 times a day. Adults laugh an average of 15 times a day.

SECURITY & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Dennis Mac Donell, who serves as the Court Security Specialist with the Michigan Supreme Court, facilitated a Safety and Security Workshop from 9:00am to noon on Friday, June 20 at the Perry Hotel. The agenda included court security, personal safety, powers of observation, potentially violent situations and bomb threats. Based upon a visitation to the NCM office, Mac Donell also evaluated NCM's security and safety measures and made several recommendations. One of his suggestions was the installation of an alert system that would include an audio alert upon a person's arriving on the stairway landing going up the stairs to the NCM offices and a camera installed on the landing, the image of which would be viewable on the three computers of the staff. NCM is in the process of locating funding in order to implement his recommendations.

THANK YOU REVENUE SHARING

Due to the fact that as of April 8, 2014 the Microsoft security patch would no longer cover Windows XP, it was essential that Northern Community Mediation replace all of its computers. The situation was best described as "running a computer with Windows XP would be like turning on your house's security system but leaving the doors and windows open." The estimate for the entire upgrade was \$5,592. Therefore, NCM requested \$4,734 from the Revenue Sharing Board to help defray the costs. Fortunately, the grant request was approved. So, a big thank you to the Revenue Sharing Board.

POSITIVE THOUGHTS

Keep mediator Jim Minder and his mediator wife Susan in your thoughts. Jim is battling with cancer.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEDIATION PROGRAM

NCM is working collaboratively with the Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District to implement the School Attendance Mediation Program in the 11 school districts and 3 charter schools within the Char-Em ISD service area. In August, there will be special training for those mediators who would like to be a part of this exciting program. The training will be offered two times. Stay tuned for the dates and times.

QUOTE FOR THE DAY

"If you can't laugh at yourself, life's gonna seem a whole lot longer than you like." ~ Natalie Portman in the 2004 film, "Garden State."