



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &
Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

June 2005

Vol. 2 No. 6

GRANTS

So far, the year 2005 has been a good one in terms of money received from grants. In case you were unaware of our good fortune, let me draw your attention to the following opportunities.

Charlevoix County Community Foundation:

- \$500 anonymous donation to be used towards operational expenses
- \$1475 given by J.D. Boydston and Cynthia Johnson in memory of their father, Gordon Boydston, to be used for operational expenses
- \$520 for creating and producing brochures for the VORP (Victim Offender Reconciliation Program)

Charlevoix Lion's Club

- \$748.99 for television with VCR and DVD plus stand to be used largely for VORP

Petoskey-Harbor Springs Community Foundation

- \$1000 to be used for emergency replacement of tower, keyboard and mouse that "died."

Revenue Sharing

- \$2,965 for purchase of two books "Parents Are Forever" and "Divorced But Still My Parents" to be distributed among participants in divorce mediations and for implementation of program to assist parents and their children through the divorce process

Those of you who are divorce and/or post judgment trained will receive a set of the above mentioned books, as well as training in the use of the books for the parents and their children.

CONGRATULATIONS

John Martin Jarema (to be called Jack) arrived into this world on April 11, 2005. He is the son of one of our board members, John Jarema. John said that mother and son are doing well.

IN THE NEWS

In the May 27 edition of the *Petoskey News-Review*, Memorial Day was a primary topic. Bob Drebenstedt, who is one of our mediators and also the veterans affairs director of the Charlevoix County Veterans Affairs Office, was one of four people who were featured in one of the articles. Among other things, Bob drew attention to the fact that "the United States is losing 1,700 World War II veterans a day." Bob also agreed with the others that the federal government is making cuts in the veterans administration program, which means that many veterans do not receive needed medical attention. If you are interested in reading the article, it is posted on our bulletin board in the hallway of NCM. By the way, Bob's picture was even in the paper.

BOARD MEETING

Jill Ryan and Bill Lovett, two of our board members, attended a one-day workshop conducted by Andrew Thomas in Lansing on Thursday, May 19. Not only is Thomas the Executive Director of the Center for Dispute Settlement, which handle thousands of disputes each year in its eight-county region in central New York, he is a nationally acclaimed expert on mediation in relationship to capacity building.

Jill and Bill will be sharing the knowledge they gained from their participation in the workshop at the next board meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday, July 14.