



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &
Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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YOU WILL BE MISSED

Pat Dull started working for Northern Community Mediation the beginning of 2003. Her first responsibilities were that of an administrative assistant. This was followed by her serving as an Intake Coordinator. In October 2004, NCM entered into an agreement with the courts to handle the Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP). Coupled with the Access & Visitation (ACVS) Program, Pat became the Program Coordinator for these two projects. Upon the retirement of Kathy Lame as the Permanency Planning Mediation Program (PPMP) Director, Pat gave up the ACVS Program so that she could oversee the PPMP along with the VORP.

Four-and-a-half years later, Pat has now retired from NCM. On such occasions, it is natural and right to give accolades and sing praises for the contributions of an employee. In the case of Pat, however, such behavior is more than called for. Pat took a mediocre VORP and turned it into a viable, meaningful, significant program that has made a difference in the lives of many individuals. Additionally, she willingly stepped up to the plate when we needed someone to oversee the PPMP, and she did an excellent job.

Yes, Pat, you will be missed. Congratulations on your retirement. Enjoy it. You deserve it.

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

Ex-board member and past-president of NCM, John Rohe, stopped by the office during his recent visit to northern Michigan. It was good to see him.

A BABY

Mediator Mary Catherine Hannah is due to have her second child on February 29, 2008—Leap Year.

FLOWERS

NCM recently received a beautiful arrangement of cut flowers from a mediation participant. It was her way of expressing thanks to NCM, and particularly to Intake Coordinator Bert Rousseau and mediators Susan Davis and Dick Hendrian. How neat is that?

RISING TO THE OCCASION

Thank you to new mediator Gary Barfknecht. Gary has agreed to head-up the coordination of the Emmet County small claims on Thursday afternoons.

IN THE NEWS

It could be said that people who are mediators are caring individuals who want to make the world a better place for everyone. Therefore, it should not be surprising to learn that mediator Gayle Miller, along with her husband Tom Mroczkowski, grew from being foster parents to making a permanent difference in the life of a child. We all know that to take on such a responsibility after you have already raised your family is an act of love.

Also in the *Petoskey News-Review* was a letter to the editor by board member Bill Lovett. In response to the financial situation in Michigan, Bill advocates that “the state needs immediate additional revenue, and I recommend that the legislature return from their one month vacation and pass a graduated income tax that meets the revenue needs for the upcoming year.”

On a lighter side, there was a great picture of board member Julie Witthoef. As the editor for the *Charlevoix Courier*, her picture appeared in an ad for the paper. Speaking of the *Charlevoix Courier*, I want to thank Julie for the great article on our donor campaign that appeared in the paper.

DONOR CAMPAIGN

If you have not yet given to the donor campaign, please give serious consideration to do so. Your contributions will help to offset the state funding cuts that NCM faces next year.

CHARLEVOIX OFFICE

The Charlevoix office should now have all of the supplies you will need, including bottled water. We do ask for your assistance. When you are over there doing mediation, if you notice that the supplies are low, please, let us know. Thanks.

SYMPATHY

Condolences are in order to Ron Moore on the death of his mother-in-law.