

# NORTHERN COMMUNITY MEDIATION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2000

## NEWS, NEWS, NEWS...

The Northern Community Mediation Center increased its annual caseload 53% in 1999. We mediated 149 cases, conciliated 18 cases, and facilitated 5 cases. Of the cases mediated and conciliated, 78% resulted in an agreement.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Please call the center to register for any of the following events:

### Adult Guardianship Mediation Training

March 20-21  
Ann Arbor, MI

### Domestic Violence Seminar

\*This seminar will be facilitated by Kathy Lame  
March 23 6-9 p.m.  
Community Health Education Center, Petoskey

### 40-hour Training-Ann Arbor

Mar. 24, 25, 26, 31, Apr. 1, 2

### 40-hour Training-Canton Twp

March 31, April 1, 7, 8

### Balanced and Restorative Justice Conference

May 15-17  
Grand Traverse Resort  
Traverse City, MI

### 40-hour Training-Ann Arbor

October 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22

## BOARD NEWS

Judge Mulhauser has let us know that court appointed guardians are needed. If anyone is interested in becoming a court appointed guardian, please contact Cyndie Lieberman at 547-7214 or Rita Brubacker at 348-1764. They will be able to explain the limited time requirements involved and answer any questions you may have.

Even though we have received funding for this year, we continue to look for long term funding sources. If you have knowledge of such sources, please contact Lyn Jenks, 2000 Funding Committee Chair, at 487-4845.

## MEDIATOR CORNER

The update training, held January 13<sup>th</sup>, provided an opportunity for mediators to brush up on their skills and visit with one another. Kudos and Thanks to *Judy's Restaurant* of Charlevoix for providing the wonderful hearty winter meal which followed the training.

The Volunteer of the Year Award for 1999

was awarded to Leah Green. Leah has been mediating for the center for almost six years now. She has taken all of the advanced trainings offered. Leah has been specially trained to conduct the 40-hour trainings. She has also trained to do Special Education, Permanency Planning (PPMP), Postal mediation. Leah has gone beyond the call of duty this year mediating a total of 100 hours and donating 50 more hours of her time to help train our new mediators last spring. She is a tremendous asset to the center. Congratulations, Leah!

During some of her work with the new mediators, Leah suggested that we print up some sample statements and questions that the new mediators can use to help get them started:

✂ Cut out and paste to an index card ✂

### Reflect feelings....

How did you feel about that?

You really feel...

It sounds like you are...

What would make you feel better about....

If you were the other party, how would you feel about...

### Reflect agreements...

It sounds like you both see this...

You seem to agree that...

I hear you both saying...

You have both tried to...

### Probe for solutions...

How could this be better?

How would you have done this if you were (the other party)?

How would you like to see things improve?

What would you like to see happen?

What is a solution you could live with?

What is important to you?

What do you hope to accomplish?

## OTHER BUSINESS:

This year is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Community Dispute Resolution Program in Michigan. I would like to celebrate with an open house in the spring. Any and all ideas are welcome.

*Maartje*