



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet &
Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

April 2006
Vol. 3 No. 4

A BRAND NEW BABY

Congratulations to Ava on the birth of her baby brother, Donovan Atchison. Van was born at 9:47 am (not 4:47 am as stated in the newspaper) on Tuesday, March 21. He weighed in at 7 pounds, 1 ounce. By the way, congratulations should also go to our board president Cathy Atchison and her husband Mike, the proud parents.

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS

When down in New Orleans helping build homes for the victims of hurricane Katrina, Jane Gootee-Nelson's husband Stan fell off a roof. The good news is that he survived the fall. The bad news is that he had to have surgery. The good news is that the surgery should take care of everything.

As if that was not enough, the bad news is that Jane's father had to have surgery just a few days after Stan's surgery. The good news is that he is doing well.

Jane, we hope you too are doing well.

SPEAKING OF DOING WELL

Although antibiotics had to be used to take care of a slight wound infection as a result of surgery, Dick Hendrian is up and about. In fact, as this newsletter is being written, he is at small claims court doing mediations.

SOME GREAT TRUTHS

Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.

Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.

HUGE SUCCESS!

Northern Community Mediation did it again. The second annual Theatre Party was a hit. Although there are still a few bills to be paid and some money yet to come in, it looks as if we will make over \$7500. WOW!

All of this was possible thanks to the hard work and volunteer efforts of many people: the sponsors, the restaurants, the door-prize contributors, those of you who sold tickets and those of you who attended.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

SPEAKING OF THANK YOU

At the last minute, both Preston Feather and Home Depot donated aprons that our volunteers could use at the Theatre Party. These were particularly helpful for those who were selling raffle tickets. They had pockets in which to place the tickets and the money.

PARENTING BOOKS

Several months ago, we started a pilot project using the books *Parents Are Forever* and *Divorced But Still My Parents*. Unfortunately, our plan did not evolve as we thought it would. The main problem related to the distribution of the books. Consequently, we have partnered with Friend of the Court. As parents come to the court to file for divorce, when children are involved, the parents are required to participate in a parenting class. Our books are being distributed at that time. What is particularly exciting about this partnership is that we have a means of tracking the effectiveness of the books because we have created both a control group and a test group. We will keep you posted as to those results.

HAVE A GREAT SPRING BREAK