



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

June 2010

Vol. 7 No. 6

LOOKING FOR A NEW PROFESSION



Pictured left to right: Ray Kiogima (past board member), Olivia Mathers (Frankie's girlfriend), Frankie Spencer (Cheryl's son), Mary Jane Kiogima (Ray's wife), Toni Arthur (board member), and Dick Hendrian (mediator).

For the past six years, Ray and Mary Jane Kiogima have served as bartenders at the annual Theatre Party fundraiser. In fact, they say that they look forward to doing so and cannot wait until next year's party. This year, they were joined with four other up-and-coming bartenders. All of them handled their jobs as professionals. Thanks to them and all of the other volunteers who helped make the Theatre Party a success: Cheryl Bauman, Suzie Engle, Christine Gebhard, Lisa Hoyt, Bert Rousseau, Connie Saltonstall, and Nancy Sherman.

ROUNDTABLE

The next Mediator Roundtable will be scheduled for sometime near the end of the summer. At the latest, we will post the date in the July newsletter. We can tell you that it will be sometime near the end of the summer/beginning of fall. A specific topic that will be discussed is the role of attorneys in the mediation process and how to deal with attorneys who are not always cooperative in the process.

REMINDER

It is crucial that mediators remain neutral. Therefore, please refrain from using religious references, such as "Is this what God would want you to do."

NAME TAGS

Not only does the staff have new name tags, we also got name tags for all of the board members. At the top is "Northern Community Mediation," below that is the name of the person, and below that is the position held, such as Intake Coordinator or Board Member. Additionally, we had five name tags made up that do not have a specific name, but have "Mediator" printed on them. So, when you are mediating, feel free to put on the mediator name tag. Just remember to take it off before you leave. These name tags are stored in the drawer of the desk in the large mediation room.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AT ITS BEST

On Friday, May 14, Jane Gootee Nelson, one of our mediators and also an attorney, facilitated a meeting between representatives from the Bay Harbor community and Petoskey officials. The issues related to public safety topics. This meeting was "the first of several which city officials plan at Bay Harbor this year to discuss governmental issues relevant to the resort." At the conclusion of the meeting, Jane stated that she believed that there had "been a lot of good back-and-forth communication—honest communication, which is always helpful." Thanks, Jane, for a job well done and for giving Northern Community Mediation high visibility.

THINKING OF YOU

Mediator Suzy Engle had hip replacement surgery on June 2. We are thinking of you, hope your recovery is a rapid one, and look forward to your return as a mediator.

IN THE NEWS

In 2008, "East Jordan was selected as one of 17 communities around the state to participate in an 'associate-level' membership in the Michigan Main Street Program. This gives the town the opportunity for training before becoming a full-fledged Michigan Main Street Program. Ultimately, this program would help in revitalization developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. As Executive Director of the East Jordan Chamber of Commerce, NCM board member May Faculak is highly involved in the implementation of this program.