



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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PROJECT CONNECT



The best way to describe Project Connect, which was held on Wednesday, February 3 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, is that it is a “day of services for those in need.” Haircuts, blankets, educational materials, massages, food, and the list goes on as to what was available at no charge. Staff and volunteers from Northern Community Mediation helped the attendees understand their options when it comes to resolving conflicts; the notorious “sue them” mentality is not necessarily the best approach. Helping convey this message were mediators Mary Horan, Wayne Tri, and Kendal Taylor, who is pictured above explaining the value of mediation.

IN THE NEWS

Intake Coordinator Cheryl Bauman was pictured talking with an attendee at Project Connect in the February 4 issue of the *Petoskey News Review*. Also, pictured in the *Petoskey News Review* was mediator Christine Gebhard for her role as a member-at-large of the Petoskey District Library Board of Directors. The February 10 article featured the library’s receiving funds from Friends of the Library.

THEATRE PARTY

On Tuesday, March 9, NCM will hold its sixth, annual Theatre Party at the Petoskey Cinema. This event is NCM’s major fund raiser. Between 5:30pm and 7:00pm, guests will be able to dine off the food provided by six of our local restaurants and drink non-alcoholic wine and beer. During this time, door prizes will be awarded, and a 50/50 raffle will be held. At 7:00pm, everyone will be able to go to the movie of his/her choice. If you need a ticket, call the NCM office. Tickets are at a low cost of \$25.00 each.

MEDIATOR ROUNDTABLE

From 4:00pm to 5:00pm on Monday, March 15, there will be a Mediator Roundtable at NCM. If you are interested in participating, let us know. If you have any specific issues you would like to have discussed, please share those ideas with us.

CHILD PROTECTION MEDIATION

So far, nine people have expressed interest in taking the Child Protection Mediation Training. In the ideal world, there would be 12 people participating in these workshops. So, if there are any of you who are still interested, let us know by Friday, March 12.

FORTY HOUR TRAINING

The 2.411, SCAO-approved 40-hour training will be offered at Charlevoix City Hall.

Wednesday, April 21	1:00pm – 5:00pm
Thursday, April 22	8:00am – 5:00pm
Friday, April 23	8:00am – 5:00pm

Wednesday, April 28	1:00pm – 5:00pm
Thursday, April 29	8:00am – 5:00pm
Friday, April 30	8:00am – 5:00pm

Registration forms are available online at <http://www.northernmediation.org/local-11/> or by calling the NCM office at 231.487.1771.

BOARD RETREAT

Past president and mediator Steve Tresidder has agreed to facilitate a Board Retreat, which will be held from 3:00pm to 6:00 pm on Wednesday, April 14. The location has yet to be determined.

AGREEMENT WRITING

Through a recent Advanced Mediator Training held in Traverse City and conducted by attorney Anne Bachle Fifer, we have learned that when the mediators are writing out the agreements, the parties should remain in the room so that they continue to be a part of the process. If they are not in the room while the mediators are drawing up the agreement, it could be construed as the mediators practicing law. Since this advice comes from the expertise of Anne Bachle Fifer, we encourage all mediators to ensure that the parties remain in the room while agreements are being written.