



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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ALWAYS LEARNING



Pictured from left to right: Caroline Smith, Ruthie Brown, 7 Rob Brown

There is always something to learn. Ruthie and Rob Brown came into the center to ask about flash drives, adding lines to the agreement, participant and signature pages, and getting some pointers and a general review on the use of the laptop and the printer in agreement writing. Just to let all of you know, whenever you have any questions relating to the technology, just give us a buzz, come up to the office, and we will be glad to assist you. Whatever your needs and whatever your questions, we are here to help you.

And, speaking of training, mediator Ron Moore took the initiative to come into the center and watch the special education update training. It is great to have dedicated mediators. Thank you to all of you for all that you do to make our center hugely successful.

NEW POSITION

Board member Mary Roberts has been promoted to the elders Director position with the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. This is a well-deserved promotion. Congratulations, Mary.

USELESS FACT

A dog named Cacao in Milan regularly catches the No. 54 bus by himself, to visit his favorite spot in the city. He will only get on if it's the driver that he likes, and once he has reached his destination (a park), he leaps off and wanders around for a few hours before catching the same bus home again.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Although not that often, Lee Hornberger, an attorney from Traverse City, occasionally mediates for Northern Community Mediation. He is also a big advocate of our center, is active in the Michigan Bar Association, especially as it relates to the Alternative Dispute Resolution section of the Bar Association. He has recently been designated by his peers as one of the Best Lawyers in America for 2019. Way to go, Lee!

Also of note is the fact that Executive Director Dr. Jane Millar will receive the Nancy Klein Award as the Alternative Dispute Resolution recipient of the year at the Michigan Bar Association ADR Conference in Traverse City in October.

MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO AROUND

The state legislature has approved \$425,000 as a line item in the state budget to go towards the Citizen Dispute Resolution Program. This funding will be divided among the 18 CDRP centers in the state based upon a weighted caseload formula. This funding is a direct result of the CDRP center directors meeting with their state representatives and lobbying for the cause. This additional funding, however, does not replace the legislative piece that designates a percentage of court filing fees going towards the CDRP program.

SNEAKY! SNEAKY! SNEAKY!

Every once in a while, one of the mediation parties will try to record via his/her cell phone what is being said at the mediation table. Just keep your eyes open and be on the lookout if someone has a phone that could be recording the proceedings.

YOUR SAFETY IS AT STAKE

Three NCM policies to keep in mind:

- The use of personal cell phones by staff, mediators or board members to conduct NCM business is prohibited.
- As a mediator, giving your last name to participants in mediation is prohibited.
- Distribution of person business cards is also prohibited.

The reason for these policies is for your protection. Occasionally, there are participants who can be quite volatile, and we do not want them to have a means of tracking you down.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Before couples get married, they should have to assemble an IKEA bookcase together. ~ Anonymous