



Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

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and Emmet Counties

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DATE

NAME
ADDRESS
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DEAR

Jim was met by his parents at the airport in Detroit upon return from his tour of duty in Afghanistan. By the time they drove back to Petoskey, it was after midnight. Although he was excited to be home, Jim was exhausted. He walked up the steps of his home, dropped his gear on the front porch, and went inside to collapse.

When he finally awakened the following morning, he went out to the front porch to gather his Army gear. Everything was gone. This was serious because Jim was responsible for his belongings. Fortunately, the police were able to locate all of his gear, as well as identify Tony, the 15-year old boy who had stolen his property.

This case was ordered to Northern Community Mediation under the Victim-Offender Reconciliation Program. During the mediation, Tony learned how serious his offense was. Jim was totally responsible for all of his gear. If lost, misplaced or stolen, Jim would have had to replace at his own expense all of his equipment. Additionally, this would be a black mark on his Army record.

On the other hand, Jim learned about Tony's less-than-desirable home life. His father was incarcerated for armed robbery. Tony shared with Jim the fact that he would often get home from school and find his mother passed out on the couch in the living room from abuse of alcohol or illegal drugs. Since there was no food in the refrigerator, he would often go without dinner or find a friend's house at which he could get fed and spend the night. Jim was silent as Tony talked.

It then came time for resolution. Jim looked Tony in the eye and said, "This is what I want for restitution. I would like to become your 'big brother.' I cannot change your circumstances at home, but hopefully, I can give you support and some stability in life. Dinner can be with my family and me. You will always have a bed at our home. I want to work with you. I want to be your friend."

Through follow-up, we know that Jim and Tony have remained in contact with one another. Tony's grades in school, as well as his attitude, have improved. Jim is making a difference in Tony's life.

This is what can happen through mediation. This is the power of mediation.

Please, consider a generous donation to Northern Community Mediation so that we can continue to impact community members in a positive, significant way.

Sincerely,

Jane Millar, Ed.D.
Executive Director

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