



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

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LAURA & CAROLINE



Pictured left to right: Laura Buckingham & Caroline Smith

On July 8, Laura Buckingham joined the Northern Community Mediation team as the new case manager. For the next three weeks, Laura was in training under the supervision of Case Manager Caroline Smith, whose final day at NCM was July 26. Caroline has resigned from NCM so that she can begin studying at Chicago Kent College of Law, which is affiliated with the Illinois Institute of Technology. Smith explained, "Although I'm not certain exactly what my specialty will ultimately be, my intention is to focus on issues of public interest."

Between the fact that Caroline is an excellent trainer and Laura is a quick learner, the transition is proving to be relatively seamless. If you have not yet met Laura, make a point of stopping by the center to do so. She is friendly, outgoing and competent. To quote Laura, "I have always appreciated the contributions of non-profit organizations, and now I have the opportunity to work for one."

BULLYING COLORING BOOKS

Thanks to the generosity of the Kiwanis clubs of Boyne City, Charlevoix, Harbor Springs, and Petoskey morning, NCM has designed and printed over 4,000 coloring books that will be distributed to all of the elementary school children in the Char-Em ISD service area. The purpose of the coloring book has four goals: 1) to draw attention to the impact bullying has upon its victims; 2) to demonstrate the number of students who have witnessed bullying; 3) to give students the tools to combat bullying whether they are victims or witness bullying; and 4) to ask the students to be Upstanders rather than Bystanders when they see someone being bullied.

COURT ORDER

Effective January 1, 2020, the Michigan Supreme Court has added an addition to Rule 3.224 of the Michigan Court Rules relating to a Friend of the Court Alternative Dispute Resolution Plan. The intent of the court rule is for Friend of the Court to make use of mediation in cases involving parenting time, child custody, or support that arises from a domestic relations matter. The chief judge of each circuit court is required to submit a friend of the court alternative dispute resolution (ADR) plan to the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) for approval as a local administrative order. NCM staff will work with Judge Charles Johnson from 57th Circuit court and Judge Joe Hayes from 33rd Circuit Court in developing these plans. This could mean that NCM will be receiving more referrals from Friend of the Court.

CHARLEVOIX THEATRE PARTY

Summer isn't even over, and our planning is turning to the fall. On Monday, October 8, Northern Community Mediation will host its fourth, annual theatre party in Charlevoix. Although the theatre party is a fun event, it is also a fund raiser for NCM. Even though ticket sales and in kind contributions provide revenue for the event, it is the sponsorships that have the greatest impact on the earnings. Therefore, if you know of an organization, company or individual who might be interested in being a sponsor, please take the initiative to "make the ask." As an FYI, tickets prices are \$25 each.

Sponsorship opportunities are as follows:

- \$25 Your name will be listed in the program.
- \$100 You will receive 2 tickets and an 1/8 page ad in the program.
- \$250 You will receive 4 tickets and a 1/4 page ad in the program.
- \$500 You will receive 6 tickets and a 1/2 page ad in the program.
- \$1,000 You will receive 10 tickets and a full-page ad in the program.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"It's not a relationship until you argue about whose turn it is to apologize." Anonymous

USELESS FACT

Los Angeles's full name is "El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula". And can be abbreviated to 3.63% of its size, "L.A."