



News Release Date

For more information contact Jane Millar at 231.487.1771

Bullying Hurts Everyone

Four local Kiwanis Clubs are collaborating with Northern Community Mediation (NCM) by funding a “Bullying Coloring Book” that will be distributed to all elementary school students in the Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District service area for a total of almost 3,800 students. The four clubs are the Kiwanis Clubs of Boyne City, Charlevoix and Little Traverse Bay, as well as the Key Club of the Kiwanis Club of Harbor Springs.

“Bullying Hurts Everyone” focuses upon the impact that bullying can have upon its victims. The purpose is to increase sensitivity among young people as to how hurtful bullying can be. The goal is to engage the students in a dialog through questions such as “What is bullying?”, “Have you ever seen someone being bullied?” and “How do you think that person felt?”

The intent of these questions is to lead into a conversation about how the students themselves can prevent bullying. By being a “bystander,” they can simply walk away from or stand and watch bullying occur. Being an “upstander,” however, means that they themselves can try to stop it, tell an adult and be kind to the person being bullied.

A fact included in the eight-page coloring book explains that of the 56.6 million students in the United States, 7 in 10 have seen bullying in their schools. The final page of the coloring book asks the students to share with their families and friends what they have learned about bullying.

NCM’s Executive Director Jane Millar has sent out letters to the 22, elementary-school principals in the service area so that she can set up a time to attend one of their staff meetings for the purpose of distributing the coloring books and explaining how the workbook can be used. According to Millar, “The beauty of this coloring book is that it is easy for the teachers and school counselors to use. No special training is required.”

Anyone interested in learning more about Northern Community Mediation and specifically this project should contact Dr. Jane Millar at 231.487.1771.

Northern Community Mediation is a non-profit organization that provides an alternative means of resolving conflict. Trained mediators, who meet with the parties involved in a dispute, facilitate so that the individuals themselves can resolve the conflict

Pictured: Seated from left to right Hannah Bearss (Boyne City) and Jane Millar. Standing left to right Bill Lovett (Charlevoix) and Bill Wyman (Little Traverse Bay).

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