



Northern Community Mediation

Where the Solution Is Up To You

Serving Emmet & Charlevoix Counties

BRIDGES

November 2019

Vol. 16 No. 11

BULLYING ACTIVITY BOOKS



Students in Mrs. Daniel's Third Grade Class at St. Francis School in Petoskey

Thanks to the support of four local Kiwanis Clubs (Boyne City, Charlevoix, Harbor Springs and Little Traverse Bay), Northern Community Mediation (NCM) has created an anti-bullying, activity workbook for kindergarten through fifth grade students. Executive Director Jane Millar is in the process of distributing the workbooks to each of the elementary schools within the Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District service area. So far she has met with the staffs at Blackbird Elementary, Charlevoix Montessori Academy, Concord Academy Petoskey, Ellsworth Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, St. Francis Elementary, St. Mary in Charlevoix, and Shay Elementary. The focus of the activity book is to give students the tools and courage to "stand up" for the person being bullied rather than being a bystander. In other words, bullying hurts everyone and bullying is not okay.

WELL RECEIVED

Executive Director Jane Millar was the guest speaker for Connecting Women in Business, which was held on October 22 at The Talcott in Walloon Lake. The topic of her talk was "Conflict in the Workplace." She focused on conflict among co-workers and the fact that a good portion of conflict starts with minor irritants. When not addressed, those relatively negligible annoyances fester and eventually grow into major explosions. She also explained the economic impact that workplace conflict has upon an organization.

USELESS FACT

The characters Bert and Ernie on Sesame Street were named after Bert the cop and Ernie the taxi driver in Frank Capra's

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

It has been brought to the attention of the staff that mediators may not be aware of some of the NCM policies.

- The following wording appears in the confirmation letters that go out to all participants prior to mediation. "Please, note that NCM maintains a smoke free and weapons free environment. In addition, no recording devices are allowed in mediation."
- NCM carries malpractice/liability insurance coverage for its mediators.
- Mediators cannot be forced to testify about what is said in mediation. As a point of clarification, however, they can be subpoenaed. This means that the mediator would have to appear in court, but once there, the court would uphold the confidentiality rule. If a NCM mediator were to be subpoenaed, he/she should contact NCM immediately so that we could arrange for an attorney to be present in court with the mediator.
- It has been suggested that we re-evaluate the wording relating to confidentiality in the Consent to Mediate, NCM staff will do so at the Staff Retreat in November/

STAFF RETREAT

On November 8, NCM will hold its staff retreat at the Perry Hotel. Since this is an all-day event, the NCM office will be closed. The retreat gives the staff an opportunity to evaluate services rendered, determine effectiveness of programs, review forms and documents, and set goals for the following year. If anyone has suggestions or recommendations that should be addressed, contact Karen, Laura or Jane at 487.1771 so that we can incorporate those ideas into the agenda.

CHARLEVOIX THEATRE PAARTY

On Monday, October 14, NCM held its fourth, annual Theatre Party in Charlevoix. At 5:30, close to 100 people gathered at The Weathervane Restaurant for appetizers, drinks and social time. Around 6:15, door prizes were distributed and the winning ticket for the 50/50 raffle was drawn. At 7:00, everyone went to the Charlevoix Cinema to see one of three movies. It was not surprising that the majority of the people went to see Downton Abbey rather than Joker or The Addams Family.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I'm starting my diet on Monday, I'm just not sure which Monday." ~ Anonymous