



# Northern Community Mediation

Where The Solution Is Up To You

October 29, 2020

NAME  
ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE ZIP

Dear NAME:

Two seventeen-year-old boys were traveling on a two-lane road—one going south, the other going north. The young man traveling south crossed the yellow line and hit the car of the young man traveling north. The young man who caused the accident was found guilty of DUI manslaughter—a felony that could have resulted in a sentence of 15 years in prison, considerable fines and a lifetime revocation of his driver's license.

Prior to his sentencing, the prosecuting attorney asked permission to approach the bench. "Your honor, nothing will be served by putting this young man in jail. If both sets of parents would agree, would you consider sending this case to mediation to determine restitution?" All of the parties involved agreed to do so.

At mediation, the young man listened to the anguish of the parents of the boy who had been killed. He had to hear them say, "We will never see our son graduate from high school or college. We will never see our son get married. And since he was our only child, we will never have the joy of grandchildren."

The young man then listened to his own parents tell of the devastation the accident had done to their family. How it had impacted his siblings. How they were tormented knowing that their son had caused someone's death. How they could not fathom the sorrow of the parents of the boy that was killed.

It then became time to determine the fate of the young man. The parents of the boy who was killed turned to the young man who was responsible for the death of their son and said, "We cannot bring our son back. What is done is done, but if his life is to have any meaning, our desire is that you turn your life around. We want you to graduate from high school with all As and Bs. We want you to graduate from college. We want you to stay off drugs and alcohol. We want you to check in with us quarterly. We want you to understand the anguish you have caused us and your family. We want you to become a responsible human being."

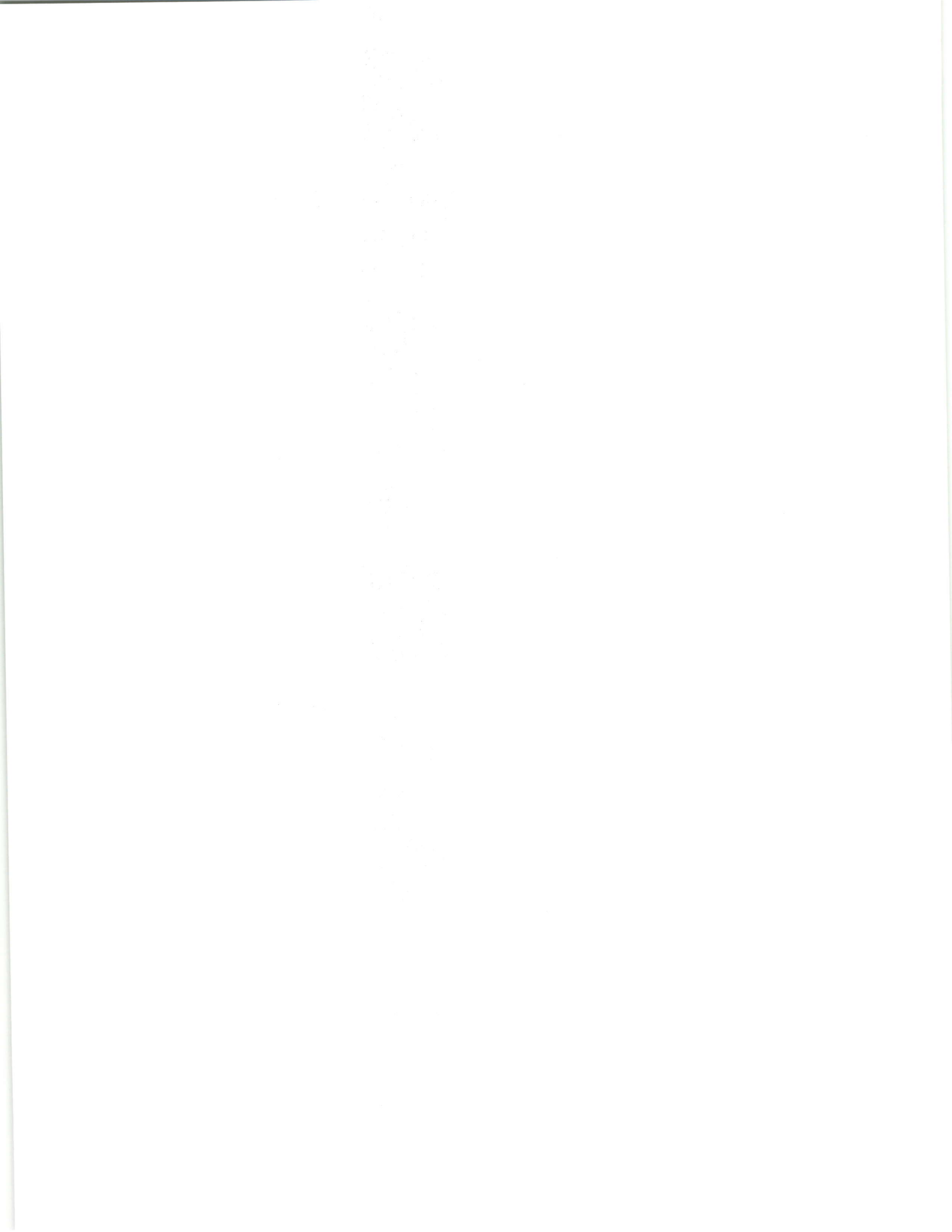
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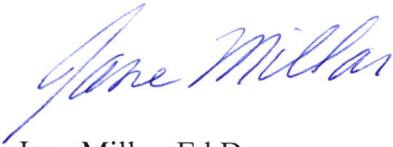
The young man graduated from both high school and college. He saw the parents of the boy who was killed monthly. He got married. At the wedding, the parents of the boy who was killed sat with his own parents in the front row of the church. And when his wife and he had children, the parents of the boy who was killed became another set of grandparents.

Your support of Northern Community Mediation (NCM) makes the mediation of cases like this one possible. Whether mediating life-altering cases such as the one described in this letter, assisting our local schools with attendance issues, or resolving rent disputes, we know that mediation is a productive way to resolve conflicts.

Your gifts to NCM make mediation services accessible to members of our northern Michigan community. In these particularly challenging times, we need your help to raise \$10,000 before the end of this year so that we can continue offering high quality services to which the citizens of Charlevoix and Emmet counties have become accustomed. Every gift, small or large, will make a difference--\$25, \$55, \$100 or more.

Please, make your gift today. Your support of NCM makes a significant difference in the lives of our northern Michigan neighbors and friends.

Sincerely



Jane Millar, Ed.D.  
Executive Director

P.S. Give your gift using the enclosed envelope.

