

A HUGE SUCCESS



Pictured: Preston with her mother, Board Member Brooke Jacoby

Rich from Which Wich cannot be thanked enough. The Which Wich Fundraiser was a huge success. From 11:00am to 7:00pm on Thursday, April 29, Which Wich donated 25% of its proceeds for the day to NCM, which amounted to \$583.30. This coupled with money put into the donation jar brought the day's take to \$583.30. With only \$38.83 in expenses, NCM had a profit of \$544.47. The door prizes went to Josh Smith from Dafter for two tickets to a Bay View performance and Mistelle Langen from Harbor Springs for dinner for two at The Terrace Inn in Bay View.

Special thanks needs to go to Mitch Brown for coming up with the idea, Nikki Devitt for designed the flyer, Maureen Hollocker for designing the donation jar, and Suzi Kanine, Hugh Conklin, Brian Kasiborski, Nikki Devitt, Brooke Jacoby and her daughter Preston for each taking an hour of their time to greet people. Additionally, board members Izabela Babinska, Phil Harmon, Emily Hoffman, Kirstyn Horan and Hob Ingleson aggressively promoted the event, as did Marty VandeCar.

OPENING STATEMENTS

There is a delicate balance between including the essential components of an opening statement without belaboring what needs to be explained. Think about this. The goal of our opening statements should be to ensure that everyone at the table has an understanding of the process. At the same time, we do not want to belabor our opening statements such that they become redundant, boring and sleep inducing.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH & USELESS FACT

Sorry, out of space.

SAVE THESE DATES

40-Hour Training: May 12, 13, 14, 20 & 21

It is not too late to sign up for the 40-hour, general civil mediator training. In order to mediate in the state of Michigan, whether privately or for one of the Citizen Dispute Resolution Program (CDRP) centers, it is essential to take this training. For further information and registration, go to <https://www.northernmediation.org/workshops-trainings/> on the NCM website.

Appreciation Gala Thursday, May 27

The annual Appreciation Gala will be held via Zoom, as was the case last year. This event gives NCM staff an opportunity to thank its many volunteers and give special recognition. For information and how to register, go to <https://www.northernmediation.org/appreciation-gala/> on the NCM website.

Mediator Round Table Thursday, June 3

The focus of this Round Table will give the participants and opportunity to discuss what white privilege means and how it impacts our lives. For further information, go to <https://www.northernmediation.org/workshops-trainings/> on the NCM website.

Advanced Mediator Training Thursday, June 17

This is a 4-hour training. The first two hours will focus on parenting time issues, and the second two hours on nuances involving divorce and domestic cases. Information and registration are available on the NCM website at <https://www.northernmediation.org/workshops-trainings/>

YOUR EXPERTISE

NCM staff is in the process of developing an evaluation form for mediators. In doing so, we have realized that it is the mediators who really have the first-hand knowledge of what sorts of characteristics, practices and behaviors are essential to be an effective mediator. Therefore, we are asking each of you to share your thoughts with us. What would you put in a mediator evaluation form? This could include more tangible measurements, such as the effectiveness of the opening statement and/or more judgmental concepts, such as the ability to remain neutral.

RETIREMENT

After close to thirty years as the Executive Director of the Office of Dispute Resolution under the State Court Administrative Office, Doug VanEpps will be retiring the end of this month. He is solely responsible for the leadership in building a successful statewide program that is respected throughout the county. He will be greatly missed. No replacement for him has yet been announced.

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