

**WHAT A DAY!**



March 23, 2023 will be a day that will always be a memorable one to NCM. Not only did we have a ribbon cutting to celebrate having relocated to our very own office condominium, but also so many of our friends, board members, mediators, Chamber directors, Foundation representatives celebrated with us. The journey to owning our own facility has been a long time coming but has been worth the wait. We are proud of our new home. We have handicap accessibility, convenient parking for our clients, and technological capacity with a professional environment.

**OPEN HOUSES**

Following the ceremonious ribbon cutting, everyone was invited into the new office for some snacks and drinks. Of course, everyone wandered around to see the new space. For those who could not make it to the ribbon cutting, NCM will be hosting a series of open houses, which will take place from 4:30 to 6:00pm in April and May. Keep your eyes and ears open for an e-mail invitation, and if you do not get one, call me.

**THANK YOU COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS**

When the 2023 budget was being prepared, there was no idea that the right piece of property would become available for purchase. Consequently, there was no line item to cover relocation expenses. To help defer those expenses, NCM received \$1,000 from the Sunshine Fund of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation and \$1,000 from the Discretionary Fund of the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation.

**USELESS FACT**

The fall and spring equinoxes are the only two times during the year when the sun rises due east and sets due west.

**RELOCATION EXPENSES**

As you are aware, Northern Community Mediation is a non-profit organization providing mediation services to multiple counties in northern Michigan. In addition to standard mediation services such as divorce, access and visitation, landlord/tenant disputes, and other types of disputes needing resolution, NCM also provides several services focused on strengthening northern Michigan communities. These include school attendance, victim/offender reconciliation, child protection, and behavioral mental health services.

For the past 20 years, NCM has rented the upstairs of the old St. Francis monastery. Although the building has charm, it has always been NCM's dream to own its very own facility—one that has handicap accessibility, convenient parking for its clients and technological capacity with a professional atmosphere. In February of this year, that dream started to come true, and in March, NCM relocated to its new home.

The challenge NCM is facing is the fact that we had no idea that just the right place would become available in 2023. Hence, the 2023 budget did not include a line item for relocation expenses, which to date total \$16,239.48. To help defer those expenses, we are seeking financial donations earmarked for our relocation expenses.

Therefore, we are asking for your help. Please, give serious consideration to making a direct donation to NCM or going to our GoFundMe account.

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/relocaton-expenses-into-new-facility?utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cf+share-flow-1](https://www.gofundme.com/f/relocaton-expenses-into-new-facility?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1)

As an FYI, we have already received \$5,900 towards the relocation expenses: \$2,900 from individuals, \$1,000 from the Emmet-Charlevoix Bar Association and \$1,000 from each of the community foundations. And, it should be pointed out that if it were not for in kind donations, our relocation expenses would be \$6,605.07 above the \$16,239.48

**JOB WELL DONE**

Mediator and board member Hugh Conklin has decided that eight years as a Boyne City commissioner, two of which he has been mayor, "is enough." He has announced that he will not run for re-election. No doubt about it, Hugh will be missed. Fortunately for NCM, Hugh will still be a mediator and treasurer of the board.

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

"If winter comes, can spring be far behind?" —Percy Bysshe Shelley, poet.