

APPRECIATION GALA



Pictured from left to right: Jane Millar, Lisa Hoyt, Suzi Kanine, Cyndy Tonkavich, Brian Kasiborski, Kirstyn Horan, Bill Cattin, Mark Andresky

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening of Thursday, May 30 when Northern Community Mediation celebrated its 19th Appreciation Gala. The food was delicious, the drinks were tasty, but most of all the company was fun to be with. The following people were recognized for their contributions to NCM in 2023:

- Jeff Caine Rookie Mediator of the Year
- Bruce Herbert Veteran Mediator of the Year
- Bill Cattin Advocate of the Year

The big surprise, however, was the presentation of the Leah Award. For all of the work that they did towards the purchase of NCM's new home, the 2022/2023 Board of Directors was presented with the Leah Award. Pictured above are those individuals who were present for the celebration. Although Mitch Brown was there, somehow he did not get in the picture. Those who could not attend the Gala were Jenny Brower, Hugh Conklin, Phil Harmon, Hob Ingleson, Nikki LaDeur and Judy Zorn. Brooke Jacoby was recognized posthumously.

The Appreciation Gala is one of the most important responsibilities that NCM Has. Why? If it were not for our mediators, NCM would not exist. That is the plain and simple truth of the matter.

USEFUL USELESS FACTS

- It feels good to give, even if you are just thinking about it.
- Givers are happier than non-givers.
- Giving can improve your physical and mental health.
- Giving strengthens social bonds.
- Giving is contagious.
- Giving evokes gratitude.

TRIBAL WORKSHOPS

On Thursday, May 16 from 1:30pm to 4:30pm, thirteen of us participated in the workshop at Tribal Headquarters. What an outstanding learning experience it was. Board member and mediator Phil Harmon is to be lauded for his organization of the workshop, which was divided into four sections. We first learned about the language and the culture of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa, followed by the history, followed by the governmental structure and services available, and highlighted with a tour of the facility. Trust me when I say that this description does not even come close to explaining the impact this workshop had on all of us.

Unfortunately, we have had to re-schedule the workshop on the tribal court because of a conflict in the courtroom itself. You will be notified as soon as a new date and time have been set up.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Now that things have somewhat settled down, we will be focusing on our Capital Campaign. More than 600 letters will be going out by the end of the month. Parties are being scheduled in people's homes, and meetings are being scheduled with individuals. We are off to a good start. As of today, \$12,875 has been received, and \$37,725 has been pledged, which means that \$149,400 still needs to be raised.

How can you help raise the remaining funds?

- If you know of individuals whom you think would contribute, ask them if they would consider a donation. If you could use supporting materials, just ask the staff for brochures, copies of the bi-annual newsletter, or copies of the Capital Campaign solicitation letter.
- If you know of individuals whom you think would be worth approaching but do not feel comfortable making the ask, give us the names and staff or board members will make the ask.
- Give serious consideration to making a contribution yourself. We would really like to be able to put your name on the Capital Campaign Donor Plaque that will be on permanent display.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

- "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." ~ Winston Churchill
- "Fundraising is the gentle art of teaching the joy of giving." ~ Hank Rosso
- "Think of giving not as a duty, but as a privilege." ~ John D. Rockefeller, Jr.
- "Happiness doesn't result from what we get, but from what we give." ~ Ben Carson