



Helping individuals and organizations in the Midlands resolve conflict, improve relationships, and strengthen community since 1998

September 2009

Read All About

The State published an article about the CMC on Sunday, August 9th. Please click on the link below:

“Mediators help resolve disputes”

<http://www.thestate.com/local/story/894888.html>

SAVE THE DATE: Conflict Resolution Day!
CMC Cordially Invites You



in conjunction with the SC Chapter of the

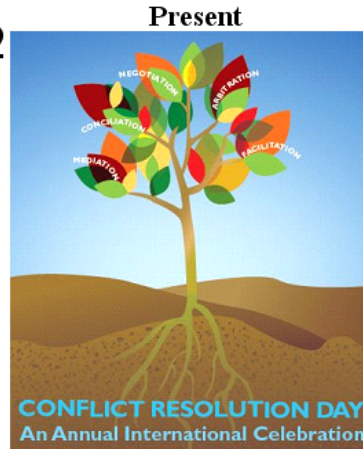


Association for Conflict Resolution

CONFLICT RESOLUTION DAY 2009
Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

Date October 15, 2009
Time: 7:30am -9:30am
The Vista Room at the Blue Marlin
1200 Lincoln Street • Columbia, SC

Tickets are \$5 each
RSVP by October 13
To the Community Mediation Center
Phone 803-714-1176
Fax 803-714-0737
Email Dorothy Garretson :
dorothy@communitymediationcenter.org



October is Conflict Resolution Month at the CMC

As the Community Mediation Center is celebrating Conflict Resolution Day on October 15, we are embarking on a public education campaign in October.

We ask that all staff, volunteers, and board members talk to 10 organizations to promote awareness of Conflict Resolution Day and the CMC. You can talk to the leaders (whether it's the president, HR representative, or general manager) of 10 organizations of your choice and hand them an envelope of information from the Community Mediation Center. (We will provide you with the materials.) All you need to do is introduce the organization to the Community Mediation Center, the mediation process, and your part in the CMC.

Please consider dropping off CMC materials at these kinds of organizations:

- 1) Places of Worship
- 2) Government Offices and Organizations
- 3) Schools
- 4) Charities
- 5) Civic Organizations (Rotary, Lions, etc.)
- 6) Businesses
 - Home and Auto, and Business Maintenance Services
 - Retail
 - Hospitality
 - Salons/Spas
 - Medical
 - Attorneys/Law Firms

Please choose at least one organization in each of the six main categories and let us know what organizations you will contact.

We will celebrate our publicity work in November.

Please contact Dorothy at dorothy@communitymediationcenter.org to volunteer.

For questions or comments, or to remove yourself from our mailing list, please email Dorothy Garretson: dorothy@communitymediationcenter.org



Helping individuals and organizations in the Midlands resolve conflict, improve relationships,
and strengthen community since 1998

September 2009

CMC Chooses Civility for Columbia

Have you had enough of the noisy cell phone conversations, road rage, and other inconsiderate behaviors that seem to have become the norm in your day to day life? Well take a deep breath and relax, because last month the Community Mediation Center began seeking partners for the Civility Campaign.

The Civility Campaign draws from Dr. P.M. Forni's book Choosing Civility: The 25 Rules of Considerate Conduct and similar initiatives at John Hopkins' University and in Howard County, Maryland. It aims to promote principles of respect, consideration, empathy and tolerance throughout Columbia

In his book, Dr. Forni describes civility as "not just an attitude of benevolent and thoughtful relating to other individuals; it also entails an active interest in the well-being of our communities and even a concern for the health of the planet on which we live." With this in mind, the CMC sees civility as important to both the process of mediation and to Columbia and the surrounding community.

Some of the rules from Choosing Civility support basic conduct such as listening, respecting a 'no', and accepting responsibility, and have a direct relation to the process of mediation. Other rules, however, are more applicable to people in their everyday lives and include concepts such as personal cleanliness, tact, and respect for personal space. The CMC will partner with local organizations, businesses, and schools to promote civility across many different aspects of society.

Currently, Civility Campaign programming is planned to begin rolling out in the spring of 2010, with a kickoff event tentatively set for the last week in March of 2010. Keep your ears open!

Interested people and organizations should contact Tim via email:

(timothy@communitymediationcenter.org).

Note from the Executive Director

We have had a busy and productive summer at the Community Mediation Center! I'm a life-long South Carolinian, and in my experiences of summer, we tend to slow down and take things a little easier. Not so for CMC in the summer of 2009. We've been involved with the Partners in Compassion Institute with the United Way of the Midlands, so we were attending wonderful SCANPO workshops and working with consultants on capacity building. We've developed and provided a 24-hour mediation training. We've been active in the Eau Claire Promise Zone start-up. We began two new projects—The Civility Campaign and the Brabham Bridge Project. We maintained our schedule in Richland and Lexington Counties' Magistrate Courts. We've added several new mediators to our roster. We've made several new friends who are bringing possibilities for collaborations.

As autumn approaches, we are preparing for our next mediation training and a host of other events and projects that you will read about in December. Thank you for your loyal support as we continue to improve relationships, resolve conflict, and build community in the Midlands!

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Please call Dorothy Garretson if you can volunteer at one of the following times:

Lexington County

Monday, October 12; 9:00am
Monday, November 30, 9:00am

Richland County

Monday, September 14; 1:00pm
Monday, September 21; 1:00pm
Monday, October 5; 1:00pm
Monday, October 26; 1:00pm
Monday, November 2; 1:00pm
Monday, November 9; 1:00pm
Monday, December 7; 1:00pm
Monday, December 14; 1:00pm

We also have volunteer opportunities in family mediation and civil mediation. To be added to this volunteer roster, please contact Ann Bowers for family and Aisha Baltimore for civil.

For questions or comments, or to remove yourself from our mailing list, please email Dorothy Garretson:
dorothy@communitymediationcenter.org