

April 2009

Newsletter Spotlight:
CMC Publicity

Save the Date!

CMC cordially invites you to join in our annual

6th Annual
BUILDING BRIDGES CELEBRATION


The Community Mediation Center
invites you to join an evening of
entertainment, recognition, and silent auction
to celebrate the presentation of the

2009 McKay Brabham Building Bridges Award

honoring
MILTON KIMPSON and **JAMES L. SOLOMON, JR.**

Tuesday, April 28
The Hall at Senate & Canal
320 Senate Street
5:30-8:30 p.m.

\$25.00 per ticket
Heavy hors d'oeuvres
R.S.V.P. by April 21 to 803.714.1176

presenting sponsor

South Carolina
BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina
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Our 6th Annual Building Bridges Celebration will be held at the Hall on Senate and Canal (320 Senate Street) from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. Tickets are \$25.00 each, and heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served.

R.S.V.P. by April 21st to (803) 714-1176

CMC on WLTX News on March 16th!

Please watch the video and read the story on Mediation in Magistrates Court:
<http://www.wltx.com/news/story.aspx?storyid=71540&catid=2#>

The Center is Expanding!

- We are piloting a Restorative Justice Project in the Eau Claire community to help reestablish a sense of connection and security for residents in the area that have been harmed by burglaries and assaults. We will provide dialogues and victim-offender conferences.
- The Lexington PTI (Pre Trial Intervention) Program and the CMC will begin partnering to establish a Conflict Coaching class in Lexington to handle their referrals. We anticipate that the first workshop will take place this July.

Listen Up

On Monday, April 6 listen for Beth Padgett, the CMC's Executive Director, on ETV Radio between 9 a.m. 12 p.m. Beth's interview will be on air as part of an interview while she and staff will be volunteer for the South Carolina ETV & ETV Radio Spring Radio Membership Campaign.

CMC Speakers' Bureau

CMC Board members, volunteers, and staff have made presentations so far this year at two Rotary Clubs, a Sertoma Club, six neighborhood association meetings, education committee meetings in Eau Claire, the Eau Claire Community Council, and the Vista Guild.

Read All About

Check out the CMC's new monthly column in *The Survey*, Eau Claire and North Columbia's newspaper. In the column, a CMC staff mediator will give conflict resolution advice.



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

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Mediation rules! The Community Mediation Center is completing its second year of providing mediation in the Magistrate Courts in Richland and Lexington Counties. This past Monday in the Richland County Magistrate's Court I had a sense of the program's impact within the Court, the CMC, and the greater community. As I sat on our designated bench in the Courtroom, I noted that we had four staff members, four volunteer mediators, and four potential volunteer mediators in attendance. We have never had such a large number of available mediators in the court on one day!

At least 25 people who were parties in cases, along with their friends or family, waited in the courtroom that afternoon. Many of those people had never participated in nor heard of a mediation before Monday afternoon. These people took part in and received a brief education of the restorative process in this particular form of conflict resolution. They now have knowledge that can change the way they view conflict, and they can pass this knowledge on to others.

We are fortunate to be able to impact our community in this way! How wonderful that those 25 people saw twelve volunteer mediators from different walks of life who were willing to spend several hours on a Monday afternoon to provide this valuable service to their community! I want to express heartfelt gratitude to our volunteers, our staff, the observers, and the parties who participated in the mediations. I hope the experience enriched your life!

Most sincerely,

Beth Padgett

News from the ACR-SC

Beth Padgett has been elected as a member of the ACR-SC Board!

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

The mediation dates for Lexington and Richland County Magistrate's Courts have been set through June 2009. Please call Alisa Mabry if you can volunteer at one of the following times:

Lexington County
Monday, April 13; 9:00am
Monday, June 8; 9:00am
Monday, June 29; 9:00am

Richland County
Monday, April 13; 1:00pm
Monday, April 27; 1:00pm
Monday, May 18; 1:00pm
Wednesday May 27; 1:00pm
Monday June 15; 1:00pm
Monday, June 22; 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 Alisa Mabry for civil.

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

April 2009

**Interested in being a
Trained Mediator?**

**The Center now offers
trainings!**

We are currently restructuring our training requirements for our mediation programs. We will be offering a 40-hour training that will consist of some evening and weekend class time, followed by observations.

We will also be offering a program-specific training for Attendance Improvement Mediation. These 20-hour trainings will be held on weekends and evenings.

If you are interested in participating in an upcoming training, please contact Dorothy Garretson.

**The CMC will have a new
Americorps VISTA
volunteer!**

The Community Mediation Center will have two Americorps VISTA volunteers beginning May 19, 2009. Timothy McDonough hails from Bridgewater, Massachusetts. He visited the Center in March and he looks forward to starting his position at the CMC.