



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

February 2010

Note from Beth Padgett, the Executive Director

Since last August I have taught three introductory mediation classes at the CMC. Our two Americorps/VISTA volunteers, Dorothy Garretson and Tim McDonough, have expended much time and energy developing class materials as well as building relationships with the individuals and partner organizations who attended these trainings. In the August and September trainings we had a total of 29 participants. Just last Thursday we completed a class with twelve participants.

I love teaching. I love mediation. I love teaching mediation! I love being present to the amazing gifts the students bring to the classroom. They have come with a wealth of experience in strengthening communities and with a great willingness to take away a new set of skills to enhance their personal and professional lives. They have come willing to put aside old communication habits and take on the communication behaviors of a mediator. They have also come willing to play. I use a healthy dose of playing in these classes to loosen up those old habits and create the space for new skills. To those of you who have participated in our classes, I offer a heartfelt thank you for your presence, as well as an heartfelt *Zzzzzzzoom!*!

In the moment, Beth

* call for more information

2009 Association for Conflict Resolution Annual Conference in Atlanta

On October 7-10, Beth Padgett, Timothy McDonough, Dorothy Garretson, Gladys Coles, Bill Drake, and Alexandria (Xan) Skinner attended the 9th Annual Association for Conflict Resolution Conference in Atlanta. The conference offers a wide variety of workshops on topics such as: organizational cultural competence, Improv, peer mediation, and commercial mediation. Bill Drake, a CMC Board Member, won a Presidential Award from the 2008-2009 ACR President James Rosenstein in recognition of the work he has done for the ACR. The 2010 ACR annual conference will take place in Chicago from September 1 through the 4th. Visit the Association for Conflict Resolution website at www.acrnet.org/

5th Annual Conflict Resolution Day Celebration: October 15, 2009 The Blue Marlin's Vista Room in Columbia

40 people attended this breakfast, including Columbia mayoral candidate Sparkle Clark. The CMC staff presented the Mediator Courage Award to Karima Muhammad, the Mediator Commitment Award to Bill Gibson, and the Mediator Curiosity Award to Alexandria Skinner. Congratulations to you for your hard and passionate work!

The CMC staff look forward to celebrating Conflict Resolution Day in October 2010.

With deep sadness, we want to let you know that Bill Gibson passed away on January 23, 2010. Bill contributed so much to the community through CMC. We miss him.

Mediation Training Scholarship Fund

As a Community Mediation Center, we work to ensure that all people in the Midlands can access and afford our services and training events. We have developed an introductory mediation training, and we want to ensure that all people who want to attend the training are able to do so. We currently charge \$150 for this training to help defray the cost of providing the training. Due to this cost, perspective volunteer mediators often decide to postpone or not attend because they can not afford the fee. We are asking you to consider a donation of \$150 to cover the cost of a participant in an upcoming training. Contact Dorothy Garretson at dorothy@communitymediationcenter.org if you would like to support CMC in this way.

CMC Board Retreat: October 27, 2009

At this retreat, the CMC Board elected its officers for the 2009-2010 year:

Chair: Lee Coggiola

Vice Chair: Cody Smith

Secretary: Bill Drake

Treasurer: Donna Dewitt

Thank you Gladys Coles for your work and leadership as the Board Chair in the past year.

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



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**SC Chapter of the Association for Conflict Resolution Meeting: Nov. 21, 2009
Columbia College Humphries Hall in Columbia**

This meeting allowed attendees to learn about conflict resolution programs from around the state. Patricia Brandon presented the peer mediation program from her Richland 2 elementary school. The highlighting presentation for the Community Mediation Center took place when Judge Gary Morgan from Lexington County Magistrate presented the CMC Magistrate Court Mediation Program. Judge Morgan described himself as a "fan" of our Magistrate Court Program who is happy to spread the word about its success. In the two years that we have been in Richland and Lexington County Magistrate Courts, we have eliminated the backlogs of small claims suits in both courts. Thank you to all Magistrate Court Volunteers for your work!

Partners In Compassion (PIC)

As of January 2010, the CMC has finished its term as a Partners In Compassion (PIC) agency with United Way. The PIC Institute was founded to help faith- and community-based organizations that serve the homeless, at-risk youth or senior citizens in Lexington, Richland, Fairfield, Newberry, Calhoun or Orangeburg counties. The CMC received staff and volunteer training, technical assistance, and financial assistance. Through this program, PIC staff have coached the CMC in its Board development and fundraising activities. The Partners In Compassion program, through its free SCANPO trainings on the Best Practices of Nonprofits, offers an incredible source of knowledge on how to run nonprofits more efficiently. Thanks to the PIC program for its unprecedented assistance to the CMC staff and board.

2010 Introductory Mediation Training Schedule

Contact Dorothy Garretson at dorothy@communitymediationcenter.org to register.

May 2010

Saturday, May 15 from 9am to 6pm
Tuesday, May 18 from 5pm to 9pm
Thursday, May 20 from 5pm to 9pm
Saturday, May 22 from 9am to 6pm

October 2010

Saturday, October 24 from 9am to 6pm
Tuesday, October 26 from 5pm to 9pm
Thursday, October 28 from 5pm to 9pm
Saturday, October 30 from 9am to 6pm

July 2010

Tuesday, July 27 from 9am to 6pm
Wednesday, July 28 from 9am to 6pm
Thursday, July 29 from 9am to 6pm



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

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

Lexington County

Monday, February 22; 9:00am
Monday, April 12; 9:00am
Monday, June 14; 9:00am

Richland County

Monday, February 8; 1:00pm
Monday, March 8; 1:00pm
Monday, March 29; 1:00pm
Monday, April 5; 1:00pm
Monday, April 19; 1:00pm
Monday, May 17; 1:00pm
Monday, May 24; 1:00pm
Monday, June 7; 1:00pm
Monday, June 28; 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.

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