



The Mediator

Summer/Fall 2007

Restorative Justice Fundraiser A Success

By Ted Lewis, RJP Manager

UPCOMING EVENTS

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

September 19, 2007
5:30pm-8:30pm
Emerald Park

VOLUNTEER CONTINUING EDUCATION

An evening of role plays
September 26, 2007
6:30pm-8:30pm

OMA'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

November 9-10, 2007

RJP FUNDRAISER AT DOWN TO EARTH

November 18, 2007

VOLUNTEER CONTINUING EDUCATION

Speaker, Paul Slovic
November 28, 2007

HOLIDAY PARTY

December 12, 2007

BASIC MEDIATION TRAINING

Jan. 26-27 & Feb. 9-10, 2008

FORGIVENESS PROJECT

February 22 - March 7, 2008

RJP TRAINING

April 26-27, 2008

769 Monroe Street
Eugene, OR 97402
541.344.5366

At the start of 2007 there were no guarantees that the 15-year old Restorative Justice Program (RJP) would have any new funding beyond July of 2007. The juvenile crime block grant was set to phase out, and no other government monies were available. As program manager of RJP, this situation provided the right catalyst for inviting new support from the local community.

One reason restorative justice has grown exponentially over the past couple of decades is because it has given the community a greater active role in justice processes. Of course, the State plays a vital role in dealing with crime issues by ensuring safety for the community, fairness in legal processes, and supervision of offenders. But given the fact that crime is mostly about disrespect towards real people, we seek a balance between State and community resources. By mobilizing volunteers who can address the personal and relational aspects of a crime, the restorative justice movement has helped to restore that balance.

I have always wanted our funding base to reflect this same balance or partnership. Our new 2007 priority was to aim for a 50/50 dynamic of government/community funding support. Last winter a RJP task force planned several efforts for getting private donations from individuals, attorneys, philanthropic groups, and faith communities.

The top of our fundraising thermometer was set at \$32,000 for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. Within one month of sending out our Ask Letter, we received \$11,000 from individual donors and another \$1000 from the Active 20/30 Club. Soon after, the Lane County Department of Youth Services ensured \$11,000 of government grant money. I was glad to see my 50/50 vision was being realized by these initial funds.

The achievement of \$23,000 now leaves \$9000 for us to seek over the next half year. Small grants from banks, stores and credit unions will be the main target for this. By next winter, we will start another campaign for local donations. Ultimately, my hope is that as the community gains a genuine sense of ownership over appropriate resolution processes involving conflict and crime, it will help sustain programs like this that build trust and peace within the community.

A special "thank you" to many of you who partnered with RJP this spring and summer with your generous gifts of money! If you would like to make a donation to the Restorative Justice Program, you can mail it to 769 Monroe Eugene, OR 97402. And also "thanks" to Elizabeth Vrooman and Leigh Shindelar for their volunteer time in this fundraiser. If you'd like to join the task force, call me at 344-5366.

P.S. We sell Chinook Coupon Books for \$20 as an RJP fundraiser!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alan Leiman
Chair

Caitlan Hendrickson
Vice Chair

Beth Little
Treasurer

Marilyn Nelson
Secretary

Philip Moses

Tim Brewer

Melissa Crabbe

River Kennedy

Capt. Chuck Tilby

Carole Stiles

Char Mauch



STAFF

Vacant
Executive Director

Ted Lewis
*Restorative Justice
Program Manager*

Donna Goswick
*Community Dispute
Program Manager and
Restorative Justice
Specialist*

Miriam Edell
*Parent-Teen Program
Manager
and
Education and
Outreach*

SO LONG, BERNIE AND SO LONG, SHERISA

We were sad to say good-bye this summer to two key individuals within our organization.

Bernie Murphy has resigned from the CMS Board of Directors after 7 years of invaluable service, including several in which he served as Treasurer. Many thanks and best wishes to you, Bernie!

Sherisa Aguirre resigned from her position as Executive Director at Community Mediation Services in July. We have enjoyed working with her during the past year and have appreciated her managerial skills, her new vision and her enthusiasm. Best wishes and much success, Sherisa, in life and in your new career.

This means, of course, that the Executive Director position is currently vacant. Any potential applicants can view a copy of the job description on the CMS website at: www.communitymediationservices.com.

Meanwhile, our trusted staff and Board are keeping CMS on track while the Board does a search for a new ED.

Greetings from the New Board Chair, Alan Leiman

As far as I can tell, CMS has been in transition since its first Board meeting in September of 1981. As CMS begins its 27th year it may still be in transition, but there is plenty of room for optimism and enthusiasm.

In November, CMS staff will participate in the Peacemakers Conference. There they will connect with hundreds of youth from around Lane County and teach ways to reduce and resolve conflict in our schools and communities.

As part of our mission to raise public awareness of mediation and the restorative justice process, we're helping to bring the Forgiveness Project to Lane County in February 2008.

Add to the mix our 32-hour Basic mediation training scheduled for early 2008 and our bi-monthly role-plays and lectures, and the coming year should be impressive at CMS.

The CMS Board looks forward to filling the Executive Director position soon, and to continuing to work together with the dedicated CMS staff and volunteers as we all strive to reduce conflict and provide conflict resolution services to the people of Lane County.

CMS Vision and Mission Statements

In December 2006 the CMS Board participated in a retreat to think about the future of the organization. One of the outcomes of the retreat was an effort by Board members to develop a Vision Statement to help guide the future development of CMS, and an Operational Mission Statement about what the organization does. Several small group meetings and Board meetings were devoted to this discussion over the ensuing months. In May 2007, the Board approved the following:

Vision Statement for CMS

CMS is the recognized resource and leader in Lane County for transforming conflict and facilitating positive communication.

Operational Mission Statement for CMS

CMS provides the following services in Lane County:

- Conflict Resolution and Restorative Justice Services
- Communication Training and Education
- Community Discourse Facilitation

Restorative Justice Fundraiser at Down To Earth

DOWN TO EARTH HOME, GARDEN, AND GIFTS has graciously allowed RJP to receive 5% of all sales from both stores (532 Olive St. or 2498 Willamette) on **Sunday, November 18, 10am-5pm** as a donation.

Please consider shopping there on this date for their high quality kitchen, garden, and household goods. You could even invite others to do the same. Could be just the right time to do some holiday shopping!

RJP will have a display table there to build more awareness in the community.

Save the date!

Oregon Mediation Association Annual Conference

The Oregon Mediation Association's 21st annual conference will be held in Portland **November 9-10**.

This conference is always an excellent opportunity for mediators to attend educational workshops and to meet other mediators from around the state.

More information can be found at their website, www.omediate.org

The Forgiveness Project

In partnership with the University of Oregon Appropriate Dispute Resolution Program, CMS is bringing The Forgiveness Project to Eugene **February 22-March 7, 2008**.

The Forgiveness Project is a charitable organization which explores forgiveness, reconciliation, and conflict resolution through real-life human experience. By sharing people's stories displayed in this traveling exhibit, (aka The "F" Word Exhibition) we hope to encourage discussion in the community and empower people to explore the nature of forgiveness and alternatives to revenge.

CMS volunteers are encouraged to give us a call if you think you'd like to help with this event. The location is to be announced.

32 Hour Basic Mediation Training January 26-27 and February 9-10, 2008

CMS will be offering another Basic Mediation Training this winter. This training meets the criteria required to be a volunteer mediator for a State-funded community dispute resolution center in Oregon, as well as being a valuable means of improving communication and conflict resolution skills for the general public. Effective communication is essential to any workplace or home environment.

If you, as a CMS volunteer, are interested in being a coach for the training please contact the office and let us know. Observing and teaching others can be a great opportunity to improve your own mediation skills.

Continuing Education for Volunteers

by Miriam Edell

Last winter the Board of Directors requested we create something to give back to our volunteers in the way of education. Through this initiative CMS now offers opportunities for practicing mediation and attending evenings when we bring in speakers from the community. Events are offered bi-monthly, the last Wednesday of the month from 6-8 pm for role-plays, and 6-7:30 pm for our speakers.

Our first speaker was Bertram Malle, professor in the Psychology Department at the U of O, who came to speak with us about 'Blame'. Bertram had insightful information about the topic.

The following event was an evening of role-plays where volunteers had a chance to practice their skills with feedback from CMS coaches. Role-plays also can be used as a required observation for new mediators, thus quickening involvement with actual cases.

In July, Sara Hodges, also from the Psychology Department at the U of O, spoke with us about 'Empathy'. This was again a great chance to speak with an expert in the field about a topic that pertains to the parties as well as the mediators.

CMS aims to build bridges with community members while offering continuing education for our volunteers. We are lucky to have so many qualified speakers in our area. Please call and let us know if you know of someone who would be well-suited to speak to us or if you have a request about a topic you would like to learn more about.

The next continuing education event will be 'An Evening of Role-Plays' on September 26 here at CMS from 6-8pm in the conference room.

On November 29, from 6-7:30pm, we are scheduled to have another speaker from the University speak with us about 'Understanding Risk.' We would love to see you there.

Continuing Education is available to all CMS volunteers.

V
O
L
U
N
T
E
E
R
S

Volunteer Appreciation Party

Wednesday September 19, 2007



It's time once again when CMS gets to acknowledge the time, effort and dedication of our highly valued volunteers. This fall we will hold the volunteer appreciation party at Emerald Park which is located in the River Rd area south of the Beltline.



The festivities will be from 5:30pm - 8:30pm and will include eating, drinking and gathering with other volunteers, Board members, staff and our families. Food will be provided, so you only need to bring yourself and your family members. Please let us know how many will attend so we can plan the food quantities.



We look forward to having an opportunity to express our deep appreciation of having you all as volunteers. Let us know if you have not received your invitation.



RSVP 344-5366



The 2007 Holiday Party will be Wednesday, December 12th
(If you would like to host this year's potluck please contact the office.)

Please join us in our commitment to create a more peaceful community.

**Yes! I would like to tangibly support conflict resolution in my community,
and enclosed is my gift to Community Mediation Services toward that end.**

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$20 Other: \$ _____

All donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to:
"Community Mediation Services"
and send to: 769 Monroe Eugene, OR 97402

Did you know that you can also contribute to CMS through United Way by designating your contribution?

We're updating our mailing list

Please call 344-5366 or email donna@communitymediationservices.com with "CMS Newsletter" in the subject line to let us know ...

- ◆ If you want to be taken off the CMS mailing list or
- ◆ If you have a preference of receiving newsletters via e-mail.

Community Mediation Services

769 Monroe
Eugene, OR 97402