



Mediation Services for Anoka County

Creating Peaceful Solutions

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November 5, 2009

Dear Friend,

Mediation Services for Anoka County needs your help. MSAC, a nonprofit organization utilizing volunteer mediators, celebrates 22 years of providing free or low cost conflict resolution services to the community. We have maintained this very affordable and important service to support a population which has reached a 25-year high national unemployment rate while the national median household income declined nearly 4%. We are proud of the following accomplishments in 2009 despite our own "leaner and meaner" budget and staff:

- A committed board of 15 directors from a cross-section of the community
- A panel of 32 volunteer mediators who mediated nearly 100 sessions
- An increase in referrals from court for post-divorce or unmarried parents to mediate parenting issues
- A positive first year in the new collaboration with the Anoka County Attorney's Office to provide restorative justice services to victims and offenders for first time juvenile and adult felony offenders
- A continued success rate (86%) in recidivism for first-time juvenile offenders who complete the 2-hour *Peaceful Alternatives Class*
- A balanced budget

In 2009, 68% of nonprofits are seeing a reduction in individual funding and 56% less in corporate and foundation funding. Through strenuous cost-cutting, Mediation Services has maintained a balanced budget. **We do, however, have at least \$10,000 in unfunded needs to fulfill our mission such as funds to train new mediators to accommodate the increase in referrals, updated computer equipment and services, and folding tables for more flexible training and mediation sessions.**

In this very challenging year we have determined that we will not host an expensive fundraiser. Instead, we are appealing to you directly – **will you help us fulfill our goal?** We appreciate your support in the past as a donor or fundraiser participant and welcome any charitable tax-deductible year-end gift in 2009. Please call us at **763-422-8878** if we can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Kathi Jensen
Executive Director

Deborah Dahl,
Board President

Enclosure

