



Mediation Services for Anoka County

Helping manage conflict and reduce violence through education and conflict resolution services.

Newsletter to the
Community

Summer 2007

Volunteers Give the Greatest Gift of All

Ann Wallerstedt, Executive Director

Thank you, Mediation Services' volunteers, for your gift of self. You gave a total of 4,852 hours in 2006. You were there for clients, kids, families, youth, schools, the community, to support staff and make the agency and its events run more smoothly.

Did you also know...

- You inspired others by your commitment and service. Others are watching and hear what you do and can't help but respect your work on behalf of others.
- Your example was contagious. 49 of 80 volunteers responded to a survey and of those 63% indicated they chose to volunteer because they wanted to grow personally. Others see the changes and hope they can find something to do that gives them this edge you have.
- You inspired the community and clients you serve. The audiences we talk to – clients, referral sources, funders - all marvel at what you do and that you do this all as a volunteer. It's awesome.
- You improved your neighborhoods, com-

munities, families, schools, work place – You have started where you are to work on bringing peace and harmony. Without each one of us taking responsibility for making the peace, it won't happen. We each must start where we are. You have done just that.

- Your work was from the heart. Our survey revealed that most of you volunteer for personal growth and personal rewards. It further revealed that you do what you do for a personal "thank you" and informal shows of appreciation. That's heart stuff.
- You made a difference for good because of what you do. You've seen the results, the hundreds of people whose lives were changed because they had contact with our agency in some way.
- You are priceless! You are not only the body, but most especially the heart of our agency and its services. I am very grateful for all you do and that you do it so graciously.

Congratulations to Mediator of the Year and Beulah Lea Memorial Award Winners!

Mediator of the Year Award

Mediator of the Year Award for 2007 went to Assata Brown, Vicki Granros and Bill MacNally. All have been mediators for five years or more, have taken several bridge trainings, are reliable, respected by their peers and staff and have distinguished themselves in some way.

All of our mediators are exemplary citizens whom clients trust and respect. These three volunteer mediators have opened many doors to communication and problem solving for Anoka county residents.

Beulah Lea Memorial Award

Cheryl Hanks and Barry Wallerstedt were both honored with the Beulah Lea Memorial Award for all they do with little or no recognition. Each exemplifies the "behind the scenes" volunteer that Beulah was, going above and beyond the call of duty with an ever-present smile and great sense of humor.

Trudy Lea Meyer, speaking on behalf of the family, made the awards and expressed that humility is the real idea behind the award named in her mother's honor. The family believes their mother would have been very pleased with this year's two recipients.

Service Recognition

We esteem all our volunteers—from the veteran to the very newest — and highlight these for their milestones.

5-year certificates of appreciation (2002-2007) Eva and Mark Jeppson, Bill MacNally, Gwen Morales, Bev Schreifels, Tim Snell, Terri Thommes

10-year plaque for dedicated service (1997-2007) Emily Anderson, Ceal Byron, Edna Hoium, Kay McAloney, Jerry McCadden, Gwen Neumann, Alex and Jessica Wallerstedt

15-year award in deep appreciation of gifts of time and talent (1992-2007) Val Anderson, Alice Johnson, Jerry Soma

Respected 20-year Volunteer award (1987-2007) Susan Anderson, Bill Hunt, Lonni McCauley, Barry Wallerstedt.



Vicki Granros accepts Mediator of the Year Award (Other winners-Assata Brown and Bill MacNally not pictured)



Cheryl Hanks (above) and Barry Wallerstedt (below) accept the Beulah Lea Memorial Award. Lea daughters Diane, Trudy and Barb also pictured.



What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice is an alternative way of addressing crime. Its principles consider that crime damages relationships, communities and the people within them. Offenders are held directly accountable to their victims and to the community.

RJ asks three basic questions: Who has been hurt? What are their needs? Whose obligation is it to meet those needs?

There are various formats for providing for RJ. The most common are victim-offender mediation, family group conferencing, and peacekeeping circles.

How well does Restorative Justice work?

Victims are pleased with the RJ approach. May feel more satisfied with the traditional criminal justice system after participating in an RJ process.

Many youth offenders say they'd

The point of an RJ meeting is to reach consensus about what is needed to repair the harm caused by the crime. All affected parties come together with the goal of discussing the harm caused. Two trained volunteer facilitators provide a safe, confidential structured setting and help everyone arrive at an agreement that makes things right for the victim and the community.

Outcomes can be restitution, community service or many other meaningful conclusions. It's up to the participants who been affected to determine the appropriate outcome.

prefer a court process to a personal encounter with the victim, but they find the personal accountability rewarding. They typically uphold agreements made and are more likely to fulfill restitution.

Save July 19th and September 6th! Help support our Restorative Justice program!

Sip and Savor –A Wine Tasting Experience - will take place July 19th at the Courtyards of Andover from 6:00—9:00 p.m.

A variety of wines will available to see, sniff, sip and savor. The tummy will be tantalized with tasty hors d'oeuvres and nibblers.

Come experience Wine 101, Test Your Taste Buds, auctions, and Wall of Wine raffle! Plan to attend!

Tickets are \$50. Order online now at mediationservice.org.



Party With A Purpose -12th Annual Benefit, will be held again at Lyric Arts Main Street Stage in Anoka on Thursday, Sept. 6th, from 5 to 9 p.m.

Rhonda Sivarajah, Anoka County Commissioner is the honorary chair. Delicious hors d'oeuvres and auction begin at 5 p.m. The hilarious theatrical production of "Nunsense II" is the entertainment. Dessert will be served at intermission. Don't miss it!

Tickets are \$35 and will be available for order soon online at mediationservice.org.



In partnership with...

Story of

Repaired Harm

A family was traumatized by a theft in their home committed by several youth, some of whom were familiar to the family. After the teens had been charged in court and admitted their guilt, MSAC held mediation that included the youth, their families, and the victims.

Victims finally had a chance to meet face-to-face with the offenders, express their feelings, and receive an apology. All involved had questions. Offenders had a chance to see how the incident impacted all the lives.

After making a written agreement, the group shared food, tears, and embraces. Mediators felt it was an emotional and healing experience for all involved.

Months later, the victims are thankful for the experience and say some relationships have improved, and they were able to close the door on incident.

For more info:

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