



talk
works.

annual report, 2015-16

*Over 30 years
of community
service!*



Dear Supporters of CDRC,

The Community Dispute Resolution Center is more than the sum of its parts. And its influence in the Tompkins, Schuyler, and Chemung County communities is subtle. It helps neighbors treat neighbors in a healthy and respectful way. It helps government boards listen and respond to their constituencies with patience and with less stress. It helps estranged parents of young children, babies often, agree to reasonable parenting plans.

CDRC has the good fortune to have a dedicated staff who understand transformative mediation and who are committed to the agency in ways that few non-profits could even imagine.

And, CDRC has a cadre of volunteer mediators in all three counties that continue to carry out the mission of the agency. Each and every mediation that is convened intentionally creates the space where parties can have their difficult conversation that is so hard for them.

As a mediator myself I know the angst that parties bring to the mediation table. And I can sense their frustration at previous attempts to have the conversation they need to have. Invariably the mediation begins and after a while the shift happens: one party hears the other and vice versa. Then the practice of Transformative Mediation comes true right there in the mediation room.

Nowhere is that more rewarding than when it is two estranged parents who want to the best for their child. Somehow, they have seemed incapable of the kind of conversation that would have led to an appropriate sharing of their parenting responsibilities. The person who is most rewarded by that conversation is not even in the room, and unaware of the struggle they are having. That is the moment when CDRC's presence affects me the most. What a gift the parents and CDRC have made to their little one.

We do good work at CDRC, stretching the resources that we have, to do some amazing work. Thank you for being part of our family of supporters.

With your help we will be here in Chemung, Schuyler and Tompkins Counties for years to come.

—Michael Hartney
President, CDRC Board of Directors

CHEMUNG COUNTY
215 East Church Street
Elmira, NY 14901
Tel. 607.734.9087
Fax 607.735.9828

SCHUYLER COUNTY
105 9th St. Unit15
Watkins Glen, NY 14891
Tel. 607.535.6860
Fax 607.735.9828

TOMPKINS COUNTY
171 East MLK, Jr./State Street
Center Ithaca Box 111
Ithaca, NY 14850
Tel. 607.273.9347
Fax 607-735-9828

CDRC's Small Claims Court Mediation Program: A “Win, Win, Win” Situation!

We call it “Small Claims Court” but you and I know there is nothing small about being in conflict with another person or business, especially when money and reputations are often on the line! The stakes can be pretty high for people as they approach the bench at City Court; and there are a lot of people approaching that bench these days. City Court judge’s calendars are filled with applicants who are often not only wanting a just settlement, but a just and humanizing process to reach that settlement. The courts are good at providing a settlement; a humanizing process?... not so much!

Enter CDRC.

Well over a decade ago, CDRC was invited to hang its shingle in the Small Claims division of City Court in Ithaca, NY. The relationship has been a long and productive one, spear-headed by a number of CDRC volunteer mediators who attend city court once a week for four hours. These stalwart volunteers stand on call, ready to mediate any case initiated by Small Claim applicants, tending to the party’s conversation as they engage in a rather expedited settlement-reaching process; often only allowed 15 minutes to complete! It’s a tricky task to be sure for a transformative mediator to remain focused on the interaction while parties’ race toward an agreement; but that is what they do. Kudos goes out to our veteran small claims mediator, Ray Gozzi, who has represented CDRC well in Ithaca Small Claims Court for over 16 years. Thank you, Ray!

But Kathy Gehl, CDRC Mediation Program Director, was certain CDRC could be doing the same thing in Elmira City Court and she wouldn’t take no for an answer! “I tried in the past to establish a relationship with the City Court, but with no luck. Then, I reached out again in 2014, and wow, they were all over it!” So, finally, it happened...

In 2014, with the enthusiastic support of the City Court clerks and judges, CDRC was offered the opportunity to hang its shingle in the Small Claims court room and like a spark to a powder keg, the program exploded. With Gina Tinker-Williams training and orienting our CDRC volunteer mediators, we have been able to receive a large number of small claims cases from the Elmira City Court. Small Claims intakes represent almost 45% of CDRC mediation intakes in both counties. While not nearly all of these intakes go to mediation, they

do offer our agency a unique opportunity to engage and educate members of our community in the services we provide. “It is a high visibility program that increases the likelihood of community members using mediation services in the future,” says Kathy.

The benefits of CDRC’s Small Claims Mediation Program are real across the board. The City Court case load is lightened. Small Claims applicants realize several benefits, including the ability to shape their own settlement, better their communication with and understanding of the other person, and save themselves a good deal of time and cost. And, CDRC mediators have the opportunity to do something different from the typical Family Court mediations with which they are all too familiar. The Small Claims Mediation Program is a definite “win, win, win” situation!

Because of this strong collaboration between City Court and CDRC, small claims applicants can access mediation right there at City Court on the day of their appearance, or they can schedule a mediation with CDRC well ahead of their court date. Elmira City Court now sends every Small Claims application to CDRC and we reach out to the parties at that time, offering them the opportunity to consider mediation as an option to their litigated settlement well ahead of their scheduled court appearance. These mediations often result in people withdrawing their application from City Court altogether.

It’s a great success story and one CDRC is proud to shine our Spotlight on in 2016!

AGE-FRIENDLY AWARD:

CDRC received an Age-Friendly Organization Award from the Chemung County Department of Aging



The Chemung County Age-Friendly Business and Organization Designation initiative promotes local businesses and not-for-profit organizations who strive to provide age-friendly care and experiences.

PLEASE JOIN US IN THANKING...

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Charles & Jane Walcott
Hans Wien
Linda Williams
Patricia Woodworth

PLEASE JOIN US IN THANKING...

CDRC MEDIATORS

MEDIATORS WITH CDRC FOR 30+ YEARS

Kirby Edmonds
Judy Saul
Laura Branca
Peggy Walbridge

MEDIATORS WITH CDRC 20+ YEARS

Leslyn McBean-Clairborne
Satomi Hill

MEDIATORS WITH CDRC 15+ YEARS

Dorothy Caldwell
Sandy Rhodes
Sharron Beckworth

MEDIATORS WITH CDRC 10+ YEARS

Judy Burrill
Ray Gozzi
David Kay
Ann Martin
Brian Williams

MEDIATORS WITH CDRC 5+ YEARS

Darlene Barela
Sherron Brown
Shirley Brown
Tammy Brown
Kathy Carpenter
Troy Council
Beth Cohen
Cindy Emmer
Srivalli Indrani
Patrice Lockert-Anthony
Erica Marx
John McNeill
Jane Murphy
Mary Newhart
Jim O'Brien
Connor Parker
Sidney Whitfield

MEDIATORS WITH CDRC 5 YEARS OR LESS

Kimberly Anderson
Sherry Colb
Lydia Dempsey
LJ Freitag
Sue-Je Gage
Michael Hartney
Walt Nowakowski
Moiria Osorio
Laurel Kiorpes-Parker
Shannon Fritts-Penniman
Sarah Rubenstein-Gills

APPRENTICES

LeGrace Benson
Richard Biesanz
Timothy Blandford
Alfonse Ciarrio
Franci Saunders
Cornelia Odegaard
Laura Ward

PLEASE JOIN US IN THANKING THESE ORGANIZATIONS...

CDRC wishes to express our deepest appreciation to organizations who provided funding through Grants and Service Fees.

City of Ithaca Planning

Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Inc.

Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium

Greenstar Coop

Human Services Coalition of Tompkins County

Ithaca College Office of Human Resources

Ithaca College Offices of Residential Life and Judicial Affairs

Meadowridge Veterinary Hospital

Tompkins County Mental Health Association

New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets

New York State Dispute Resolution Association

New York State Unified Court System

OAR of Tompkins County

Scheinman Institute

Tompkins County

Tompkins Community Action-Head Start

Tompkins County Youth Services Department

Town of Caroline

Town of Cayuga Heights

Town of Danby

Town of Dryden

Town of Enfield

Town of Ithaca

United Way of Schuyler County

United Way of the Southern Tier

United Way of Tompkins County

YMCA of Ithaca and Tompkins County

2015-2016 Finances

INCOME

Contributions, Grants, Gifts	24,882
NY State Unified Court System	213,376
Case Fees	6,665
United Ways*	48,901
Tompkins County	40,804
Training Income	15,411
Other	383

**Chemung, Schuyler & Tompkins Counties*

EXPENSES

Program Services*	281,908
Administration	39,799
Development	9,949

**Mediation, Facilitation & Training*

www.cdrc.org

www.cdrc.org

CDRC has a brand new updated webpage. If you haven't had a chance yet, please check it out.



Facebook

Were you one of the 1,265 who viewed our posts on our Facebook Page? If so, thanks for viewing. If not, please visit our page, like us and check out our posts.

<https://facebook.com/CDRCtalkworks>



Twitter

CDRC has a new twitter account. [CDRC@CDRCtalkworks](https://twitter.com/CDRC@CDRCtalkworks). Be sure to follow us.



GoodSearch

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