

CALM ALTERNATIVES

2006 FALL CAMPAIGN NEWSLETTER

The Frederick County Community Mediation and Conflict Resolution Center

“CALM, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c) 3 community service organization which provides affordable and accessible conflict resolution services to all Frederick County residents through education, mediation, community conferencing, and facilitation in order to promote peaceful resolution of conflicts.”

We Conflict

New faces

This year we welcomed Lydia Espinoza Crafton, MA back as the Director for the Latino Mediation Program. Maggie Lawrence, a recent graduate of Mount Saint Mary’s University’s Criminal Justice Program was hired to wear three hats; one as Intake Coordinator, one as Youth Coordinator, and one as general administrative assistant. Stacey Upton, a Hood College Intern majoring in Social Work will be working on many different facets in the office. We have an Americorp Volunteer, Sharrye (Sharon) F. Schlerf, who will be working to grow the Latino Program with Lydia and a VISTA Volunteer, Sharida D. Gaines, who will be working to develop a Conflict Resolution Program for Low-Income Neighborhoods in Frederick. Please welcome our returning and new staff with open arms and appreciation as they work to fulfill CALM’s mission in the Frederick County Community.

We did say good-bye to Joanne Ivancic, J.D. who had been our Intake Coordinator for a year. Joanne is now volunteering with CALM’s ElderCare Mediation Program and is working in the community as the Director of the Landmarks Foundation.

Mediation: A Family Affair

By Bambi Lynn Macpherson

I have known Kate Palmisano for more than 10 years. We met at our children’s elementary school. This was also about the time I was looking to change my profession from industrial psychology to social work with the hope of working closer to home and serving my community. Kate, being the friendly open person that she is, shared with me her experience as a social worker and as the director of the mediation center. I had personal experience with mediation regarding issues in my divorce. I appreciated the mediation process because the intent was to work for a resolution. It was a ‘calm’ un-contentious process where we identified the issues and came up with ideas – some very innovative. We resolved our issues within a couple of hours, left with solutions and with our dignity.

Over the years Kate and I crossed paths and shared more about CALM and our kids, etc. I finished my social work degree and had time again to volunteer. CALM was my first choice. In 2002 I took the Basic Mediation Training. The training built on my social work skills especially listening. The training also provided the structure that helped me feel comfortable to begin the volunteer work of mediating with CALM. The 40 hours of training seemed like a huge investment of time but once we got started I looked forward to each class. I found the students/mediators to be friendly, intelligent, and fun!!! I have been a volunteer mediator for

CALM since 2002 and subsequently took the 40-hour Divorce Mediation Training.

My husband, Paul, was curious about all the fun I was having with CALM. His work in commercial real-estate involves negotiation and informal mediation. It made sense for him to complete the Basic Mediation Training this year in the hopes to improve his work skills and to share in the volunteer fun. He has found the skills very useful in his work and is enjoying the volunteer experience.

There is more, while Paul was involved in his training, my 17 year old daughter, Katherine, asked some questions and wanted to know if she could also learn to be a mediator. I suspect she didn’t want us conspiring to manage her with all that we learn from mediation. Fortunately for us she is a very agreeable child and of course, we encouraged her to learn the skills. She has just completed her training and is eager to get started mediating. During her recent college interview, the interviewer noted her mediation skill on her resume and suggested she work for the dean’s office or the psychology department to offer mediation at the school. Katherine is also finding the skills useful with her high school friends. Apparently, there is a lot of drama in high school. Katherine helps her friends by listening without giving advice and allowing them to come up with their own solutions. Sounds like mediation to me.

Latino Mediation Program

By Lydia Espinosa Crafton

Lydia has been extremely busy with the Latino Mediation Program and the Statewide Latino Research Project. CALM has participated in several community events to increase awareness of mediation within the Latino population. CALM, in partnership with Nuestra Casa del Pueblo has begun direct outreach to Latino businesses in Frederick. In addition, Lydia was a guest on Rosalinda Delgado's Cable Channel 10's program for the Latino community. This program aired several times in the spring.

CA:M received grant funding from MACRO to support a statewide Latino Research Project. Lydia has been traveling around the state holding Cultural Diversity workshops. The goal of this project is to increase mediators' awareness of Latino culture and communication methods and to increase the statewide Latino community's awareness of mediation and other conflict resolution methods. The hope is to educate all about each other's cultures so all can work together to resolve conflicts.

Youth Initiative

Maggie has been very busy not only with intakes and scheduling mediations but also with the schools. Over the summer Maggie, with assistance from one of our volunteers, crafted a letter to send to all the principals in the Frederick County Public and Private School System. Over sixty-three (63) letters were mailed and CALM has received calls from several schools requesting assistance with conflict resolution concerns in their schools. Including a middle school who requested a workshop centered around brainstorming and what that means in peer mediation setting; a high school facilitation centered around bullying between two groups of boys with parents; another high school hoping to develop a program similar to the Frederick High School "Connections" Program; and working with a middle school on a cultural diversity programs for both students and faculty. CALM continues to offer free Peer Mediation Training to all Frederick County Schools in addition to offering free conflict resolution methods to each and every school requesting assistance. CALM, also, has mediators trained to facilitate IEP meetings and Special Education IEP meetings.

ElderCare Mediation Program

CALM began to see cases that involved seniors in our community and decided to respond by becoming a pilot program for an ElderCare or Senior Mediation Program. Joanne Ivancic became a member of a newly formed statewide committee to explore Elder/Senior Mediation. In October of 2005 CALM held a stakeholders meeting with Circuit Court Judge Edward Dwyer and Jennifer Burn, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinator for the Circuit Court and representatives from potential referral sources. Joanne, Kate, and Mia Burst from the Frederick County Department of Aging participated in a 30 hour Elder/Senior Mediation Training in December of 2005 sponsored by MACRO. In September, CALM conducted its first 20 hour ElderCare Mediation Training featuring Dr. Mike Stovall, Dr. Mark Palmisano, and David Wingate, J.D.



Dr. Mike Stovall facilitates a discussion on social; aspects of aging to CALM volunteer mediators participating in the ElderCare Mediation training.

Volunteers

Volunteers are CALM's lifeline and most valuable asset. Just in the first six (6) months of CALM's performance grant year (April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007) volunteers donated over 2,000 hours which is equivalent to \$35,460.03. Diana Halleman was honored on October 21, 2006 as a Volunteer of the Year for Mediation during Community Mediation Maryland's first fundraising event. Diana along with 17 other volunteers was honored by Chief Judge Robert Bell, Rachel Wohl, J.D., Executive Director of The Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MARCO) and Dr. Lorig Chardoudin, Executive Director of Community Mediation Maryland.

Annual PeaceCrafter's Awards Celebration
A Signature Event for Frederick County



This event honors local residents who are nominated by others in the community for their efforts regarding peaceful conflict resolution. Those honored included the Dr. Manuel Casiano, Frederick Memorial HealthCare System, Jeanni Winston-Muir, Frederick County Community College (FCC), Imam Yahya Hendi, local and national Islamic leader, Rosalinda Delgado, Buena Gente; Rachel Cotter and Jocelyn Levine students from Urbana High School, Eleanor Milligan, Rosemary Watson, and Maida Wright, volunteers for CALM. The 5th Annual PeaceCrafter's Celebration held in May 2006 included dinner, a live/silent auction and featured music by The Central Jazz Service. PeaceCrafter nomination forms are already in the community for the May 8, 2007 Annual PeaceCrafter's Celebration. If you are interested in co-sponsoring this event or purchasing tickets contact CALM. A PeaceCrafters' nomination form has been attached.

Anne-Lynn Gross, the Singing Auctioneer, at the 5th Annual PeaceCrafter's Awards Celebration closing a bid for a live auction item.

Up-coming Trainings

Bio-ethics/End of Life Issues – January 11 (snow date January 18)
40-Hour Divorce Mediation Training – April 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, and 28.

CALM's Needs List

*CALM is in need of office and mediation space. We are rapidly outgrowing our current office space and are looking for approximately 3000 square feet for mediation rooms, training room, and offices.
*CALM is accepting nominations from community members to serve on its Board of Directors.
*CALM is looking volunteers to work on the PeaceCrafter's Celebration Committee.
If you have any thoughts or are interested in any of the items listed above call the office at 301-631-CALM.

CALM Contributors

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Co-sponsor of the 5th Annual PeaceCrafter' Awards Celebration – Village Settlements, Inc.

Patron of the 5th Annual PeaceCrafter' Awards Celebration – Frederick Memorial Healthcare System

Donation slip

If you wish to make a tax-deductible donation to CALM, INC., please use this form and the enclosed envelope. If you wish to remain anonymous, please let us know by checking this space. _____ Thank you in advance for your generosity! This is only a suggested guideline.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone # : _____ Work Phone : _____

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Donation Amount: _____ any amount above \$1,000.00
_____ \$1,000.00 - Platinum CALM Peacemaker
_____ \$500.00 - Gold CALM Peacemaker
_____ \$200.00 - Silver CALM Peacemaker
_____ \$100.00 - Bronze CALM Peacemaker
_____ \$ 50.00 and under - Friend of CALM
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Please make checks payable to CALM, Inc. and mail to CALM, Inc. 723 North Market Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701. Thank your support!

Board of Directors Kelly McGill, J.D. Leslie Barkley, CPA Diana Halleman Deborah Williams-Brown	CALM, Inc. Staff Kate Cullen Palmisano, MSW Lydia Espinoza Crafton, M.A. Maggie Lawrence Stacey Upton Sharida D.Gaines Sharrye F. Schlerf
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