

Message from the Executive Director,

As you know, this region was battered by the economic downturn in 2009. Many non-profits have struggled to stay open. Despite this, 2009 at Cleveland Mediation Center was a year of expansion and growth.

In the spring of 2009, CMC expanded its homeless prevention services in an exciting new venture at the 2100 Lakeside Men's Homeless Shelter. In collaboration with shelter staff and Mental Health Services, CMC began a cutting-edge pilot project using conflict resolution interventions to divert clients to appropriate housing so that they didn't enter the shelter or stay for more than a few days if they did enter.

CMC expanded the program to include the Community Women's Shelter in the summer of 2009. Staff members at both of the shelters meet with the client to discuss whether the current housing arrangement is viable, mediate an arrangement for continued tenancy when appropriate, provide cash assistance for back rent, help the tenant seek new housing and provide first month's rent and deposit, seek alternative short-term housing, and contact friends and relatives and negotiate terms for short-term stays.

Building off of this success, Cleveland Mediation Center received a Homeless Prevention/Rapid Re-housing federal stimulus grant through the Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services in September of 2009. This grant expanded the diversion pilot into a full program and funded CMC's prevention program through March 2012. Set-up much like CMC's Homeless Prevention Project, the grant's focus is on providing assistance to clients who but for this assistance would be homeless.

CMC continues to have success with its mediation training program. This past year CMC trained 71 persons in Basic Mediation, 9 in Divorce Mediation, and 13 in Advanced Family Mediation. Our trainer Ed Boyte continues to offer a comprehensive, engaging, and hands-on approach to learning mediation and preparing those involved to effectively handle conflict resolution.

In looking towards 2010, CMC plans to conduct a market analysis to determine the mediation training market and use what we've learned to more effectively get the word out about our trainings. In addition, we plan to explore social media strategies such as Facebook and LinkedIn. We see this as a way to better connect with you, our supporters and reach out to other members of the community.

As always, we appreciate your past support of CMC's programs and ask you to consider a gift again this year. It is your support that enables CMC to stop evictions, increase school attendance, and train community members in mediation. Help us continue this important work by clicking on the donate now button on this site. Thank you in advance.

Peace,

Daniel P. Joyce