



From The President

By Judy Latcha, Board President

The first half of 2010 has been very busy and we love it.

sponsorships. They are instrumental in our success. Please support their businesses which are all listed on page 2 and on the **Friends** page of our website.

We have seen an increase in cases opened in general and new opportunities for youth programs. Under the leadership of past president Rudy Pale, School and Youth Based Programs Chair, we are collaborating with the Warren Consolidated Schools on Restorative Justice. Great news continues with notice that United Way funding for 2010/2011 school-based programs was renewed. Read mediator Frank Malik's article in this issue to learn more.

To further our outreach in St. Clair County, Board Member Rick Garcia initiated conversation with the many non-profits in the area and the result

I want to welcome our new Board officers: **Vice President Jack Hart**, retired Macomb County Sheriff Dept.; **Secretary Karl Wagner**, retired Macomb Community College; and **Treasurer Neil Dempsey**, Community Central Bank; along with our newest board members **Rick Garcia**, Executive Director, United Way for St. Clair County; attorneys **Mark Davidson** and **Eric Lundquist, Jr.**; and the **Hon. Sheila Miller**, 41-B District Court. We thank them for their commitment to serve.

In March, our hardworking staff and board hosted our 17th successful "Evening at the Movies" fundraiser. A BIG thank you to our **Friends** for their

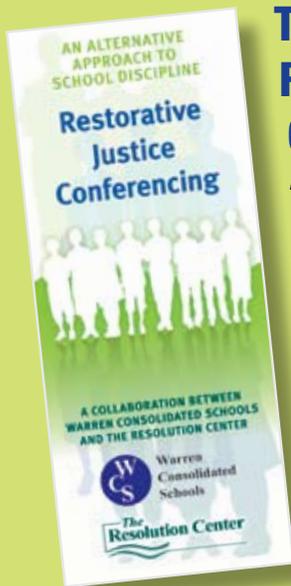
The Newsletter of



is the new St. Clair County Advisory committee. Their input will allow us to customize programs to be offered to courts and the community.

In August, we will thank our volunteer mediators and referral sources for their commitment to TRC at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic.

In the coming months, as part of our ongoing strategic initiatives, we will be utilizing electronic media more to communicate with you. Look for us to begin e-news and other communications via email or a link to our website. Please send us your preferred email address to cpappas@theresolutioncenter.com or sign-up on our website at www.theresolutioncenter.com.



The Resolution Center's Restorative Justice Conferencing Program

By Frank Malik, RJC Coordinator

Did you hear there is a new process for restorative justice that The Resolution Center is using in the community?

In April of this year, The Resolution Center embarked on a pilot program in conjunction with the Warren Consolidated School District. The initiative was to keep kids in school by mediating

incidents where students broke the school code of conduct. In instances where traditionally the students would be subject to disciplinary writing, detention, suspension or expulsion, students that were willing to accept their part in the offense were allowed to volunteer for the Conferencing process to work out an agreement with the victim to heal the harm.

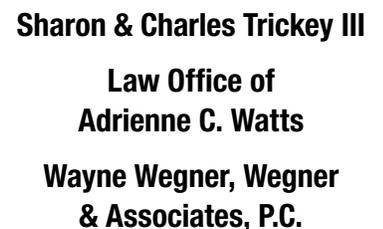
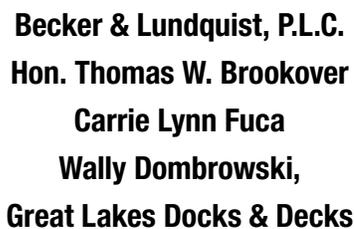
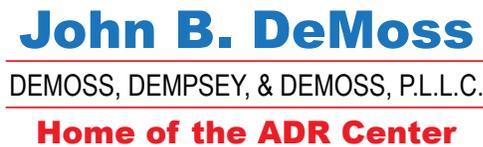
Our program is called Restorative Justice Conferencing and it uses the process that originated among the Maori tribe of New Zealand. The tradition of the Maori, in an effort to reintegrate an offender back in to the main stream of society, is to allow community offenders to meet with all that have been affected by the offense, discuss the matter and decide how to respond accordingly. This concept is effective in reestablishing an individual's worth to the community and allows for that person to become a

Continued on page 3.

Mission Statement:

The Resolution Center is dedicated to enhancing peaceful resolution of all forms of disputes by providing and promoting the use of appropriate alternative dispute resolution and collaborative problem solving processes that emphasize cooperation, collaboration and communication.

Thanks to all of the Friends of the
17th Annual "Evening at the Movies"



Restorative Justice Conferencing Program (continued)

productive part of the community once again. This concept has been adapted to a formal process in which we call "Conferencing". It has since grown from a community process in New Zealand to spreading over Australia, Canada, the United States and Great Britain.

School disciplinary methods fail, in most cases, to reintegrate students who fit the role of offender. After the discipline, these students carry around the negative stigma of being thought of as "bad" or "troublemaker" in so much as they believe the titles themselves and begin to gravitate into negative sub cultures within and out of the school. These sub cultures set the students lock step in the behavior schools and society are striving to change. Once trapped in these negative mind-sets, the behavior and attitude most often follows them through school and out into the community afterwards.

Conferencing is the tool that supports the student in healing the harm they have caused, identifying that the behavior is unacceptable and in opening the door to realize that he/she has a bright future if they refrain from the poor decisions of the past.

The closest school district to Southeast Michigan using this program is in Ingham County (Lansing area). It has been established for the last five years and has had a very positive and powerful impact on the school district

there. The Director of Student Affairs at Warren Consolidated School District realized the potential of conferencing and was inspired to implement the process in conjunction with The Resolution Center.

In April of 2010, The Resolution Center began holding office hours every Tuesday and Thursday in the WCS district. The pilot started with two base schools and has grown to four schools in nine short weeks. Since that first week in April, over 34 suspension days were saved, 39 people have participated in our conferences and 135 extension days of alternative school placement have been waived.

The Lansing program was initiated in a full semester for their pilot program and had six cases. In just half a semester our Restorative Justice Conferencing program processed seven cases, with all cases reaching agreement. Needless to say, the program is off to a strong start and there is a great outlook for the fall semester of 2010. We anticipate continued growth through the entire Warren Consolidated School District as well as the use of this tool in helping kids remain in school and see their full academic participation realized. For more information on conferencing, you can glean a deeper history of the process from the following web site: [ss](#).

August 12, 2010

Appreciation Picnic

Law Office of DeMoss, Dempsey & DeMoss
5:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

September 15-17, 2010

Michigan Assoc. of Court Mediators

26th Annual Advanced Training & Conference - Crystal Mountain

October 21, 2010

ACR SE Michigan Chapter ADR Shopping Spree

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. - Oakland County

October 22-23, 2010

State Bar ADR Sections Annual Meeting

Thomas Cooley Law School - Auburn Hills, MI



Michigan Supreme Court Approved

40-Hour General Civil Mediation Training

Schedule:

Wed., Nov. 3, 6 pm to 10 pm
Fri., Nov. 5 & Sat., Nov. 6, 9 am to 6 pm
Wed., Nov. 10, 6 pm to 10 pm
Fri., Nov. 12 & Sat., Nov. 13, 9 am to 6 pm

Cost: \$895.00

(\$100 DEPOSIT REQUIRED. CLASS SIZE LIMITED.)

Some scholarships available, call for info.

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Barbara Johannessen, J.D.

Trained over 300 mediators!

This training course fulfills requirements of MCR 2.411



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Staff

Executive Director

Craig Pappas

cpappas@theresolutioncenter.com

Program Coordinator

Jennifer Clein

jclein@theresolutioncenter.com

Court Programs Manager

Danae V. Hanes

dhanes@theresolutioncenter.com

Youth Development Director

Diana Carmichael-Owens

diana@theresolutioncenter.com

St. Clair Advisory Council

By Craig Pappas, Executive Director



In an effort to reinvigorate our service delivery to the residents, business, and organizations in St. Clair County Resolution Center Board Member Rick Garcia took the lead in establishing a dedicated committee of folks who support the utilization of mediation in St. Clair County. The role of this committee is to help solidify the Center's presence in the County by identifying outreach opportunities, office space, and referral relationships.

The Committee consists of: Rick Garcia, Board Member; Rudy Pale, Board Member; Mark Davidson, Board Member; Judy Latcha, Board Member; Hon. Cynthia Platzer, 72nd District Court; Colleen Brinker, Lakeshore Legal Aid; Anna Kovar, Attorney & Mediator; Dorothy Mason, Mediator; Ron Wollen, Port Huron Area School District Superintendent; Jim Jones, Capt. Port Huron Department; Renee Jones, Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

The Resolution Center's Board and Staff would like to thank the above committee for their dedication and continued commitment to mediation and The Resolution Center.



www.theresolutioncenter.com

176 S. Main Street, Suite 2
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
(586) 469-4714
Fax (586) 469-0078

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United Way
for Southeastern Michigan



The Resolution Center
is a non-profit
501 (c) (3) organization.

Friends of The Resolution Center

Friends recognize the need for creative, collaborative and peaceful resolution of disputes in our community. They also recognize **The Resolution Center** as the catalyst for peace in our community and they will contribute their hard earned dollars to support the Center's Mediation Program. They contribute because they respect the fact that mediation helps

to build "community" one dispute at a time. They understand that an adversarial society perpetuates the negative aspects of conflict while ignoring the opportunities that conflict brings.

Friends recognize that it is the Center's mediation program that provides people this opportunity to create positive change, to own the conflict and own the solution.

These supporters have donated at these levels in order to assist in our success. Thank you.

First Friend

\$1,000 AND UP

Dragonmean Brewery
Esplendido Mexican Cuisine
Macomb County Bar Foundation
MJR Digital Cinema
United Way of Southeast Michigan
Zuccaro Banquets & Catering

Benefactor

\$500 – \$1,000

Community Central Bank
Consumers Energy
Macomb County Legal News
Macomb Daily

Patron

\$250 – \$500

Bellanca, Beattie & DeLisle
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Rudy and Margaret Pale
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Sponsor

\$100 – \$250

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