

Happy December, Volunteers!

December has arrived and 2011 will soon be leaving us. It's hard to believe this year has gone by so fast. We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season!

Here's What's Happening at the Center in December 2011:

Mediation Schedule for December 2011: We have mediations scheduled for the following Saturdays: [12/10/2011](#) and [12/17/2011](#). *Due to the Christmas and New Years holidays, NO mediations are scheduled for: Saturday, 12/24/2011 or Saturday, 12/31/2011.* If you would normally volunteer on the 4th Saturday, please consider coming in to mediate on 12/10/2011 or 12/17/2011. *Just contact Cherise via this e-mail.*

New Volunteer Skills Building Session: We have only 1 skills building session scheduled for December 2011 and it will be held on: **Saturday, 12/10/2011 from 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, here at the Center.
*****New Volunteers, Please RSVP to Cherise as soon as you are able.***

Montgomery County Sheriff Ride-Along: We will be expanding our services to Harrison Township in collaboration with Sheriff Phil Plummer and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. If you are interested in learning about the issues affecting Harrison Township and would like to join Deputy Sheriffs as they do their patrols, let us know by **,RSVPing with our Director, Michelle Zaremba at michelle.zaremba@daytonohio.gov or by calling her directly at 937.333.2352.**

2011 Mediation Center Statistics: *As we close out 2011, it is nice to reflect on the services you, our volunteers, have helped to provide to the Miami Valley community. We have had a very busy and successful year conducting mediations at the Center for 2011. We conducted 410 mediations in 2010 and have seen a modest increase to 430 mediations*

as of November 2011. Our Montgomery County Juvenile Court Visitation and Custody Mediation program more than doubled in referrals with 37 visitation referrals in 2010 to 106 referrals as of November 2011. We also had significant increases in our other programs compared to 2010: we have conducted 84 small claims mediations and 36 Dayton Municipal Court Civil-Eviction mediations, an increase from last year and have had an increase in referrals to our community program (cases that are party initiated rather than by a court or police). 2012 looks to be a very exciting year as we are opening up new markets to expand our services throughout Montgomery County. *Thank you for all the time, energy, passion, and commitment you have shown by giving back to the community in 2011 in such a selfless and compassionate manner.*

Tax-Deductible Donations to the Center: Several years ago the Center set up an account with *The Dayton Foundation* and established the *Mediation Services Fund*, #3365 to support community mediation throughout the region. There is still time to make tax-free donations to the *Mediation Services Fund* in honor our beloved volunteer Debbie L. Taylor who passed away this year and support mediation services in her honor. In the past we have used donations to offer peer mediation, to bring in guest trainers, and to support outreach and marketing efforts to increase understanding and use of mediation services in the community. If you or others you know would like to support the Center financially by making a donation, you may send donations to: **The Dayton Foundation, Mediation Services Fund, #3365, 500 Kettering Tower, Dayton, OH 45423.**

Recruiting for New Volunteer Mediators for the 2012 Class: We will be training new volunteers in March 2012. A value of community mediation is to ensure that we recruit volunteers from the community who reflect the diversity found in the community. In an effort to diversify our volunteer base, we want to emphasize the need to attract

more men, fluent bi-lingual and ASL speakers, young adults 18-25 years of age, and people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. Of course, everyone is welcome to apply and become part of the family. If you have friends, family, colleagues, or others who have expressed an interest in learning to mediate and would be able to make a significant time commitment, please have them **contact Cherise directly at cherise.hairston@daytonohio.gov or 937.333.2354**. Prospective volunteers can also visit our website and download our volunteer application and send it in to us: www.DaytonMediationCenter.org

Help Us Plan Activities for our 25 anniversary in 2012: As many of you may know, next year will mark **25 years** of the Center providing mediation and conflict resolution services to the Dayton and Miami Valley region! We are in the planning process for our 25th anniversary celebration and hope to have events and activities each month for the entire year. *We would like to offer our Volunteers an opportunity to not only suggest ideas for activities but also to plan and coordinate them as well.* If you have ideas and/or are interested in helping with planning, **please contact Michelle Zaremba at michelle.zaremba@daytonohio.gov or 937.333.2352.**

Continuing Mediation Education Opportunities for 2012: As part of your continued development as a mediator, ***we require volunteers to mediate at least six (6) times per year and to attend and participate in four (4) continuing mediation education opportunities.*** We have undergone a lot of changes this year as greater awareness and use of our services has increased. As a result, we have not been able to consistently provide continuing mediation education opportunities for Volunteers. *We will get back on track for 2012 and will be offering many Continuing Mediation Education opportunities for all of our volunteers for the entire year.* It is vital that mediators participate in these opportunities to help keep your mediation skills fresh and to continue to gain experience and build competency in the practice of

mediation. *Be on the look out for a schedule of Continuing Mediation Education opportunities in January 2012.*

“Master Mediator Certification”: We will also be focusing on helping our volunteers become ***“Master Mediators”***. Becoming a *Master Mediator* means that you have undergone required training, been observed and coached by Center Staff who are all *Certified Transformative Mediators* or *Master Mediators*, and worked with Center Staff to conducted formative and summative assessments of your mediation skills. As a *Master Mediator*, you can assist Center Staff with training and coaching new volunteers. Also, it will look good on your resume and will allow you to apply for any future job opportunities with the Center. **In order to become a *Master Mediator*, you will need to have the following requirements met: (1)** lead at least 2 mediations which are observed by Center Staff, **(2)** act as lead mediator and debrief in 12 mediations, be assessed for your understanding of Center referral sources and policy and procedures for these sources (this training will be provided); and **(3)** successfully complete **the “Master Mediator Video Certification Process”** conducted by Center Staff. If you are interested in finding out more on becoming a Master Mediator and or would like to start the process to schedule a role-play to make a video, **please contact Cherise at cherise.hairston@daytonohio.gov or 937.333.2354.**

Take care!

Cherise

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