



Work It Out! A Way through Conflict

PO Box 275

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Reconciliation Notes

ECR NEEDS YOU! At Education for Conflict Resolution (ECR) we are in the business of creating a more peaceful community and world by promoting and teaching peaceful and productive resolution of conflict. The impact of ECR in our community is significant, not only through the training of children in elementary schools, but in mediating with parents dealing with marital stress, disputes between neighbors, and many other settings.

Sources of income for ECR include local businesses, churches, clubs, organizations, and foundations. Fees for training workshops and mediation comprise another segment of income. But, as with nearly all not-for-profit agencies, **critical funding for ECR comes from individuals-- friends and supporters who recognize the contribution of the organization to the community.** In the case of ECR, the history is that individuals make up a significant portion of the annual budget. Your gift helps ensure the continuation and growth of ECR's innovative programs and services.

An envelope is enclosed for your convenience, or donate on line at www.WorkItOut.org

Check out our updated website:



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Contact ECR

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Spring 2018



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Education for Conflict Resolution, Inc. exists to promote peaceful and productive resolution of conflict. This is carried out through direct services of mediation and consultation, and through educational activities in schools and communities. In all its work, ECR seeks to put the understandings and skills needed for successful conflict resolution into the hands of as many persons as possible.

MIC Training Update

In February, we facilitated the 32- hour Mediating Interpersonal Conflict [MIC] training, the flagship of ECR. An intimate group of 12 participants, we were diverse in our backgrounds, ranging from a retiree with many years of experience in the corporate world, to students pursuing a variety of undergraduate degrees, to person's with international conflict experience, and experience with victims advocacy. Each of our participants shared the theme of wanting to become familiar with community conflict resolution and to be skilled in the art of mediation. Collectively, we recognize the rampant nature of conflict and the need to 'arm' persons with the communication skills imperative to successful resolution of our differences. We are thankful to the Manchester University community, who graciously has provided us with space, to the faculty who encourage their students to learn these skills, and to the Peace Studies Institute, who equally supports the work of ECR and provides scholarship monies to students to off-set the cost of this curriculum. This is one more way MU provides its students with learning today for the life-long skills needed for tomorrow.



Manchester University - ECR Collaboration Update

Our Manchester University-ECR Collaboration continues to expand. Next month, in collaboration with Campus Interfaith Board and Peace Studies Institute, along with the C.A.R.E. Initiative, we will be participating in Peace Week /Take Back the Night Week's activities, April 23rd through the 28th. ECR will be providing information during the lunch time regarding mediation services, including the benefits and availability of these services on campus and in Wabash County. ECR is hosting an activity that brings together the work of healing and art by creating peace cranes prior to the vigil on Thursday evening, April 26th at 8 pm, Funderburg Library. Please feel free to join as you are able.

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Wabash County Courts Receive Grant to Support Mediation Services

We are pleased to report that the Wabash County Circuit and Superior Courts have been awarded a Domestic Relations Alternative Dispute Resolution grant from the Indiana State Supreme Court. The grant provides \$10,000.00 annually for three years to offset the cost of mediations and other alternative resolution programs for court ordered participants. The grant also provides for the introduction of court filing fees that will ensure the on-going funding of these services. These funds will not directly affect the funds available to ECR, but will pay for participants whose limited resources make paying for mediation themselves a hardship or barrier to service.

It is the stated intention of both Courts to increase their use of mediation services provided by ECR, with the Courts now assuming responsibility for ensuring payment for these services. The Courts are also encouraging attorneys to advise their clients, especially those dealing with shared parenting issues following divorce or separation, to use mediation in addressing these issues. Court ordered mediations will now take place at the Court building at a time specified by the Court. This will eliminate the time consuming process of ECR trying to negotiate time and place prior to the mediation and will provide a secure location in which the mediation can be completed. ECR mediators have been oriented to the new procedures and are looking forward to this next chapter in our productive relationship with the Wabash County Courts on March 23, 2018.

Mediator Refresher Workshop



On February 24, 2018, ECR held a three hour workshop at Manchester University for its current mediators, initiating the goal of providing regular “refresher” sessions for our trained mediator team. These workshops will focus on updating/addressing procedural matters, introducing/reinforcing advanced mediation skills, and providing an opportunity for all to “stay in touch” with their fellow mediators. The February 24th workshop included an extensive review of the new court ordered mediations procedures including the wording of new Court Orders and procedures for completing mediations in the Court building. The skill development portion worked on the critical elements of the intake process and a review of the elements of the mediation process. The time together was much appreciated by the twelve mediator participants and all are looking forward to our next workshop in June.

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Advanced Mediator Training

ECR has completed three successful 32 hour Mediating Interpersonal Conflict trainings since 2016, significantly increasing the number of trained mediators available to provide mediation services. ECR now has enough active mediators to begin providing advanced mediator trainings focused on such areas as effective mediation when emotions “get hot” or when issues of power get out of balance. ECR is planning the first advanced mediator training for October, 2018 with details available in June. Please contact us if you or someone you know is interested in these trainings or have suggested topics/skills to be included.

THANK YOU! To Our SUPPORTERS *

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Jim and Kay Gaier
David and Shirley Rogers
Jan Rhoades
Jeannie Dinwiddie
Maria Osborne
Linda Troop
Judi Brown
David and Lois Good
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David Doudt and Kim Ebersole

Since the last newsletter, Fall 2017