

Reconciliation Notes



PO Box 275
North Manchester, IN 46962



This photo **taken by Jack Fisher**, depicts a role play scene from **ECR's** September **SAM** Mediator Training Roleplay day. It may not look like hard work here, but participating in mediation simulations and debriefing sessions for a full six hours on a Saturday is no picnic. Roleplay Day is usually the day when “the leather hits the road” as our trainer, John Horn would say, because trainees get an inkling that conducting successful mediations isn't as easy as it looks on paper or in the training manual.

One trainee commented in our post-training evaluation that they “valued the role plays because it gave me a true feeling of how a mediation is run and provided me with feedback on my performance.” Another participant said, “[On Roleplay Day] I valued the sense of community with everyone. Working together and pointing out things we need to work on in a respectful manner.” For more details about the June and September **SAM** Trainings, see page one, “Director's Letter.”



Education for
Conflict Resolution

**We are delighted
to unveil ECR's
new logo!**

We hope this logo depicts **ECR's** spirit of reconciliation, conflict transformation, and community.

Designed by **Madeleine
Arnould – Graphic Artist**

madeleine-arnould.com



Education for
Conflict Resolution

Yes Indeed, We Did Get The Lilly!

She Buried the Lead, but **Look** for It. **The Good News is Coming**



Letter from the ECR Executive Director: Linda Troop

Hello, friends, patrons, clients, and supporters of **ECR's** work in the community. It has certainly been an eventful summer and fall for **ECR**. Because a number of surrounding counties asked us this spring to provide a training for their volunteers to become **S**chool **A**ttendance **M**ediators (**SAM** Mediators), I drafted three of our Board members and seasoned mediators, Angie Briner, John Horn, and Jan Rhoades, to help me create a new **ECR** training course.

It was a project that demanded hours of our time doing tasks like revising the original 33-page **SAM Training Manual** to a 60-page workbook, developing curriculum content and learning activities for three 2-hour Zoom sessions, and creating mock **SAM** scenarios for the in-person 6-hour Roleplay Day. It was a huge undertaking and we weren't entirely sure anyone would register for the June and September trainings, but they did. “If you build it, they will come.” Between the two trainings, we reached 25 volunteer participants from four counties (Steuben, Huntington, Kosciusko, and Wabash.) The registration fees for these two trainings brought in much-needed revenue that was clear of expenses to our organization because the \$5,000 Good Deeds Grant we were awarded last March by The Community Foundation of Wabash County covered the cost for instructors, curriculum development, and instructional materials.

But are you thinking I may have dropped the lead? Well, a good journalist would say so because I failed to open with a fantastic piece of news that we received on September 25. It was an ordinary day, as they say; yet, as I returned home exhausted from an **ECR** in-person committee meeting, I opened my email to find this statement:

“I'm pleased to share that Lilly Endowment has approved a grant to **Education for Conflict Resolution, Inc.** as indicated below. Congratulations!”

Amount: \$20,488 **Purpose:** Strengthening Youth Programs in Indiana 2023

It made my day. It is a miracle of sorts that the Lilly Endowment even considered our application and decided to grant us these funds. When I applied last May, I really had no hope that the granting committee would consider **ECR**. We were too small in terms of yearly budget. They only wanted agencies whose annual budget is \$60,000 or more to apply. That is not us. Also, **ECR's SAM** Program did not reach high enough numbers of youth (approx. 50 annually). Yet, when I made the argument that by training volunteers from counties outside of Wabash in how to initiate a **S**chool **A**ttendance **M**ediations Program, we would ultimately be reaching 1000's of youth across the state, they were interested.

I have to say that in this, the 35th year of **ECR's** history as an organization, we could not have been any better rewarded than to have been recognized by Lilly with funds to support our work. We hope you are excited and joyful for us as well!

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

ECR Board Update



Former Laketon Elementary School Principal, Jack Fisher, Steps Up to Assume the Board Chair Position for ECR in 2023-2024:

"A year ago last summer, I joined the Board of Directors for Education for Conflict Resolution, and I was glad to be a part of this organization because I was there when **ECR** became a reality at the Laketon Elementary School many years ago. Recently, a student I had during my time as principal at LES reminisced on his participation as one of the students who dealt with conflicts on the playground. He told me how proud he was to wear the sash that was a symbol of his role as a mediator when dealing with conflicts at recess. It made me realize that I needed to do more than just talk about **ECR**. I needed to be active and promote this great organization. So, I have assumed the role of Board Chairperson, and this is my way of giving back to the organization. I hope that others will heed the call to serve on the Board or to be a trained mediator. We have dedicated people who support and carry out the work of resolving conflict in our schools and in the lives of people. Only through community support can our work continue." – **Jack Fisher**

MU Education Professor Re-joins ECR's Board of Directors



Heather Schilling is a lifetime resident of North Manchester. She graduated from Manchester College, and after teaching high school English and history for twelve years at Whitko High School, Heather shifted her focus to preparing the next generation of teachers. She is in her 21st year of teaching in the Henney Department of Education at Manchester University. As the Director of Clinical Experiences and a professor of education, she works to graduate teachers who use their vocations to improve the human condition. Heather has the opportunity to introduce pre-service teachers to progressive education as she woos them to be part of the educational "revolution." As an educator of educators, Heather supports her program's focus on inquiry-based, student-centered learning opportunities. One of her favorite classes to teach is a senior-level class called **Creating Culturally Responsive Classrooms**, a class focused on creating learning communities that support the development of the whole child or young adult.

The work of **ECR** is important to Heather as an educator, and she believes the world can be a more equitable and just space if we learn to work through our disagreements in a peaceful and kind way.



2022-2023 Activity Report

Mediations

- | | |
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| Self-Referred Mediations: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sessions: 3 Adults Served: 12 Mediators: 5 |
| Court-Ordered Mediations: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sessions: 1 Adults Served: 2 Mediators: 3 |
| Manchester University Mediations: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sessions: 0 Adults Served: 0 Mediators: 0 |
| School Attendance Mediations: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sessions: 45 Students: 45 School Personnel: 81 Parents/Guardians: 55 Mediators: 86 |

Trainings/Workshops

- The Art of Communication Workshop for Resident Assistants and Hall Directors at Manchester University
- August 17, 2022: **4 hours**
 - Participants: **25**
 - Trainers: **Theresa Onderko**
- SAM Mediator Refresher Workshop**
- February 9, 2023: **2 hours**
 - Participants: **10**
 - Leadership: **Linda Troop**
- School Attendance Mediation Mediator Training**
- June 2023: **12 hours**
 - Participants: **13**
 - Trainers: **Linda Troop, Angie Briner, John Horn**
 - Coach: **Tina Rieman**

Board Meetings

- 8/22/22** - zoom
- 10/3/22** - in person
- 11/3/22** - zoom
- 11/9/22** - in person
- 12/8/22** - in person
- 1/26/23** - zoom
- 2/23/23** - in person
- 3/30/23** - in person
- 4/27/23** - in person
- 5/25/23** - in person
- 6/20/23** - in person annual meeting - 35th anniversary celebration

Presentations:

- Restorative Justice** - to Wabash County JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative)
- ECR's mediation programs** - to Manchester Church of the Brethren adult Sunday School class, North Manchester Rotary Club, Seniors for Peace at Timbercrest Senior Living, and the Shepherd's Center.
- School Attendance Mediation** - to Steuben County JDAI and Kosciusko County JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative)
- Productive Communication and Conflict** - to Manchester University senior social work majors
- Presenters:** Linda Troop, Angie Briner, Jan Rhoades, and Andrew Duffy

Support our 35th Anniversary
GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/cc25a1f8>
We are currently at **36%** of our **\$35,000 goal!**
Thank you!

Thank you for supporting us!

Donations 4/28/23 - 11/16/23

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| Katherine Ackley | Wilson and Mary Lutz |
| Charles Albert | Robert McCallen |
| Anonymous | Ed and Martha Miller |
| Kay Batdorf | Bryan Miller |
| Dean and Reba Beery | Don Miller |
| Suzanne Beyeler and Jason Martin | Tina Rieman |
| Lynn Blocher | David and Shirley Rogers |
| Jim and Amy Brumbaugh-Smith | Mike and Laura Rosswurm |
| Mary Chrastil | Kristen and Kyle Short |
| Kim Ebersole and David Doudt | Coreen Spencer and Gary Heisler |
| Mary Ebey | Sue Spote |
| Nan Erbaugh | Phil Tom |
| Kathy and Paul Fry-Miller | Linda Troop |
| Jane Grandstaff | Manchester Church of the Brethren |
| Heidi Gross | North Manchester Rotary Club |
| Esther Hamer | Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters |
| Dennis and Carol Horn | |
| Sally Johnson | |

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| Donations 7/1/22 - 6/30/23 | Total: \$27,913.35 Churches: \$3,341.50 | Businesses and Organizations: \$4,285.00 Individuals: \$20,286.85 | 74 total donors, 69 individuals, 3 organizations, 2 churches |
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