

Winter 2014

Volume 1, Issue 2, December

Message from the President

Happy holidays to all of our friends, supporters and volunteers!

We are looking forward to an Open House on Saturday, December 13th from 1pm to 3pm. We hope you will join us for cookies, cider and information about our services. One pound bags of Chocolate Amaretto Pecans will also be available for sale on that day and after until they are gone. Both Joy and I have tried these pecans and they are WONDERFUL! I have given these pecans as Holiday gifts ever since I first tried them and will be giving them as presents this year, too. Come sample and buy while they last.



Virginia Bolan, MSW,
Board President

Are you wondering where to make an end-of-the-year donation? PLCMC's homepage has a button that links you to PayPal through which donations can be made. PayPal makes donating incredibly easy. If you want to make a donation In Memory or In Honor of someone, we are happy to send an acknowledgement card to the recipient of your choice. We, of course, also accept donations through the mail or if you wish to bring them by the office personally.

Congratulations and Farewells

Warm congratulations to Carb Weber, Daniel Quock, and Emma Dorantes for completing the 40-Hour Basic Mediation Training with PLCMC this Fall. They are now certified mediators in the state of Illinois. Farewell to our board member Jason Hood. We appreciated his service to PLCMC.

Use Words Not Violence:

Puppeteer Elizabeth Goldsmith-Conley Partners with PLCMC

This Fall, PLCMC has invited Elizabeth to implement her conflict resolution techniques at Dr. Howard Elementary. Every week, she meets with students with conflict issues to teach nonviolence ways to solve school conflict. After a session, Elizabeth sat down to talk with us about her work. "The idea is to work with kids who are paired; one kid who they think really needs some counseling in...solving conflicts peacefully," she said. "They are coming up with conflicts and then they're going to come up with a performance where they teach kindergartners or first graders how to use certain steps for solving conflicts peacefully." Elizabeth's technique involves having students act out "the B4T Approach": (1) Turn away, (2) Try "I" statements, (3) Talk over solutions, (4) Tell the teacher, through a dialogue-driven puppet story. Students create names for their puppets and perform the steps in a series of questions and answers that offer explanations for each step in the process. Elizabeth says, "At the moment, we've been practicing introductions where they explain to the kindergartners or first graders 'what does conflict mean?' and 'what does conflict resolution mean?' and 'what are the steps?'"

Meanwhile, students carry notebooks where they note down conflicts. "This week they are supposed to notes down where they see the first step being used [in] "Take Five Breaths" or calm yourself down by taking deep breaths.

Thank you, Elizabeth, for your excellent work with student conflict resolution.



Elizabeth Goldsmith-Conley behind the puppet stage.

Fundraising News*

- ⇒ Open House: Saturday, December 13th from 1pm-3pm. Purchase Chocolate Amaretto Nuts as a holiday gift.
- ⇒ Go to smile.amazon.com and search Prairie Land Conflict Mediation Center to donate .5% of your purchase!
- ⇒ Sign up for a Schnucks eScript Card at any Schnucks and register your card with PLCMC at escript.com.
- ⇒ Use your registered debit/credit cards with escript at Buca di Beppo.

Conflict Management for Kids: Decatur Public School District

On November 8th, Executive Director Joy George traveled to Decatur, IL to present 'Conflict Management for Kids' at the Decatur Public School District. Educators and Boy & Girls Club program administrators gathered to learn how peer mediation can be implemented. This peer mediation program presentation details the benefits of student-to-student mediation skills and teaches students how to deal with school conflict.

Teaming with UI Business and Tech Students to Improve Webs

This fall semester, PLCMC has teamed with UI business technology students to enhance PLCMC's Facebook and website presence. Please check out our newly designed and updated pages at prairielandmediation.com and Like our fresh Facebook page. Seven students, led by Michael Thrasher have been meeting all semester long with PLCMC to change, enhance and grow its social presence in the community. Thank you, students, for a great experience!

Upcoming Events

- ⇒ Open House @ PLCMC on Saturday, December 13th from 1pm to 3pm. Come learn about the exciting work of the Center!
- ⇒ TBA: 40-Hour Basic Mediation Training with Prof. Duncanson coming March 2015.
- ⇒ Virginia Bolan continues to conduct Peaceful Parenting as a part of PLCMC. A new round of sessions have begun for this class. The course teaches conflict management and resolution in high-stress parenting environments for divorced parents.

*All donations are tax deductible.

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Questions or Comments?
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