



Our Mission

In recognition of the value of a peaceful community, Mediation Matters provides the skills and processes that help people handle conflict in a constructive way.

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We've Been Chosen as CCRC's Sponsored Non-Profit for their Annual 5K

Christ Community Reformed Church (CCRC) is holding its 8th Annual 5K/Walk/Run/BBQ and Mediation Matters is the sponsored non-profit who will receive the event's proceeds!

The event's goal is to promote healthy lifestyles in the community through an afternoon of physical fitness, fun, and food.

The event will take place on May 3rd, with the race starting at the church and spanning the beautiful surrounding Clifton Park neighborhood.

The event consists of a 5K race/

walk/jog for adults and a 1K fun run for youth. After the youth race a BBQ dinner will be served.

Registration takes place between 1:00 - 2:30 pm and the event's proceedings take place between 3:00 - 6:00 pm.

For more detailed information concerning registration, participation, activities, competitions, awards, and prizes please refer to the flyer included in this envelope.

Along with attending, there are several other ways you could

contribute to the event. These include:

- Encouraging the participation of your friends, family and employees.
- Financial Sponsorships:
 - \$250: logo on start/finish line banner, t-shirts, and a special announcement.
 - \$100 Company logo & name on the event t-shirt.
 - \$50 company name on the event t-shirt.

All checks should be made payable to Christ Community Reformed Church.

Greetings from Kashiff Thompson the New Schenectady High Peer Mediation Coordinator

What a great way to kick off 2014! This past January I joined the amazing and dedicated staff at Mediation Matters as the Peer Mediation Coordinator at Schenectady High School.

Once I began my work I immediately started taking advantage of all the training opportunities available, asking questions, and reading as much literature as possible on the magic of peer mediation, conflict resolution, and restorative justice.

With the support of Mediation Matters' staff I intend on raising the bar for Peer Mediation. For example, in February we have increased our mediations by over 75 percent!

Prior to my employment here, I was a partner in a youth mentorship program called Men Organized to Develop, Empower, & Lead, Inc. (MODEL).

Through the MODEL program we provided an array of different leadership experiences and opportunities to inner-city youth, that otherwise wouldn't be available in their current environment.

I believe that exposure and consistency are the most important variables of success for our youth; through the MODEL program we were helping young people build bridges to their aspirations.

I am incredibly thankful for the hard work of Karen Baum and Sarah Rudgers-Tysz, as they have provided me with all the tools necessary to maintain and continue to build this wonderful program.

I expect many challenging times in the future. However, I also expect just as many opportunities for growth and expansion of the Peer Mediation Program.

I am beyond grateful for your trust, expectations, and this opportunity to make a difference.

-Kashiff Thompson

Counties Served

Albany
Rensselaer
Saratoga
Schenectady
Warren
Washington

Office Locations

Albany:
10 N. Russell Road, 2nd Floor
Albany, NY 12206
518-446-0356

Saratoga:
480 Broadway , LL-32
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
518-584-6361

Mediation Matters has space for mediations available in all six counties.

General

Please call either of our office locations or if you would like to speak to someone about any of the following:

- Finding out more about mediation.
- Scheduling a mediation.
- Becoming a mediator.
- Collaborating or volunteering with the organization.

If you would like to learn more about mediation and the services we offer, please visit our website.

www.mediationmatters.org

Advocacy Matters: How Stakeholders Can Contribute

One of our greatest challenges we face at Mediation Matters is the lack of community awareness about mediation and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. As an advocate and community spokesperson, it may be helpful to have some talking points. Following are some examples of services we provide you could help spread the word about:

These are difficult concepts for many people to understand. Even those who know about our organization have varying degrees of understanding about what we do. For *communities* we can assist with landlord & tenant disputes; business disputes involving clients, customers & employees; disputes between neighbors, friends, family; etc.

This is why we need your help. As a stakeholder, you are uniquely positioned to be our community voice and help us educate the communities we serve about conflict resolution and the services we offer. For *community wide disputes* we can hold issues based group discussions, mediate multi-party disputes, and facilitate restorative justice circles that involve everyone affected by an incident or crime. For *organizations* we offer conflict resolution training services and workshops that can be utilized by your staff, volunteers, and clients. For *non-profits, government agencies, and the court system* Mediation Matters is a valuable referral resource. We can be there when you and your client need an objective third party to help navigate a dispute in their lives. And of course, for *families* we offer a confidential, neutral, and inexpensive process that makes sure everyone has a chance to express their needs and be heard. Get out there and help us spread the word!

What's Been Going on This Quarter

Conflict Resolution Trainings and Workshops

Below are the different trainings/workshops we've facilitated with community groups & organizations this quarter.

- Albany High School: Peer Mediation Training
- Heroes At Home: Training with staff & volunteers
- Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless Drop In Center: Workshop with clients
- Hackett Middle School: Workshop with students
- Macdonald Towers: Workshop with residents
- Various Organizations: Community Collaborative Basic Mediation Training

Basic Mediation Trainings

- Siena College: Office of Academic Community Engagement staff.
- Skidmore College: Community Members & Students.

Restorative Justice Circles

We've facilitated several Restorative Justice Circles at local schools over the course of the past quarter. For confidentiality purposes we can't name schools or discuss specifics, we can though say that the participants benefited a great deal.

Staffing Changes

Maureen Cary, Program Coordinator in our Saratoga Office, has left the organization to pursue a stellar opportunity. Maureen brought a wealth of experience, personality, and competence to the organization. We're thankful for all of her contributions and wish her all the best.

While we're sad to see Maureen go, we are excited to welcome Will Siegel-Sawma to the team! Will is a long time mediator with us, has experience as an attorney in the family court system, and has hit the ground running since he started in March. We're glad to have him on the team and excited to see what he'll accomplish.



Helping people solve conflict in a constructive way.