

# KIPCOR NEWS

SPRING 2007

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

## Welcome to KIPCOR News!

By Gary Flory, KIPCOR Director

In an age of electronic information we are moving to a print newsletter – because we believe it will be read. And rediscovering better ways to communicate with you is what matters most to us!

Each issue will be an update on what we are doing in at least some of our programs. In addition to activities on campus we will keep you informed on

- the Community Mediation Center,
- training and education activities and opportunities,

- congregational conflict activities and workshops,
- the Great Plains Consensus Council,
- the financial health of KIPCOR, and
- other KIPCOR activities that may periodically be of interest.

This newsletter is also our invitation to hear from you. Conflict resolution and peacemaking of all types are best accomplished when we work together. Ultimately we aim to influence the culture of how persons of

different views can make decisions constructively, and that task will take all of our efforts. Your ideas do matter.

Finally, we would invite you to consider supporting KIPCOR before our fiscal year ends June 30<sup>th</sup>. Bethel College provides a wonderful setting and infrastructure support for our work, but most programming costs are generated separately. If we are to continue to grow, it will be with your help.

“THIS NEWS-  
LETTER IS ALSO  
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## Volunteers Make a Difference!

By Jean Isaac, Administrative Assistant

Whether they remove walls, install drywall, build or re-vamp furnishings, prepare and serve food, conduct mediations, or enter figures into databases, volunteers play a hefty role in what KIPCOR can accomplish.

When the renovations of Kaufman House, KIPCOR's present home, began in September 2002, seven men donated innumerable hours of labor over the next few months, gutting the existing structure and extending and reconstructing it to become its present office and training complex.

The first training in the new

facility, held July 17, 2003, initiated the moving process. Volunteers hauled items, adjusted fixtures, refurbished furniture, outfitted closets, donated art pieces, placed wall hangings, and added other finishing touches.

When additional trainings followed in quick succession, other volunteers helped with role plays, supplied refreshments and prepared meals. These services are in demand as KIPCOR and other campus groups hold gatherings in the Kaufman House Meeting Room.

Some of the volunteer activities benefit KIPCOR's Community Mediation Center, located on second floor. One volunteer regularly updates its databases, and others serve voluntarily as eldercare mediators and as mediators in two counties' small-claims courts. Most recently another volunteer built a handsome cabinet/bookcase combo.

We will feature these dedicated volunteers in future issues of *KIPCOR News*.

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**LEFT:** THE MEN WHO AIDED WITH PREPARING THE HOUSE FOR OCCUPANCY (L-R): DON KAUFMAN, TED MUELLER, MILTON CLAASSEN, PAUL ROTH, GARY ISAAC, MELVIN KLAASSEN, HOWARD BULLER, WAYNE STUCKY, ARLIN RATZLAFF.

**RIGHT:** DONNA KLAASSEN (L) AND GLADYS REIMER PREPARING MEALS FOR TRAINING SESSIONS



## *Introducing CMC*

By Barbara Schmidt, CMC Manager



KIPCOR's Community Mediation Center (CMC) pro-

vides mediation services for people with interpersonal conflicts (such as differences within families on domestic, parent-teen and elder care issues); disputes (like

neighborhood problems, small claims court, or workplace differences) within the community; and conflicts within schools, including public schools and Bethel College.

## *Child Custody and Parenting Issues*

By Barbara Schmidt

In Harvey County, mediation is required in domestic cases involving disputes regarding the custody of a minor child, parenting time and/or other parental issues before a judge will hear the case. Since 1999 CMC's state-approved domestic mediators have handled nearly 400 such cases.

One of the hardest issues to resolve is when one of the parents intends to relocate and wants to take their child along. In the following case, both parents knew that week-end exchanges would be impossible.

Anna's new husband Dave owned a home and a guest cottage in Alaska and they

wanted to move to Alaska and take Anna's daughter Eloise along. Eloise's father Jeffrey said he didn't care if Anna moved, but that Eloise would have to stay in Kansas. It appeared there was no way to come to an agreement.

Through mediation, the parties agreed that Eloise could live in Alaska during the school year and in Kansas in the summer, that Anna and Dave would pay for half of Jeff's travel to Alaska up to three times a year, and that Jeff and his family could stay in Anna and Dave's guest cottage rent-free and use one of their cars any time they went to Alaska to see Eloise.

In addition, the parties found that the school Eloise could attend had a website and Jeff could see what was going on and take part in parent-teacher meetings electronically.

Both of Eloise's parents were going to continue to be actively involved in her life.

All agreed that they had a win-win resolution—especially for Eloise.

“ALL AGREED THEY HAD A WIN-WIN RESOLUTION—ESPECIALLY FOR ELOISE”



CMC MEDIATOR JOE ROBB (STANDING)

## *Small Claims Mediation*

By Jean Isaac, with Dan Miller



CMC SMALL CLAIMS MEDIATOR DAN MILLER (CENTER)

KIPCOR's Community Mediation Center is also involved in mediating cases that come up in Small Claims court in Har-

vey and McPherson counties.

Initiated in McPherson County in 2003 under the supervision of Glenna Premer, the programs are now coordinated by Dan Miller and Leslie Frye, respectively. Dan tells of one small claims case:

“Hurting people often seek justice through small claims court. This was the case when a woman brought a lawn

mower service repair proprietor to court looking to recover a lost investment in two mowers that should work, but did not. The agreement included picking up the mowers within the hour, repaired serviceable, and returning them to the owner yet that afternoon. The woman dismissed all other charges.”

## *Arthur Marks Brings Crowd and Funding*

By Barbara Schmidt

Arthur Marks returned to Newton by popular demand for a fundraising concert/dinner on April 29, 2007, to benefit CMC.

The event, held at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church (THUMC), was attended by 114 people and netted over \$7,500.

The performance by Arthur and accompanist Laura Ber-

quist was exceptional, and the food prepared by THUMC's women's group delicious.

Many attendees said they hoped the Marks concert/dinner would become an annual event.

CMC is indebted to the musicians; the Honorable Ted Ice, emcee; members of THUMC; attendees and the very generous underwriters.

Thanks to all!



ARTHUR MARKS

## *New Bethel-KIPCOR Initiatives*

By Kirsten Zerger, Director of Education & Training

Kaufman House is seeing more students recently in robust discussions than since the days when President E.G. and Hazel Kaufman invited each year's graduating senior class to dinner in the House's original dining room.

We are very excited by a new initiative from the Bethel College nursing department, begun in Fall 2006, which requires all graduating nursing students to complete a four-day intensive training

course in practical skills for managing interpersonal conflict.

This KIPCOR course is specifically designed to reflect the growing need of nurses to serve as periodic "conflict managers" in hospitals and other health care settings—within work groups, for patients and their families, and even between patients and doctors or other care givers.

Bethel is the first nursing school in Kansas to make conflict resolution training a

graduation requirement.

A separate and equally exciting initiative started in Spring 2006 when Bethel's Student Life Department began requesting assistance from KIPCOR staff for mediation and conferencing services for selected disciplinary cases, and also for disputes among roommates.

While not every situation has had a "happy" ending, the use of restorative practices has resulted in better understanding, more empathy, and greater wisdom for participants.

"WHILE NOT EVERY SITUATION HAS HAD A 'HAPPY' ENDING, THE USE OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICES HAS RESULTED IN BETTER UNDERSTANDING, MORE EMPATHY, AND GREATER WISDOM FOR PARTICIPANTS."

## *Cool Tips for Hot Situations*

By Kirsten Zerger

Demand is growing for KIPCOR to share practical ways to deal with differences and disagreement.

In recent years, we have provided training to court clerks, judges, rec league umpires and referees, rural water district personnel, agricultural extension agents, Girl Scout leaders, voluntary service workers, university professors, county employees, state natural resource

personnel, faith communities, public schools, Bethel College students, and other community members.

The "cool tools for hot situations" which participants gain in KIPCOR trainings include learning how to work with personal style in conflict, communicating in multi-cultural settings, facilitating for consensus, designing collaborative decision-making processes, nour-

ishing conflict's spiritual seedbed, and learning to listen with the eye and the heart.

We often hear in evaluations that KIPCOR trainings are useful for "work, home, life!" ... and for some even "life-changing"!

Let us know if you are interested in participating in a KIPCOR training, or in bringing a custom-made training to your group.

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**

<http://www.bethelks.edu/kipcor/>

*Summer and Fall Calendar*



**KAUFMAN HOUSE, HOME OF KIPCOR, AT BETHEL COLLEGE**

Practical Skills for <b>Managing Interpersonal Conflict</b> (State-Approved Core Training) <i>SSC 460</i>	June 5-8, 2007
Practical Skills for <b>Managing Parent-Teen Conflict</b> (State-Approved Parent-Adolescent Training) <i>SSC 465</i>	June 28-29, 2007
Practical Skills for <b>Managing Interpersonal Conflict</b> (State-Approved Core Training) <i>SSC 460</i>	Sept. 4-5 & 11-12, 2007
<b>Domestic Mediation Training</b> (Continuing Mediation and Social Work Education) <i>SSC 464</i>	Oct. 24-26, 2007
<b>CME / CEU Shorts</b> (Continuing Mediation and Social Work Education)	Dec. 7, 2007

*Pat Cameron: Peacemaker Award Recipient for 2006*

**By Jean Isaac**

Instituted in 2001, the annual KIPCOR Peacemaker Award recognizes a resident of south-central Kansas who has made significant contributions to peace and conflict resolution.

The first recipient was Harold R. Regier of Newton, followed by Mary McDonough Harren of Wichita, Ramzieh and Wayer Azmeh then of Wichita, David

L. Miller of Partridge, and Frances Jackson of Wichita.

The 2006 recipient, Pat Cameron, was recognized March 8, 2007, in a citation prepared by Selection Committee Chair Sam Muyskens.

“Pat lives a life of respect,” said Rev. Sam Muyskens, Executive Director of Inter-Faith Ministries.

“In his powerfully quiet manner he daily touches the lives of those about him with a message of peace.”

Pat has demonstrated his commitment by helping coordinate “Faith and Resistance” retreats and helping to found several peace centers, by leading Social Justice tours to help students and the public to become aware

of social justice issues such as poverty, hunger, homelessness, and racism, and by his involvement in inter-religious dialogue and understanding by teaching “Comparative Religion” classes at Butler Community College.

Pat Cameron received an engraved pen, and his name appears on the plaque hanging inside the entrance to Kaufman House, KIPCOR’s home.

Knowing KIPCOR’s work is expanding and in need of support, I/we wish to contribute the following amount  
 \$2,500    \$1,000    \$500    \$250    \$150  
 \$100    \$50   \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

in support of :  
 KIPCOR in general                       Education & Training  
 Community Mediation Center    Consensus Council  
 Congregational work                      \_\_\_\_\_ other

*Please fill out and detach this double coupon, make checks payable to KIPCOR, and mail it to PO Box 276, North Newton KS 67117.*

**Your donation is tax deductible and counted as a gift to Bethel College.**

I would like to learn more about volunteering at KIPCOR:  
 preparing meals or providing baked goods for events;  
 becoming a volunteer mediator;  
 participating in role-plays during KIPCOR trainings;  
 assisting with mailings and other office tasks; and/or  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State    Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_