



NEWS RELEASE:

CONTACT: Penny Shuff
penny@mediationservices.works
616-399-1600 (c) 312-208-2706

GHACF SUPPORTS SENIORS SEEKING PATHWAY TO PEACE

Grand Haven, MI (October 10th, 2022) The Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is making a long-term financial commitment to a program designed to help Northern Ottawa County seniors and their loved ones learn how to settle conflicts.

The GHACF is awarding *Mediation Services* nearly \$64,000 over the next four years to launch a new program called *Pathway to Peace*. The program offers a range of conflict resolution services from mediation and restorative practices to seminars designed to help seniors deal with conflict in their changing lives.

“We are very grateful the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation is supporting this program. This grant allows us to help seniors better understand how to resolve conflicts and teaches them ways to move forward and bring more peace into their lives,” said Elizabeth Giddings Scott, Executive Director of *Mediation Services*.

This program is made possible through the generous support of these Grand Haven Area Community Foundation Funds: Cornelia B. Wagner & Ruth B. Hoek Fund, Gene and Sally Harbeck Fund, Healthy Seniors Healthy Youth Endowment Fund, Margaret Lynn Wilson Fund, and the Greatest Needs Fund of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation.

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The *Pathway to Peace* program will be offered at *Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging* in Grand Haven and will be added to a range of programming offered for seniors. Kim Kroll is the Executive Director of *Four Pointes*.

“Four Pointes is excited to be part of this innovative new program. It offers valuable resources in order to navigate difficult conversations. As seniors experience changes in their lives, open communication is the key to preventing misunderstandings and conflicts between older adults and their loved ones,” Kroll said.

Mediation Services is a non-profit organization based in Holland Michigan that has been providing conflict resolution services for nearly 30 years. The *Pathway to Peace* program was created after seeing many older adults grapple with issues connected to the aging process.

“As people get older, they can face disagreements with important people in their lives, this program gives seniors options for addressing these conflicts,” Scott said.

Common Issues include decisions over when to stop driving or when a senior needs assistance making decisions over their health care or financial needs.

The *Pathway to Peace* program promotes peace by bringing people together using mediation principles and techniques. The goal is to help seniors discover more peace in their golden years by moving beyond disagreements through the use of an impartial facilitator. This person is specially trained to guide difficult discussions and help everyone involved reach a mutual solution.

The new program will be offered on the first Friday of every month at *Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging* 1051 S. Beacon Blvd., Grand Haven, MI 49417

The first session will be held November 4th from 10am-noon

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Mediation Services is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.

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