



New Mediators from left to right: Susan Jordan (executive director); Patti Urosevich (board member/new mediator); Rebecca Armstrong; Allison Kamerer; Carl Nelson; Pat Kilroy; Anne Khoury; Christine Cha (case coordinator/new mediator); Andrea Paxton; Meg Martin (case coordinator); Angie Walter

SVM by the Numbers

2,826 cases have been opened since we opened our doors in 2011.

In 2021:

- **9** new mediators joined SVM's volunteer team
- **3** experienced mediators were certified through the ISCT*
- **123** Crisis/Rapid Response Family Meetings, to support child safety and family healing, were held with over **650** people participating
- **14** Plan of Safe Care Meetings were held for families of babies born drug-affected
- **290** new mediation cases initiated
- **160** mediations held with over **350** people participating
- **20%** of cases were self-referred
- **35** volunteers donated more than **2,500** hours to the community
- **80** People participated in Active Bystander Training
- Over **12** partner organizations, and counting
- Over **20** individuals impacted by incarceration served

*Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation

Judge Hudock Retiring

After more than 40 years practicing law, 10 of those serving as judge, Judge Michael T. Hudock is set to retire at the end of the year.



At every step, Judge Hudock has supported measures to both uphold the law and offer people opportunities for redemption and healing. He has supported mediation, the expansion of reentry services for people returning home from incarceration, and most recently, helped establish a mental health court as part of Union/Snyder Counties' award-winning treatment court system.

"SVM is deeply grateful for the support and ongoing encouragement from Judge Hudock since our early days," said founder Elayne Sobel. About SVM, Judge Hudock said, "The mediation service has been a godsend to litigants and the court. I believe that the agreements litigants reached through mediation are better for the parties and their children. Expansion of mediation to defendants in the criminal justice system will go a long way for successful re-entry. Thank you for all that you do." -

We wish Judge Hudock a happy, fulfilling retirement!

Congratulations to our Newest Certified Mediators!



SVM is proud to announce our three newest certified mediators (from left to right: Sharon Silberman, Bob Shabanowitz, Marcus Smolensky). Certification through the Institute for the Study of Conflict Transformation represents many hours of extra work and practice. SVM is so grateful to these three dedicated volunteers. Their certification will allow us to expand our training capacity and serve the community better in the future.

What do participants have to say?

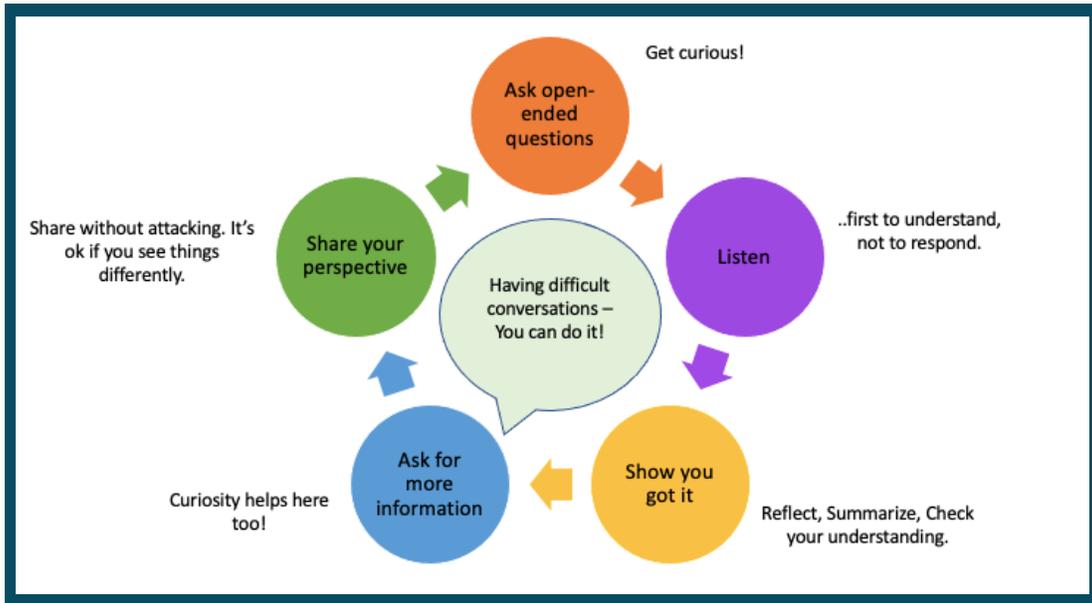
- *"The Zoom meeting was really good, I'm hopeful that it was beneficial for our family. It was good that everybody got to express themselves. It made me feel better, and I felt more comfortable confronting hard stuff."*
- *"The decision making process turned out well."*
- *"The meeting helped me understand and communicate better. I got issues off my chest."*
- *"The family meeting was good. A lot was brought up and discussed and we got to play a role in deciding what's next."*

SVM's Prison Re-entry program continues to grow under the leadership of our Reentry and Reintegration Coordinator, Terrell Mosley. Terrell has office hours (T/W 1-4pm) in the Union County Resource Center for both mediation and mentoring for those impacted by incarceration. He receives referrals directly from Union County Probation, as well as word of mouth. If you know someone who would benefit from this service, call Terrell @ 570-264-2243 or visit our website @svmediation.org.



HAPPY? HOLIDAYS!

As one client recently said, "Families are special...and complicated." The holiday season can be a joyful time to gather with family. It can also be a stressful time if there is family conflict. Navigating difficult conversations with loved ones can also bring you closer. Here is a handy graphic to help you slow down, start by listening, and learn more from each other, without losing yourself in the process. If you still need a little help, you can still call us for some family mediation. ♥



URGENCY OF AWARENESS

"How are our organizations and systems set up to favor certain identities and create barriers for others?" This is one of the tough questions we asked ourselves during a multi-day "Urgency of Awareness" training with Jodi Pfarr this fall. The training was part of SVM's collaboration with Family Engagement Initiative (FEI) Teams in Union and Snyder Counties, led by Judge Sholley and Children and Youth (CYS) Administrators Jenn Evans and Matt Ernst. "This is a unique opportunity to make some significant improvements to our systems, to remove barriers, make things more accessible, improve collaboration, and reduce discrimination of all kinds. It is unusual for those working in different fields to take the time from our busy schedules to come together to really reflect and take collective action," said SVM Director Susan Jordan. "SVM staff enjoyed learning from the other professionals in mental health, drug & alcohol, law enforcement, CYS, and the courts." The FEI team is moving into specific action steps to put the training into practice. Stay tuned!

Mediator Profile **Dane Zimmerman**

The idea of becoming a volunteer with SVM came to Dane from Jenn Evans, his colleague and Administrator for Snyder County Children and Youth Services, one of SVM's partners. Ms. Evans, having knowledge of Dane's past work history and experience with conflict resolution and crisis management as a trained hostage negotiator, thought volunteerism as a mediator would be a good fit for Dane. "She was right, it was an excellent fit. The partnership between CYS and SVM is invaluable because it plays a vital role in the successful reunification of children and families," Dane explained.

Dane retired from the Federal Bureau of Prisons in 2011, retired with 21 years of service in the Army National Guard, and continues to work for Snyder County Children and Youth Services. He lives in Mifflinburg with his wife Wendy and has a daughter Lauren who lives in North Carolina. He is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, and hiking.



"I find it personally rewarding to know I am able to help those in need of support during difficult periods of conflict. To put it quite simply, I enjoy helping parties discovering a pathway out of conflict while they find their voices and start making choices about their future."

~ Dane Zimmerman

Active Bystander Training

"There is nobody more dangerous than one who has been humiliated, even when you humiliate him rightly." ~Nelson Mandela

Often people express that the most painful part of being bullied or mistreated is the fact that there are people who stood by and watched but did nothing. Over the past year, SVM developed an Active Bystander Training to help people practice speaking up when they witness harmful things happening, without causing further harm. Over 80 people participated in the training. According to one participant, "The training was a fun, low-stress chance to practice something I find really challenging. It's so easy to turn away from harmful things to not make waves. I want to do better."

Each training is tailored to the group which requests it. Participants talk through difficult scenarios they personally experience and practice ways to respond in the future. Participants have an opportunity to think through their strengths and tailor their own approaches to intervening. The trainings are based on a relational view of conflict, acknowledging the humanity of every person and asking participants to practice responding to harm in a way that is grounded in compassion and strength. Participants learn from each other and brainstorm possible responses together, understanding that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to bystander intervention. SVM facilitated a series of trainings for the children at the Donald Heiter Community Center, proving that becoming an Active Bystander is a skill that people of all ages can hone!



Heiter Center day campers talk through their support networks with SVM staff member, Anne Coyne, during Active Bystander Training

If you are interested in holding or attending an Active Bystander Training, please email Susan Jordan at sjordan@svmediation.org.



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Many Thanks To:

- You, our many generous donors
- Our volunteer mediators and board members
- Our dedicated staff: Susan Jordan, Meg Martin, Anne Coyne, Christine Cha, and Terrell Mosley
- Our interns: Jennaya White and Arin Lohr
- Our Rapid Response Team
- The Union & Snyder County Commissioners for their continued financial support
- The GSV United Way for supporting Family Engagement, Safe Care for Moms in Recovery, and so much more!
- The National Association for Community Mediation for support of our Prison Re-entry & Reintegration Work, and more!
- Members of the Union, Snyder, and Northumberland County Reentry Coalitions
- The Donald Heiter Center for their partnership on Active Bystander Training for summer campers
- Joanne Troutman, Adrienne Mael, Stacey Piecuch, and volunteers from the United Way's Diversity and Inclusion Council
- The team who helped organize the GROW Trauma & Resiliency Summit
- Professor Eric Martin and the Management for Sustainability students from Bucknell University
- Sue Auman and the Union/Snyder CAA and CORE Susquehanna AmeriCorps for their partnership
- Judges Hudock, Sholley, Saylor, Rosini, and Rowe and their staffs in the Union, Northumberland, & Snyder County Courts
- Scott Kerstetter, Chief of Union County Probation, and his staff
- Jennifer Evans, Matt Ernst, and Katrina Gownley, administrators of Children and Youth Services in Snyder, Union, and Northumberland Counties, respectively
- Kelly Feiler and Javier Videla from the Selinsgrove REC
- The Dayton Mediation Center staff and mediators for offering joint trainings and resources

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We're here to help!

SVM is open and available to anyone in the community who needs our services. Please call 570-374-1718 for a confidential conversation with our case manager, Meg Martin.