



Central Susquehanna  
Valley Mediation Center  
713 Bridge Street, Suite 3  
Selinsgrove, PA 17870  
570-374-1718

**Center office hours:**

Monday – Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Mediation appointments  
available:**

Monday through Saturday  
10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday  
6:30 p.m.

**To request an appointment:**

Contact case coordinator  
Danielle D'Alessandro  
at 570-374-1718  
or by email at  
casecoordinator@  
csvmediation.org

**General email inquiries:**

info@csvmediation.org

**Visit us online:**

www.csvmediation.org

**Executive Director:**

Susan Jordan  
570-837-9563  
susanjordan@csvmediation.org

**Board of Directors:**

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## Center trains 15 new volunteer mediators



Front row, from left: Trainer Winnie Backlund, Karen Zereconsky, Rachel O'Brien, Michael Drexler, Susan Chlebowski, Sophia Guerrero, Danielle D'Alessandro, Mary Zimmerman and Amiee Snyder. Back row, from left: Tamera Martin, trainer Susan Jordan, Karen Thompson, Neal Bulger, Mark O'Brien, Amy Gronlund, Anna Jordan and Carolyn Coldren.

Fifteen new mediators have joined the center's roster of volunteers after completing 40 hours of training held in October.

The new class includes two Lewisburg High School seniors, Sophia Guerrero and Anna Jordan, who will work to help the center develop a peer mediation program as their senior project.

Since completing basic training, the new

mediators are observing mediations facilitated by experienced volunteer mediators. After observing a few sessions, trainees will be scheduled to co-mediate with senior mediators while working to gain experience.

The center uses two mediators for most sessions, even when scheduled mediators are experienced.

## Susan Jordan appointed CSVMC executive director



Susan Jordan

CSVMC board president Elayne Sobel has announced that Susan Jordan has been named Executive Director of the mediation center. A member of the 2012 basic mediation training class, Susan was hired as part-time case coordinator in August 2013 and promoted shortly thereafter to program coordinator.

Since CSVMC opened in the spring of 2011, the center's volunteers have performed nearly 1,000 mediations. As the center continues to expand mediation services and readies to launch a new Kids First seminar for separated couples, the board decided it was time to name an executive to coordinate and administer all aspects of the center's services, which had been a hands-on board responsibility until Susan's appointment.

In announcing the appointment, Sobel said "Susan's energy and enthusiasm in getting the mission of the mediation center out to the Central Susquehanna Valley is unlimited. She brings a wealth of innovative ideas and the board is excited to have Susan fill this new position."

## Kids First!

The research is clear: Divorce and separation can be tough on kids. In January 2015, CSVMC will launch "Kids First", a new program to support parents in conflict and our important custody mediation work. As participants in this program, parents in custody disputes can see their conflict through the eyes of their children. Kids First gives parents tools and information to help them to do less of what hurts their children and more of what helps them live with the changes in their family life. The goal is for this program to have a positive impact on parents' experiences in mediation and beyond.

Parties court-ordered to mediation will attend Kids First prior to mediation, free of charge. Others from the community will be welcome to participate in the program for a small fee. The program will be offered three times monthly and taught by three of our trained mediators, experienced teachers Sharon Silberman, Susan Chlebowski and Benita Kolmen-Solomon.

# Case load may double in 2015

In January, 2015, CSVMC will embark on a major expansion of services into Northumberland County, offering Kids First classes and mediation services to parties in custody disputes.

“We expect this move to quickly double our caseload and are excited to get started. Our mediators are ready and our organization is ready, in part because of generous support from the AmeriCorps program. We are certain that as we develop a presence in Northumberland County, county residents will increasingly think to call us when they need our services.” said Director Susan Jordan.

## New AmeriCorps volunteer helps center to expand services

AmeriCorps volunteer Danielle D'Alessandro has joined CSVMC's staff. A recent graduate of Susquehanna University, she earned a bachelor's degree in English and a Pennsylvania teaching certificate for grades 7-12. A native of New Jersey, Danielle now lives in Northumberland.

She joined AmeriCorps because of her desire to give back and do something more in the community. Danielle hopes to one day establish a non-profit agency that combines her love for teaching with her interest in the non-profit world.

Regarding her work at the mediation center, Danielle said, “I'm looking forward to not only bringing my passion and energy to the mediation center to grow its positive influence in the communities it serves, but also to learning much from the center and its volunteers that will help me grow as a person and as a teacher. I'm thrilled and excited to have been blessed with this opportunity!”

Danielle completed basic mediation training in October and will support the center as case coordinator, volunteer coordinator and mediator, and will help with program development.

Danielle works in the mediation office Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and can be reached at 570-374-1718 or [casecoordinator@csvmediation.org](mailto:casecoordinator@csvmediation.org).



Danielle D'Alessandro

## You should know...

Central Susquehanna Valley Mediation Center, Inc. is classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization, and your donation is fully tax-deductible as allowed by law.

### Mediator Profile:

## Marie Grossman

When Al Sobel asked a small group of committed volunteer mediators to help him establish an independent mediation center in 2010, Marie Grossman recognized the significant social contribution a mediation center could make. She became the center's first board president and served in that capacity for more than three years, combining big-picture thinking with careful attention to detail. Under her dedicated leadership, CSVMC developed a strong relationship with the courts, trained dozens of volunteers, expanded its community presence and provided hundreds of mediations to residents of the Susquehanna Valley.



Marie Grossman

About her experience as a mediator, Marie says, “Mediating has been both eye-opening and gratifying, as I learned I could help people effectively navigate tougher circumstances than I'd had to handle in my own life. This important work improves quality of life for many of our neighbors and their children.”

Marie worked in graphic design before moving to the Valley in 2008. She lives in Middleburg with her husband, Gary and their dog, Payton.

## Director's Notes from Susan Jordan

This has been an exhilarating year at CSVMC! In addition to providing important mediation services, a lot of work has been happening behind the scenes. We have diversified our caseload, developed Kids First, trained more volunteers, begun work on a peer mediation program and added an AmeriCorps volunteer to our staff. As I consider the legacy and promise of CSVMC, I am both honored and humbled to step in as Executive Director.

2015 is shaping up to be another big year for us as we carry on our mission of supporting people in conflict. We are approaching our 1,000th case milestone and plan to launch Kids First in Union, Snyder and Northumberland Counties in January. Our custody work in Northumberland County will double our caseload. We plan to further develop and pilot our peer mediation program with local youth organizations. And of course, we will continue to offer the services that we always have.

While our volunteers are our most valued resource, we do have financial needs as well. We are deeply grateful to the more than 200 donors from our region who have helped us deliver these services. Will you consider joining them in making a donation to CSVMC? Thank you!



The mediation center needs:

- ★ Help from a skilled website designer who will volunteer to update and maintain our site
- ★ Video cameras to assist in training mediators
- ★ A PowerPoint projector for our Kids First program

Can you help? Please contact Susan Jordan at 570-837-9563 or [susanjordan@csvmediation.org](mailto:susanjordan@csvmediation.org).