

# Reconciliation Notes



PO Box 275  
North Manchester, IN 46962



Education for  
Conflict Resolution

## Fall Greetings from ECR

### ECR

Hires an Outreach Coordinator & Considers  
How to Help the Community Post-Election



Letter from the ECR Executive Director: Linda Troop

Fall is descending upon us now with its cooler weather and darker colors, but the **ECR** staff has been busy getting the word out about our organization. On September 1, we brought on a new staff member, Marisabel Guzman Bowen, to be our **Community Outreach and Fund Developer**. She is young, energetic, and full of innovative ideas for marketing **ECR**. (See p. 2 for more about her.) Follow Marisabel on **ECR's** Facebook and Instagram pages.

For those of you who live in or near North Manchester, Marisabel will be at the **ECR** table every second Friday next season. Stop by and say "hello" next Spring and pick up a newly designed **ECR** flyer and a free sticker. Yes, we have stickers imprinted with **ECR's** logo. Because the new **ECR** logo is so colorful and dynamic, we think our stickers are pretty "cool."

On September 11, we partnered with **Wabash County United Fund (WCUF)** to receive a \$1,000 award, and we took part in **WCUF's** annual fundraiser—**The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament**. Our staff and board volunteers were on Tee-#8 greeting golfers as they arrived at the tee to telling them about **ECR**. Earlier in September, **ECR** set up an information table at the September "Second Friday" event, which was billed as the Hispanic Festival by the **Wabash County Diversity Coalition (WCDC)**. Marisabel (whose native language is Spanish) translated our **ECR** flyer into Spanish to better communicate with the attendees. In the future, we can see our organization reaching out more and more to the Latinx community of Wabash County.

That is how we are doing. How about you? Just before you received this recent newsletter, the national elections occurred; our country, for better or for worse, will soon be under a new regime. We are hoping that the transition to a new government with new laws, policies, and objectives happens smoothly and peacefully. However, the political rifts between parties, neighbors, co-workers, and friends, or even within families, are real and deep. If our nation is wracked by political dissent and chaos during this time, you and others might find yourselves struggling.

As a result, we are extending a sincere invitation for you to call on us for help and support in traversing these troubled waters. After all, **ECR** is **the conflict resolution center in the Northeast Indiana region**. As "conflict resolvers," we want to be active in fostering understanding, cooperation, and tolerance. Our goal is always to create more peaceful communities in which people can learn to disagree with civility. At this moment, we are not sure what that help might look like, but we could see ourselves setting up community dialogue circles to give people a voice or offering workshops on how to communicate nonviolently with others past political, religious, and ideological barriers. We mean it. Let us know what you need. Until then, take good care of yourselves.



Marisabel in front of a display table in the Manchester University dining hall to celebrate Conflict Resolution Day and bring awareness to MU students of ECR's services

### National Conflict Resolution Day

On October 17, 2024, we celebrated Conflict Resolution Day! It is celebrated every third Thursday of October and was conceived in 2005 by the Association for Conflict Resolution. By doing so, October has become a time to celebrate the practice of conflict resolution and peace. The month of October represents a great time to come together and educate other community members about our organization and innovative conflict management processes. Join us as we continue to raise awareness of its importance and the positive impact it can continue to have on our community! The goal of Conflict Resolution Day, as established by ACR, is to promote awareness of mediation, arbitration, conciliation and other creative, peaceful means of resolving conflict.



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# ECR Board and Staff Update



## Joshua Adler, Manchester University Student, joins ECR board

Joshua Adler is a Philosophy/Religion, Peace Studies, and Music Performance triple major at Manchester University. Involved in many areas on and off campus, Josh plays in most of the music ensembles, works for both the peace studies and music departments, gives campus tours to potential students, and is the president of the Kenapocomoco Peace Coalition. Josh is very excited to work with ECR, putting his training in conflict resolution to practice, and working with incredible mediating mentors! When asked what drew him to being trained as a mediator and serving on the ECR board, Josh said this: "I would say that what drew me to ECR and to mediation is my experience in the peace studies program at MU. Getting to study the process of mediation under Anuj Gurung, who also took time to give me advice and words of encouragement, my decision to try my hand at real-life mediation was not difficult to make!"

## Marisabel Guzman Bowen, Community Outreach and Fund Developer, joins ECR Staff



Marisabel Guzman Bowen was born and raised in the Dominican Republic. After graduating high school, Marisabel moved to North Carolina where she got her B.S. in Psychology with minors in Business and Communications from Guilford College. During her undergraduate studies, Marisabel actively participated as a member and volunteer of different organizations on and off campus, including the Multicultural Leadership Scholars Program, Principle Problem Solving Scholars Program, Reading Connections, Honors Program, and various campus clubs. Marisabel also served as a Teaching Assistant for Psychology courses and held several campus jobs. After graduation, Marisabel worked as an admission counselor for two years before moving to North Manchester. She is currently pursuing her Master's in Applied Nutrition and Dietetics and loving the work she is doing for ECR!

# 2023-2024 Activity Report

## Mediations

- Self-Referred Mediations:**
  - Sessions: 1
  - Adults Served: 2
  - Mediators: 2
- Court-Ordered Mediations:**
  - Sessions: 0
  - Adults Served: 0
  - Mediators: 0
- Manchester University Mediations:**
  - Sessions: 0
  - Adults Served: 0
  - Mediators: 0
- School Attendance Mediations:**
  - Sessions: 16
  - Students: 16
  - School Personnel: 34
  - Parents/Guardians: 20
  - Mediators: 32

## Trainings/Workshops

- School Attendance Mediation Mediator Training**
  - September 2023: 15 hours
  - Participants: 13
  - Trainers: Linda Troop, Angie Briner, Jan Rhoades
  - Coach: Tina Rieman
- SAM Mediator Refresher Workshop**
  - November 11, 2023: 7 hours
  - Participants: 8
  - Leadership: Linda Troop, Angie Briner, Jan Rhoades, and Tina Rieman
- School Attendance Mediation Mediator Training**
  - April 2024: 15 hours
  - Participants: 7
  - Trainers: Linda Troop, Angie Briner, Jan Rhoades
  - Coach: Tina Rieman

## Board Meetings

- 8/31/23 - in person
- 10/26/23 - in person
- 11/30/23 - in person retreat
- 2/29/24 - zoom
- 3/27/24 - in person
- 4/25/24 - in person
- 5/30/24 - in person
- 6/27/24 - in person annual meeting

## Presentations:

- ECR's mediation programs** - to Kosciusko County JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative), Huntington County JDAI, Manchester Alive, and North Manchester Kiwanis, 103 attendees, total
- Conflict in the workplace** - to Manchester University Students in two different classes, 33 attendees
- How to have difficult conversations** - to Manchester University alumni, about 30 attendees
- Presenters:** Linda Troop, Anuj Gurung, and Sam Hupp

## Thank you for supporting us!

Donations 5/7/24 - 11/11/24

- |                                |                               |  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Kay Batdorf                    | John & Tammy Horn             | Brad Yoder & Jeanne Smucker            |
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| Jim & Amy Brumbaugh-Smith      | Ed & Martha Miller            |  |
| Jim & Debbie Chinworth         | Jan Rhoades                   |  |
| Mary Chrastil                  | Andy & Sally Rich             | Manchester Church of the Brethren      |
| Jeannie Dinwiddie              | Tina Rieman                   | Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters |
| Deb Emans                      | Michael Rosswurm              |  |
| Nan Erbaugh                    | JoAnn Schall                  |  |
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| Steve & Lila Hammer            | June Stealy                   |  |
| John & Ann Hartsough           | Linda Troop & Nancy Cripe     |  |
| Dennis & Carol Horn            | David Waas                    |  |

<b>Donations</b> 7/1/23 - 6/30/24	Total: <b>\$24,858.31</b> Churches: <b>\$3,099.84</b>	Businesses and Organizations: <b>\$0</b> Individuals: <b>\$21,758.47</b>	<b>77</b> total donors: <b>73</b> individuals, <b>4</b> churches
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