



New Collaboration between The Conflict Center and Zinn Mediation Associates

By Ron Ludwig

In his book, *Good to Great*, Jim Collins recommends that organizations focus on what they do best. For The Conflict Center's almost 21 year history, we have focused mainly on training individuals and other organizations in conflict and anger management and parenting skills. This is what we do best and we will continue to strengthen this as our main focus. The Conflict Center's board and staff will continue to implement concepts to build a great organization through new collaborations and partnerships.

The Conflict Center has always done mediation work but this has been a small portion of our work. In 2005, Mary Zinn, a former volunteer staff member and Conflict Center board president and member, formed a new company, Zinn Mediation Associates. Her associates include Liz Loescher (our founder and longtime Executive Director), Tammy Sherwood (a former Conflict Center staff member) and

Bill Murphy (a former Conflict Center board president). You can learn more at www.zinnmediation.com.

Because of our long association with these individuals which provided huge confidence in their abilities, The Conflict Center decided to contract with Zinn Mediation Associates for the first six months of 2008 to provide mediation services to our clients who requested or needed such services. In July, we reviewed this effort and have decided to continue using Zinn Mediation Associates to provide most requests for mediations. In this innovative model, The Conflict Center staff will serve some clients, Zinn Mediation Associates and The Conflict Center staff may combine efforts to co-mediate cases and some cases will be directly referred. This arrangement will allow both of our organizations to focus on those activities that we do best and that allow for the most productive use of our staff resources.