

Mediation & Restorative Services

Creating Peaceful Solutions

March 12, 2024

Daniel Buchholtz
City of Spring Lake Park
1301 81st Ave NE
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432

Dear Mr. Buchholtz:

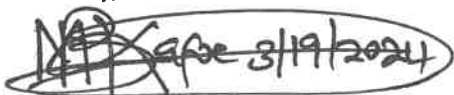
Mediation and Restorative Services (MARS) is a nonprofit that offers conflict resolution services to our neighbors here in Anoka County. We provide a variety of alternative dispute resolution services as well as preventative services in schools and in the community. Our mission is to provide accessible, affordable mediation and restorative practices to underserved populations, to help them resolve their own conflict, repair harm and engender safe, healing communities. We aim to empower community members and create more peaceful communities.

We offer services on a sliding fee scale so that folks who are most in need can access them for a low cost or completely free. **We are able to provide these services to Spring Lake Park residents because of support from municipalities in Anoka County.** You may have seen invoices from our organization in past years and wondered why you should pay them. You should pay them in order to retain these low cost or free services for your residents, preventing evictions, resolving family and neighbor conflict, reducing truancy in schools, preventing police calls, and reducing the burden on the court system.

In 2022-23 we served 28 people who identified that they were from Spring Lake Park (many clients do not give us this information). This prevented conflicts in your community, helped residents retain housing, helped families come to agreements on parenting and other shared care, and reduced police calls as well as the burden on the court system. **Mediation and Restorative Services saves money for the City of Spring Lake Park and Anoka County.**

I would be delighted to have the opportunity to share more information in-person or virtually with you, your staff, or City Council, or you can visit our website at mediationservice.org to learn more. Our work is most effective when we partner closely with municipalities and community organizations. You will soon see an invoice from Mediation and Restorative Services that will cover a small portion of the cost of serving residents from Spring Lake Park. We hope that you will support our work this year so that we can continue to provide accessible conflict resolution services to Spring Lake Park residents.

Sincerely,



Bernadette Kafoe
Executive Director

Mediation and Restorative Services 1201 89th Ave. NE, Suite 380 Blaine, MN 55434

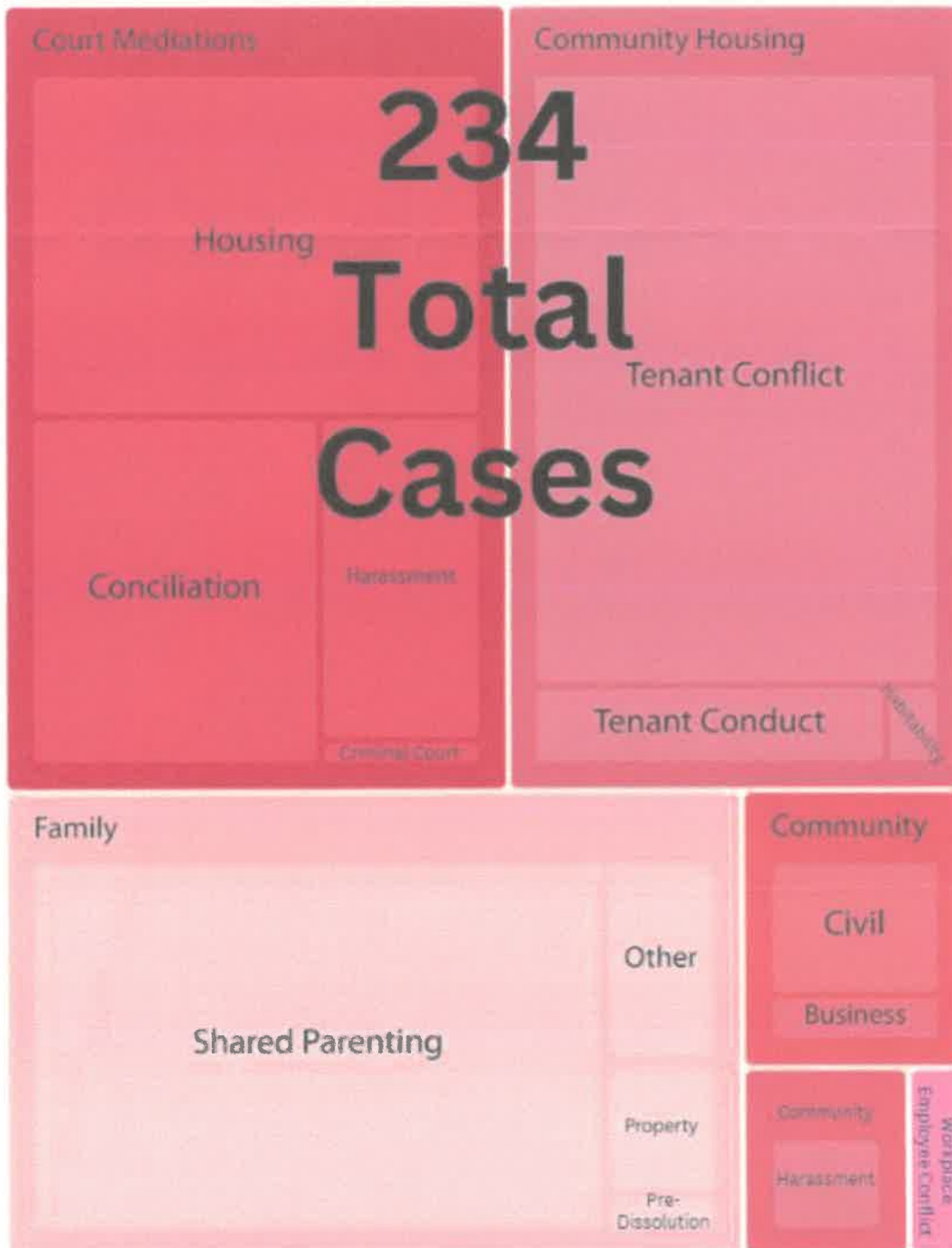
www.mediationservice.org office: 763-422-8878 info@mediationservice.org

Mediation and Restorative Services is a community-focused 501 (C) (3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are very much appreciated and are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by the law. Federal tax deduction amounts are limited to the excess of the contribution amount over the fair market value of goods or services received. Please retain this for your records.

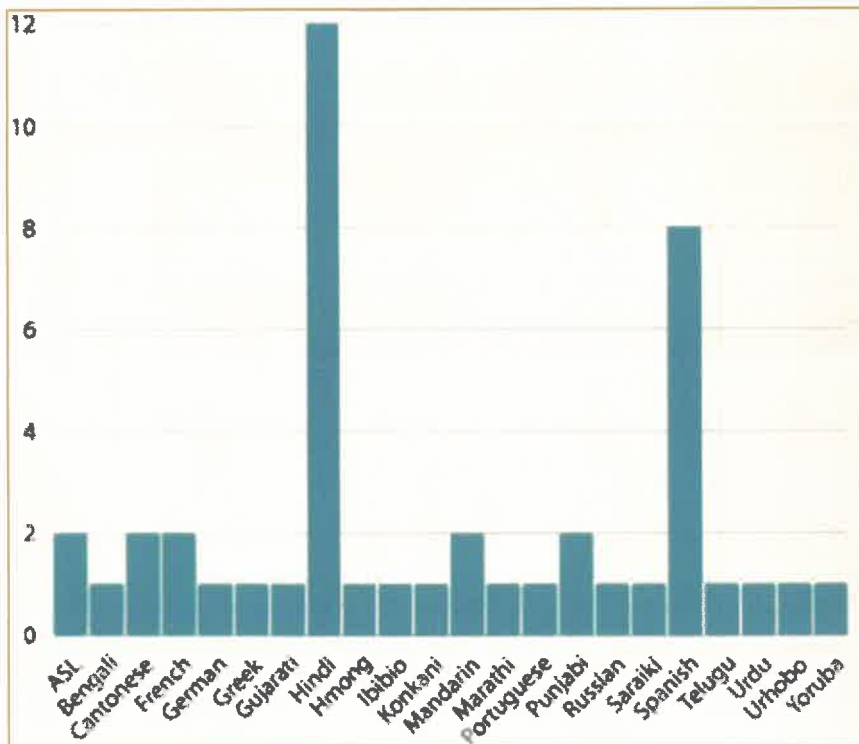
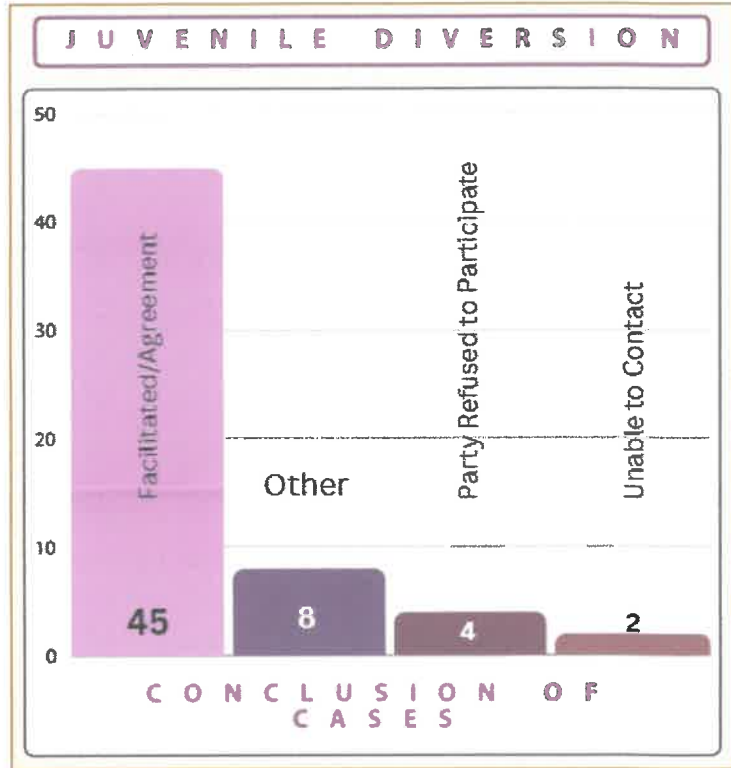
Our federal ID # is 41-1574959

Mediation and Restorative Services

In 2023 Mediation and Restorative Services had 234 mediation cases. The type of conflict and the parties involved varied and are illustrated in the infographic below. These services helped families retain housing, helped local businesses resolve conflicts, reduced the burden on the court system, and more.



MARS doesn't just provide services to adults and students in schools. We also offer a juvenile diversion program that serves Anoka County youths. Goals include diverting youth away from the court system, reducing the likelihood of future offenses, and providing alternatives to repair harm that has been committed.



Anoka County has a significant population of immigrants and individuals for whom English is not their first language. We have focused on recruiting volunteers who can help us to accommodate non-English speakers, and because of this we have 30 volunteers who speak languages besides English as shown at left.