

# Martha's Vineyard Mediation Center 40TH ANNIVERSARY 1984-2024

REPORTING TO OUR COMMUNITIES



**MV Mediation Center**  
education | resolution | community

New  
Name

A large, stylized blue quotation mark icon consisting of two thick, curved lines forming an opening on the right side.

**I've never mediated a case where I didn't see a little piece of myself in each of the parties, the best and the worst of their qualities. I knew I could be in their shoes.**

A large, stylized blue quotation mark icon consisting of two thick, curved lines forming an opening on the right side.

**Mediation works because it is simple. It's easy to grasp. No one needed a course in law to understand the process. Take parties who are assumed competent, but temporarily stuck in conflict. I like mediators who can tap the parties' competence to help them get unstuck. Take a flexible process which makes sense. Add good will and set aside sufficient time for problem-solving and, magic! Mediation.**

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**Albie Davis, "The Logic Behind the Magic of Mediation"**

# DEAR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

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Right around the time she wrote her seminal article “The Logic Behind the Magic of Mediation,” in 1985, Albie Davis came to Martha’s Vineyard to help provide training for the new court-sponsored program. “I think it is phenomenal,” she said in a local news article about what the new mediators were doing there. “You have a community court.”

It’s been 40 years since the program began, and we’ve helped thousands of folks to resolve their challenging disputes, implementing a confidential service in a place where very little is kept private. “A double issue on Martha’s Vineyard,” as Davis put it, “where everyone knows everyone else’s doings.”

When I came along, 30 years after Davis, I had already read her article and had used it in my work with emerging mediators. Her words—“I’ve never mediated a case where I didn’t see a little piece of myself in each of the parties, the best and the worst of their qualities. I knew I could be in their shoes” —had been my go-to, helping me remind mediators to stay humble and honest; to keep their feet firmly planted; to not entertain superiority or elitism; to help others just as they would want to be helped if they themselves reached out with an intractable dispute.

Today, as I look back through the archives and acquaint myself with the pictures of the mediators from the 1980s, 90s, and 2000s program, I’m struck by how much—and how little—has changed. Sea levels are rising,

and the seasons are a bit warmer; we are still entirely dependent on the boats. Back in 1985, the arrangements were daunting, with landline phones, travel arrangements, and housing to consider. We still are on a relatively isolated island, yet today with the advanced technology it does seem easier to be connected to professional development from the larger international conflict resolution field—on Zoom.

The structure of conflict hasn’t changed much: families, neighbors, customers, and co-workers can still find themselves tangled up in a web of unresolved conflicts, and mediation can still be a profound help in the untangling. Today, though, we have mediators who live elsewhere and can use technology to participate regularly.

There’s something about the turn of phrase in the title “The Logic Behind the Magic” that captures my love of mediation and conflict resolution. As I tell the mediators in training: mediation is an art, a craft, a science, and a logical procedure. It’s also a little bit of magic with endless possibilities. The magic of people. Talking. Thinking together. Trying to work it all out. Like our ancestors before and the generations to come, there’s magic afoot when we work to create peace and fairness with each other. We’ve been at it for 40 years. More magic to come.

Onward and upward,

*Sara Barnes*

Sara Barnes, Mediator  
Executive Director

# MEET THE FOUNDATION

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Why does mediation work? To paraphrase Elizabeth Barrett Browning, ‘Let me count the ways.’ It works because of our attitude toward the parties. If I were to use one word for that attitude, it would be respect. Total respect. Respect for each person’s dignity. Respect for each individual’s competence. Respect for the parties’ ownership of the conflict.

—Albie Davis, “The Logic Behind the Magic of Mediation”

# CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF GROWTH, REFLECTION & DEDICATION



There's something magical about people who give of their time, talents, and creativity and who are oriented toward service and helping our communities. Our staff, working for very little in monetary compensation, are our strength; providing outstanding patience and guidance. Our volunteer mediators, conflict coaches, facilitators, community board, and board of directors are amazing people who give generously of themselves. Our organization is richer and stronger because of the steadfast belief in our mission, vision and core values.

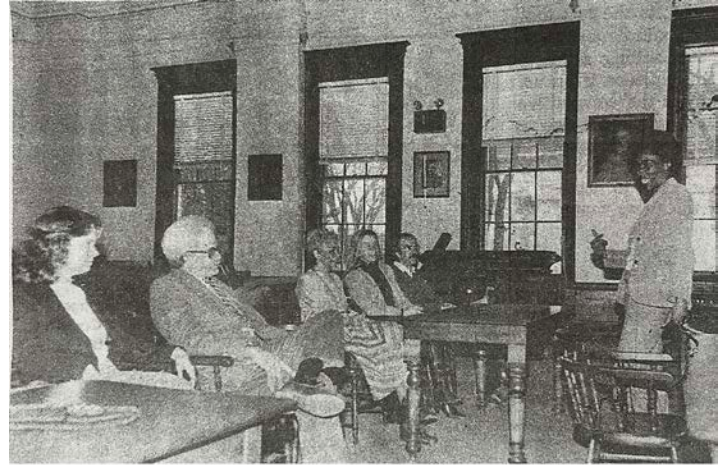
# THE MAGIC OF

## IN THE NEWS 1980's

### *New Mediators Awarded Diplomas*

*Graduates honored by Judge Tucker and Della Rice the "Mother of Mediation."*

The Grapevine  
January 6, 1984



New mediators awarded diplomas

### *Mediation Cuts Court Caseload*

*Peaceful mediations resolves conflicts and avoids litigation.*

The Grapevine  
September 6, 1984

### *Volunteers Learn To Settle Disputes for Court Program*

*Mediation resolves court case.*

Vineyard Gazette  
February 1, 1985



Trainer Albie Davis leads the courthouse workshop for mediators

# F MEDIATION

## IN THE NEWS 1990's

### *Peaceable Classrooms*

*Schools teach how to mediate or negotiate differences.*

The Christian Science Monitor  
November 18, 1984

### *Island Mediation Program "A Model"*

*Qualified mediators settle many matters out of court.*

The Martha's Vineyard Times  
December 21, 1989

### *Mediation Program Gets a Boost*

*MVMP is awarded grant to expand and coordinate services.*

The Martha's Vineyard Times  
December 6, 1990



Teachers participate at conflict resolution at Cambridge workshop



Gayle Stiller receives a mediation certificate from Nancy Grant

# THE MAGIC OF

## IN THE NEWS 2000's

### *Mediation Program Honored*

*The Permanent Endowment Fund of MV helps to advance mediation training.*

The Martha's Vineyard Times  
April 16, 1992

### *Islanders Learn to Help Islanders Resolve Disputes*

*Mediation helps people solve their own problems.*

The Martha's Vineyard Times  
April 22, 1993

### *Mediation Plays Central Role in Island Courts*

*The Martha's Vineyard Mediation Program is the silent partner of the Edgartown District Court.*

Vineyard Gazette  
March 8, 2002



Expanding the mediator training program



Trainees Jane Doolly and Cheryl Piatelli are mediators in a role play



# F MEDIATION

## IN THE NEWS 2020's

### *Mediation Program is Without Rival*

*Effectively keeping people out of the court system for 25 years.*

Vineyard Gazette  
November 26, 2009

### *Still Keeping the Peace, Vineyard to Next Stage*

*Program perseveres with its mission after funding cuts.*

The Vineyard Gazette  
January 24, 2013

### *Getting to Yes*

*MV Mediation Program smooths out family inheritance issues.*

Jack Shea Article  
September 27, 2017



Mark Lovewell

GUESTS OF HONOR: Tom Teller with Gretchen & Mary Tucker



Mediation staff, volunteers and school community celebrate 2024 accomplishments

# 10 YEARS OF SMART GOALS

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## 2017

- Increase cases
- Public programs
- Professional development
- Community workshops

## 2018

- Increase cases
- Public conflict resolution projects
- Intro to mediation course
- Mediator professionalism

## 2019

- Expand range of cases
- Public educational program
- Advanced professional Development
- Education program

## 2020

- Youth program
- Improve our website
- Workplace conflict program
- Conflict coaching program

## 2021

- Diversity core value
- COVID solidarity fund
- Financial coaching
- Elder program

## 2022

- Housing mediation program
- Agriculture mediation program
- Improving feedback systems
- Deepen commitment to diversity

## 2023-2024

### SMART GOALS:

- Expand our youth mediation program
- Align our family programs
- Expand workplace conflict program
- Undertake a succession plan

### ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS

- Utilize DEI lens fully
- Enhance educational practices
- Commit to outreach & awareness

## 2025-2027

### SMART GOALS

- Expand course offerings and professional development
- Further establish services in Bristol County
- Deepen community building through coalition work
- Continue developing a new leadership structure

### ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS

- Utilize multigenerational DEI lens
- Develop efficient data systems
- Outreach, awareness and re-branding

# RECENT TESTIMONIALS

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“

Because of mediation, the conflict that existed for over 8 years was finally resolved. We didn't reach agreement during the mediation, but we used some of the skills we saw demonstrated in mediation afterwards. It took time, but we finally gained momentum to resolve the conflict. This experience resulted in not only a resolution of a long-standing conflict but also a true friendship.

— MEDIATION CLIENT

Sara Barnes and the folks at MVMP are experienced professionals who bring wisdom and compassion to their work. Their trainings are excellent. Highly recommended!

— TIMOTHY LYDGATE, MEDIATOR

”

“

We are in a much better place since we had a facilitator help us to pull things together. Thanks to the mediation program for all your help.

— FACILITATION CLIENT

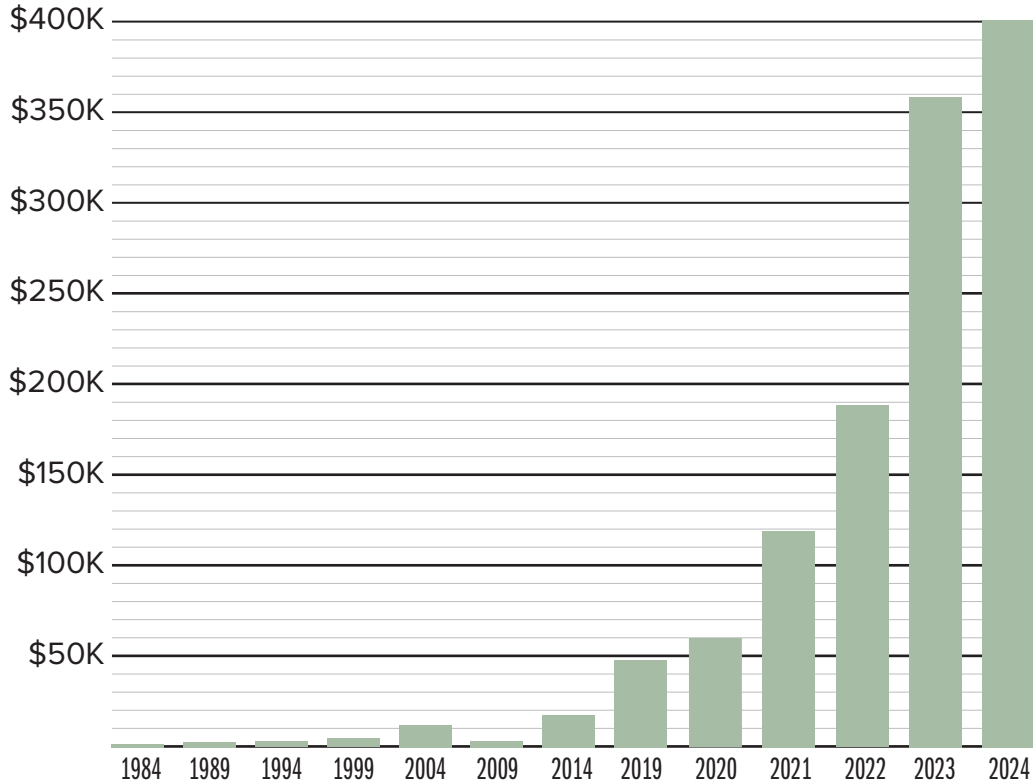
MV Youth Mediation is such an awesome addition to the social emotional learning in our third-grade classroom. . . The conflict resolution skills taught throughout the lessons are essential to fostering emotional competence, constructive communication, empathy and collective responsibility – skills this modern world desperately needs to move forward in a positive direction. Thank you [folks] for all you do. I mean every word.

— TONYA KATZ, OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL TEACHER

”

# BUDGET

## THROUGH THE YEARS



<b>2024</b>	MOPC Operation Grant .....	30%
	Attorney General.....	18%
	Housing.....	14%
	Donations.....	8%
	Trial Court .....	7%
	Youth .....	6%
	Re Entry .....	6%
	University of Massachusetts Programs.....	5%
	Cases and Courses.....	4%
	Competitive Grants.....	4%

# CASE HISTORY

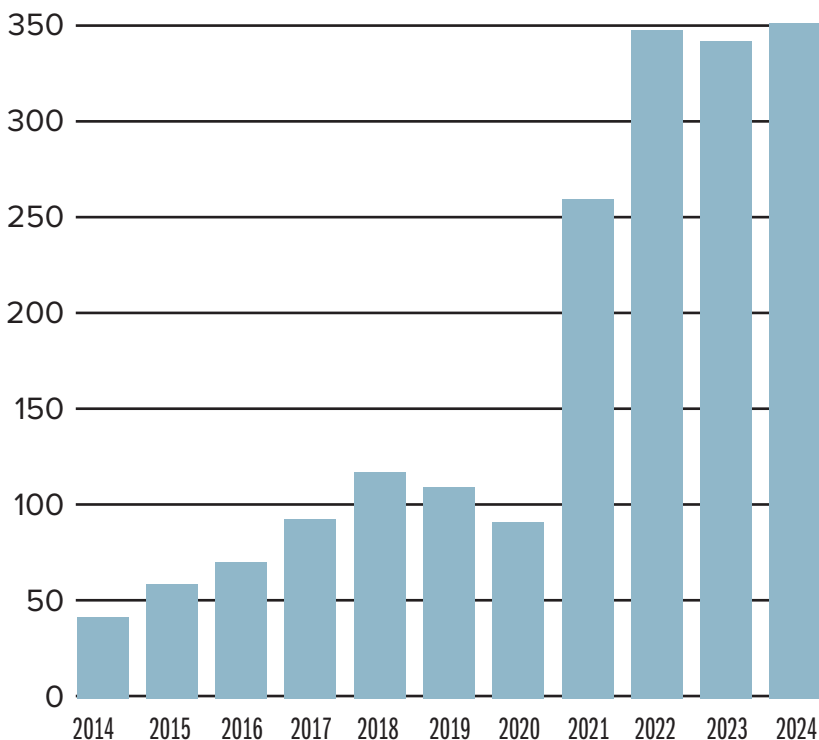
**1984-1994** MV Mediation was a program of the Edgartown court and provided services in small claims courts and a handful of other cases.

**1994-2004** MV Mediation took on more community-derived cases, moved out of court, and established the organization as a conflict resolution center.

**2004-2014** MV Mediation continued expanding, handling dramatic financial challenges and transitional leadership -- in 2013 we provided services in 11 cases.

**2014-2024** MV Mediation Center expanded dramatically adding staff, services, courses and projects over the last ten years using competitive grant funding, donations, government programs, and creative resource management.

## NEW CASES THROUGH THE YEARS



## CASE TYPES

### COURT REFERRED / CONNECTED

including small claims, civil, superior, juvenile, probate/family

**COMMUNITY** including family, agriculture, elder, estate, re-entry, neighborhood, interpersonal

**CONFLICT COACHING** Conflict coaches working 1:1 with a coaching client

**HOUSING** including pre- court negotiation, court referred evictions, neighbor to neighbor disputes

**WORKPLACE** including employee disputes, organizational training, team facilitation, leader coaching

**FACILITATION** including non-profit boards and teams, small business, municipalities

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PLEASE LET US KNOW IF WE HAVE MISSED YOU — WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!**

# OUR MISSION

To serve our community by providing education, outreach, mediation, conflict coaching, facilitation, and related services to help prevent and resolve conflicts.

# OUR VISION

To create an island of competent, capable, and effective conflict resolvers.

# OUR GOALS

- Expand our reach beyond Martha's Vineyard
- Increase our course offerings
- Improve our professional development
- Continue our leadership transition
- Standardize multigenerational lens
- Systemize efficient operations
- Commit to outreach, awareness and rebranding



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education | resolution | community

New  
Name