

New Outreach Coordinator Excited To Spread Word About Peacegiving Court

BY PAULINE BENSON,
NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

Margaret Melvin, the new Peacegiving Court Outreach Coordinator, has been practicing law in Coos County for more than 20 years. She has served as a prosecutor and family law attorney, and her current private practice includes being a family law mediator for the Coos County Circuit Court.



She is very excited to be working for the Peacegiving Court, which is a division of the CTCLUSI Tribal Court. Peacegiving is a voluntary dispute resolution alternative grounded in Tribal traditions of peace and healing. Peacegivers are appointed by the Tribal judge and are trained volunteers whose goal is to be Keepers of the "Sacred Circle," guiding

the discussions and working with members of the Circle to address and create solutions to resolve the underlying dispute.

The plan developed in the Peacegiving Circle can include evaluation and treatment, community service, restitution, cultural education, mentoring and ceremony. Margaret looks forward to working with the Tribal community to get the word out about the Peacegiving program and hopes to expand its use. Her goal is to reach every Tribal household so that they are aware of the Peacegiving Court, and its process and availability to every Tribal member.

As part of her job as Outreach Coordinator, she will give presentations to court and juvenile department staff in our five-county service area to create awareness of the program and its availability for Tribal juvenile offenders.

Anyone interested in receiving more information or having a presentation to their department or group, please contact Margaret Melvin at 541-888-1307, or email her at mmelvin@ctclusi.org. Welcome Margaret!