

Mary Lu Walton retires after 22 years of leadership with Envision. The torch passes to Celeste Ewert on June 1st, 2017!



Mary Lu has worked in the Colorado Community Centered Board system since 1974. She has been involved with most areas of local community systems that provide services for persons with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, including: direct care assignments, case management, chairing committees, managing adult residential and day programs, and assisting overall operations of an agency.

Mary Lu accepted the position as executive director for Envision in November 1996. She has consistently applied her leadership skills to establish and maintain a stable management team, develop and maintain

provider and community relationships, re-brand and re-organize the entire agency, restructure departments, enforce operational and staff accountability, and address the quality of services delivered throughout Weld County.

In her resignation letter last year, Mary Lu stated, "I have had the pleasure of spending forty-three years of my adult life working with people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, twenty-two of those years here at Envision. In all of that time I can honestly say that there has rarely been a day that I haven't been excited about being at work and fulfilling my job responsibilities. I have had opportunities to see significant positive changes occur in the lives of people supported and in the lives of employees I've had the great fortune to work with. I have experienced highs and lows too numerous to count; I have been a part of successes and non-successes; I have seen hopes and dreams realized for many people; and I have seen some of their disappointments. Nothing will ever take the place of those experiences."

[Read Mary Lu's full letter on pg. 2 of our newsletter](#)
[Read the article featured in The Greeley Tribune](#)

Introducing Celeste Ewert

On May 11, 2017, Envision's Board of Directors announced to Envision staff their selection of Celeste Ewert as the organization's new Executive Director.

Board President, Erica Herman, made this statement:

"As a long-term member of the Envision team, Celeste needs very little introduction. She comes to this position with more than 25 years of experience in various roles at Envision, most recently serving as Program Services Director for the past seven years. She has worked as a community support specialist, a coordinator, and director of residential services. A native to the Weld/Greeley community and graduate of both Aims Community College and the University of Northern Colorado, Celeste has volunteered her time for the Union Colony Children's Music Academy, Birchwood Manor, Micah Respite House, University Schools and the City of Greeley. Indeed, she has been as dedicated to the Greeley community at large as she has been to her work at Envision. We are thrilled that Celeste, with her many years of dedicated service to Envision, will be transitioning into this important role. With her knowledge of Envision's history and understanding of the most important issues facing the IDD community, we have great confidence in Celeste's ability to assume the executive director position. We look forward to Celeste's leadership and to supporting her as she assumes the executive director reigns. Please join us in welcoming Celeste to her new role."



Celeste stated in her acceptance, "I would like to thank the Board of Directors of Envision; I am humbled to be offered the opportunity to lead and work with the amazing group of employees within our organization. I am looking forward to collaborating with Management Team and all staff members to overcome challenges and make changes we will be facing in the next few years. We have creative, competent and capable employees who demonstrate every day their commitment to uphold the mission of Envision. **Together, I know we can continue to provide the best support possible to people, and empower them to live, love, work and play their way.**"

Please feel free to share this message.
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Beth Allen, Fund Development and Communications Coordinator
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Thank you for your continued support!
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