

A Word From the Executive Director



Dear Third Way Center friends and family,

Happy March!

This month, I would like to recognize two significant people who have been tremendous supports and part of TWC's success over their many years of service.

Sarah 'Sally' Johnston has recently retired from TWC's Board of Directors after almost 20 years of service. She came to Third Way Center with a background in education and

psychology and brought with her a passion for investing in our future generation. She was the owner/president of the Christiania Lodge resort in Vail, Colorado, and a member of the Vail Mountain School Board. She and her husband, Paul, were pillars of the community and instrumental in Vail's continued development and growth. Paul served as the Mayor of Vail from 1983 to 1987, and served on the city council for 7 years. Sally lived in Boston, where she studied education and psychology, and Oklahoma City, where she married Paul before settling in Vail in the 1970's. Her son is the Denver Mayor, and the former Educational Director of Third Way Center's Joan Farley Academy. Her daughter-in-law, Courtney, was a therapist at Third Way Center before going to law school and becoming a Chief Deputy in the Denver District Attorney's office. Dr. Hildegard Messenbaugh, Third Way Center's founder and Medical Director, describes Sally as one of the kindest people she knows; someone who needs very little recognition, but who, however, makes all the difference. Sally is generous, deeply spiritual, caring, and incredibly humble. She had a way of making whoever she was talking to feel interesting and important. She brought expertise in education, policy, and community fundraising to her tenure on Third Way Center's Board of Directors, and we were blessed to have Sally on our Board. Thank you, Sally, from the bottom of our hearts!

I wanted to give a well-deserved and heartfelt thank you to **Samual J. Stoorman, Attorney at Law**, who has recently retired and has been Third Way Center's legal representative for over 30 years. Unfortunately for us, but good for him and his

family, he has decided to ride into the sunset and join our previous Executive Director in retirement.

Sam has represented TWC on a multitude of legal matters over the years. His expertise, perseverance, and dedication have clearly benefited Third Way Center. His efforts have resulted in positive outcomes, and we have felt protected and looked after. Sam has been a strong advocate for TWC's mission. He recognized that it was all about the kids. In addition to reducing his fees, he has been an ardent supporter of all our fundraising efforts. Sam has been a regular at True Grit, and his exuberance has been noticed by all. Sam's expertise and advocacy have been a true comfort for Third Way Center over the years. We are Thankful for the years of support and dedication, and as an organization, we wish him the best. He deserves it!

March brings many opportunities to recognize differences and to learn how others observe the world. It means a lot when someone takes the time to understand someone else. So, whatever you observe, we hope you find comfort, peace, and understanding. For those who are Christian and observant, 'Happy Easter', for those who are Muslim and observant, 'Happy Ramadan', for those who are Irish (we all have the luck of the Irish in us), 'Happy St. Patrick's Day'! In addition, we all have to deal with *Daylight Saving time (losing an hour of sleep)*, *Spring Break (could go either way)*, and *Spring*. Remember to celebrate when you can and to learn forever.

I will end with a quote from Gandhi: ***"Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strengths. When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength."***

With gratitude and thanks!

Renee