

A Word From the Executive Director



Dear Friends and Family of Third Way Center,

Happy July!

July brings not only **National Picnic and Ice Cream Month**, but also **Disability Pride Month** and **Minority Mental Health Awareness Month**. Additionally, Birth Trauma Awareness Week and Malala Day are observed on July 12th. It is amazing how many important issues there are; it can be a bit overwhelming.

“I truly believe the only way we can create global peace is through not only educating our minds, but our hearts and our souls.”

— Malala Yousafzai

The Mike Connors Award is presented annually to an employee who demonstrates qualities of Compassion, Dedication, and Respect in the workplace, as nominated by their peers and supervisors. Mike Connors was an exceptional employee who made Third Way Center a better place to work and to thrive. After 40 years in public education, he spent 15 years at Third Way Center. Mike was an inspiration and genuinely cared for both the residents and the staff at Third Way Center.

Our award recipient this year is **Libby Maple**, Treatment Leader at York. She has been with Third Way Center for 12 years and is most deserving of this award. She is smart and dedicated to the youth and staff of Third Way Center. She is not afraid to take a stand, even if it means ruffling some feathers. Some quotes by those who nominated her; “She has been a staple in the development of York staff and is incredibly supportive, but also challenges staff when needed”, “She has been the most compassionate supervisor I have had and she is devoted to the kids and is vigilant and diligent with making sure they are safe and their needs are met by staff”, “She is an exceptional leader and displays passion in the way she engages in supervision and challenging staff and residents to grow”, and “I am still with Third

Way Center because of her". Libby makes Third Way Center a better place, and we are lucky to have her as an employee.

It continues to be a turbulent time for residential care and kids with mental health issues in Colorado. As of July 1st, the seven Regional Accountability Entities (RAEs) have been consolidated into four RAEs. The RAEs are insurance companies contracted by our state (HCPF) to manage Medicaid. This fiscal year is about transitioning the Child Welfare funds into capitation with the RAEs. As we all know, it is about money. This transition means more rules and complicated funding processes to fund programs like Third Way Center. The government and our state are desperate to cut costs, and they may truly believe that capitation/managed care is the best way, but it doesn't really make sense. Our state is spending a great deal of the Medicaid money creating new systems to manage less money.

Third Way Center's strength has always been in our ability to pivot when needed. To meet the changing needs of children and their families with complex mental health issues. It is hard to argue with quality treatment. There are plenty of kids needing intensive residential services, and there are plenty of kids slipping through the cracks. Our mission continues to be to treat the most acute, the most complex, and the most desperate adolescents in Colorado, to make the world a safer, better place.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Renee