

A Word From the Executive Director



Dear Friends and Family of Third Way Center,

Happy September!

This is a month of significant remembrance and cultural observance. It begins with Labor Day, the Remembrance of September 11th, and the beginning of Hispanic Heritage month on September 15th. On the religious calendar, the month is rich with important holidays; for Muslims, September 5th marks Mawlid an-Nabi, the observance of the Prophet Muhammad's birthday. Later in the month, Jewish communities begin the High Holidays with Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year), followed by Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement).

Third Way Center's story is compelling. We need to spread the word. What I know is that everything matters, everything has meaning. Whether we are dealing with the daily activities of our traumatized youth or interacting in the community.

As we move into a new school year, the energy here at Third Way Center is palpable. The hallways are buzzing with renewed focus and determination as classes begin. It's a reminder of our core mission: to provide a safe, stable, and hopeful environment where our teens can learn, grow, and heal.

October brings with it our annual True Grit event, and we are, as you would expect, hard at work preparing for what promises to be a truly inspiring celebration of the resilience of our young people. This is a time to honor their incredible journey and to recognize the unwavering support of our community. We want to increase the number of attendees at our annual gala.

Speaking of support, I want to take a moment to express our profound gratitude to [Board Member's Name]. Their dedication and wisdom as members of our Board of Directors have been invaluable to our organization. We wish them all the best in their next chapter and thank them for their tireless commitment to our mission.

Our work continues to evolve, and we are facing new complexities every day. The ever-changing landscape of Medicaid is an ongoing challenge, and we are diligently working to navigate these mysteries to ensure our kids receive the care they so desperately need. The children and teens coming to us now are more complex

than ever, requiring a higher level of care and specialized support. Our staff, as always, is rising to the occasion with exceptional skill and dedication. Their hard work and compassion are the very heart of this organization, and I am continually in awe of their commitment.

Thank you for being a vital part of the Third Way Center family. Your support allows us to continue providing truth and hope to those who need it most.

(Day of Atonement). On September 15th

Let's not forget that we all can make a difference and maybe even change the world. And you never know how one act of kindness, or truth, can make a difference. It sometimes takes courage, sometimes knowledge, and sometimes purpose- but definitely doable. What's important is that we don't get silenced, stop bringing things up, or give up. I recently had the opportunity to visit the Nobel Peace Prize museum in Oslo, Norway and it reminded me of how much is truly possible as long as we keep having conversations -and listening is crucial when looking for the truth. Third Way Center kids need to feel like they are possible!

October brings our annual True Grit event, and we are well into preparations for what promises to be a truly inspiring celebration of the resilience of our young people. This is a time to honor their incredible journey and to recognize the unwavering support of our community. Our goal is to reach more people, expand our support network, and educate those who don't know how much good can be done, especially in this time of flux. So please spread the word, bring your friends, and join us for a fun-packed evening!

Speaking of support, I want to take a moment to express our profound gratitude to Matt McCormick. His dedication and wisdom as a member of our Board of Directors have been invaluable to our organization. We wish him all the best in his next chapter and thank him for his tireless commitment to our mission.

As we move into a new school year, the energy here at Third Way Center is palpable. The hallways are buzzing with the renewed focus and determination that come with the start of classes- well, maybe for the staff and teachers, the kids generally need convincing. However, it is a reminder of our core mission: to provide a safe and hopeful environment, with some normalcy sprinkled here and there- where our teens can focus on learning.

Our work continues to evolve, and we are facing new complexities every day. The ever-changing landscape of Medicaid is an ongoing challenge, and we are diligently working to navigate these mysteries to ensure our kids receive the care they so desperately need. The teens coming to us now are more complex than ever, requiring a higher level of care and specialized support. Our staff, as always, is rising to the occasion with exceptional skill and dedication. Their hard work and compassion are the very heart of this organization, and I am continually in awe of their commitment.

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With appreciation and gratitude,

Renee