

# A Word From the Executive Director



Happy Fall to my Family and friends of Third Way Center,

I am writing to you from South Africa! We bought the trip at True Grit a couple of years ago and, like many others, postponed it due to COVID. Well, we are here now. We began our trip in Cape Town and are now going to Durban. The experience has been extraordinary so far, with Safari yet to come. I am truly lucky to have this experience. So much to learn, so much history, and I never feel quite prepared.

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together” - African Proverb.

I feel proud and honored to be part of an organization that has not lost its way, in spite of all the curves, challenges, and obstacles in a broken mental health system. In a system that talks the talk, but pushes legislation that limits care for kids. The system of care in Colorado has become more complicated since the Family First Prevention Act of 2018. This legislation, or its interpretation, has forced many treatment programs to close. There are way more kids in need of placement than there are beds in Colorado. It makes sense that the kids have higher needs because we have a system that makes them worse. It is great mission-driven leadership, collaboration, and foresight that have gotten us to this place. And we expect to keep going, for the sake of the most vulnerable.

The Trailblazers are coming on strong! True Grit is just around the corner, and we are excited to celebrate the women of Third Way Center. I can never express enough gratitude to these women who are the backbone (and sometimes the funny bone) of something that is so much bigger than any of us.