

Ellie Valdez Honeyman Excellence in Inclusion in Education Award

Patricia Stahl, an educator at Louisville Elementary School, was nominated by Weslyn Austin as an educator that strongly supports inclusion of all students in all activities.

Pat has spent decades modeling best practices and not compromising values in the process. She has recently begun mobilizing families in order to support inclusive middle schools. Pat is known as the 'go-to' inclusion specialist within the Boulder Valley School District.

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Jason Marsh, an educator with the Head Start team at Sewall Child Development Center, as well as a classroom teacher, was nominated by Heidi Heissenbittel and the team of educators at Sewall.

Jason's commitment to inclusion is demonstrated daily in his interactions with staff, families, and co-workers, as well as being reflected in his academic work at U. C. Denver.

Jason worked with nursing and therapy staff to keep children in classrooms with their peers and provide the best education possible. Many of these students have high medical needs.

Jason holds a key position for a new charter school that Sewall is starting, at which he will be the assistant principal.

Clarence Miller Excellence in Inclusion in Employment Award

Habitat for Humanity Roaring Fork was nominated by Gary Bender of Valley Life for All for both involvement in providing employment for individuals with disabilities, as well as housing.

Habitat built an accessible home for Adam Lavender and his family after a mountain biking accident.

David Moya works at Habitat, following an accident that left him in need of an accessible work place. He liberated himself from a nursing home because the social work staff (at the home), were not getting him help. Following his move to couch-surfing, David volunteered at Habitat for two years then was hired with full pay and benefits by Habitat.

Congrats to all who have benefited in so many ways from the work of Habitat.

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Wells Fargo Bank was nominated by Bob Lawhead for their support of an employee who was once employed at a sheltered workshop. The individual was very unhappy in an environment that was extremely loud, had too much sensory stimulation, and resulted in self-injurious behavior (among other serious challenges).

The individual had a great gift for numbers as well as an acute memory, so during a planning session his family came up with the idea of working for a bank. A job developer approached Wells Fargo and the positive relationship of many years was set in motion.

The relationship has been so good; the individual is nearing retirement after being there since 1987!

Larry Ruiz Excellence in Inclusion in the Community Award

Kappa Kappa Gamma and Susan Anderson, the house mother at the sorority, were nominated by Sherry Guest Bruff, the mother of an adult with a disability.

Sherry's daughter worked at the sorority in mail delivery and in the process became friends with many of the young women living in the house. The daughter developed great work skills and built her self-confidence through work.

Susan was a positive coordinator between the school district, the house, and the U.S. Postal Service as shown by the success of those who are employed in the position. We hope that other sororities replicate this great model.

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El Grupo Vida and Maria Castillo were nominated by Jeanette Cordova for the Larry Ruiz Excellence in Inclusion in the Community Award.

El Grupo Vida's activities and training support inclusion and self-sufficiency for families by providing a safe environment for the exchange of information, education, and personal experiences.

Over the years, El Grupo Vida has seen families become strong from gaining knowledge and skills to become their child's best advocate.