



CONNECTIONS

Challenge Barriers. Build Independence.

 **Connections for Independent Living**

September 17, 2021 || 4:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Welcome

Welcome to Connections for Independent Living's 35th Anniversary Celebration. We're honored you are joining us today.

Connections Timeline

July 5, 1985: Founding as Greeley Resources for Independent People

August 2, 1990: Name change to Choices for Independent Living

April 25, 1994: Merger with Northern Colorado Center on Deafness

April 25, 1994: Name change to Northern Colorado Center on Disability and Deafness

August 29, 1997: Name change to Connections for Independent Living

Schedule of Events

Arrival	4:00 p.m.
Building Tours	4:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.
Light Fare Beverages	5:00 p.m.— 6:00 p.m.
Legacy Awards	6:00 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.
Departure	6:30 p.m. — 7:00 p.m.

Complimentary transport to Greeley Friday Fest will be available

Connections Board of Directors

Mary Jo Brockshus—Chair

Erica Barraza

Kate Howell

Elizabeth Mahoney—Vice Chair & Secretary

Louis Steinberg

Legacy Awards

Connections for Independent Living honors the exceptional contributions of two advocates for the independent living community in northeastern Colorado.

BETH DANIELSON



Beth Danielson dedicated her professional career to advancing opportunity and equality for people with disabilities. She served as the Executive Director for Connections for Independent Living for 18 years. Beth grew the struggling organization from a staff of three part-time employees serving the Greeley area to a staff of 15 serving nearly 1,000 people across seven counties. She secured a permanent building for Connections, financial stability, and expanded services to include housing, nursing home transition, transportation, deaf services, OIB, job squad, counseling, youth services, exercise, nutrition, computer assistance and much more. While at Connections, Beth also started the Furniture Bank and many other community programs. She fought for policy at the state capital and with the Congress to increase equality and independence for people with disabilities.

Beth is a University of Northern Colorado Master's Degree graduate in Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

BRAD TAYLOR

Brad is a Colorado leader in the fight for equality and advocacy for those living and working with disabling conditions. He holds a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from the University of Northern Colorado.

Introduced to Greeley Resources for Independent People (later Connections for Independent Living) in 1989, Brad joined as an intern in 1992 and also served as a member of the board of directors until 1994. He then joined the staff as an Independent Living Specialist.



Following a year as Executive Director for Denver's Disability Center for Independent Living, Brad returned to Connections in 2000 as an Independent Living Specialist. In 2003, with Beth Danielson's encouragement, he accepted a role as Connections' Transitions Specialist. In this continuing role, Brad coordinates transitions of individuals from nursing facilities into personal homes. This action is at the core of the independent living movement, of which Brad has long been an impassioned advocate.

Produced by

Rochelle Mitchell-Miller

Executive Director/CEO

Joshua Fulenwider

Director Independent Living Services

Jessica Standiferd

IL Community Coordinator

Richard Rhinehart

Director of Communications

Connections Building Fund

Connections for Independent Living has owned its headquarters building at 1331 8th Avenue in Greeley for more than a decade. In reviewing the building and the grounds, our board of directors created the Connections Building Fund Program to help with upcoming renovations and improvements.

A staff of 20 persons work at our facility, which was last renovated in 2011. The building was constructed in 1958 and prior to Connections' arrival, it hosted Wheeler Realty and Flood and Peterson Insurance.

How You Can Help

Connections is seeking financial contributions to help cover expenses related to the renovation and improvement of our building.

In the summer of 2022, Connections intends to rebuild the main entry, installing a new automated door to better allow full access by wheelchair users. The current door configuration is often difficult for individuals to successfully maneuver the S-Curve.

Other improvements are planned.

You are invited to make your contribution during our 35th Anniversary Celebration — donations of \$50.00 or more will receive a special anniversary commemorative gift.

You may also make your contribution online.

ConnectionsColorado.com/donate/



Connections Values

At Connections we value for our staff and our consumers...

- Integrity above all else
- Inclusion for our community and ensuring everyone has a voice
- Embracing independence, self-sufficiency, and equal value for everyone
- The disability movement and its continued march forward
- Promotion of a positive environment
- The idea that happiness begins with gratitude

SPECIAL THANKS. A heartfelt thank you to Beth Danielson and to Brad Taylor for their many years of contributions to our organization and to serving northeastern Coloradans who live with disabling conditions. We appreciate their dedication, and their willingness to participate in our anniversary celebration.

Thanks also to our full team for their ongoing efforts and time in making Connections what it is today.