

Testimony- This testimony was shared at our RISE: Women's Music Concert celebration NOV 3, 2022.

"Living Her Legacy's mission is to empower girls and women by shining a light on the accomplishments of noteworthy Northern Colorado women. As a historian, I realize how important this undertaking is. I am all too aware of how women's accomplishments have been suppressed, marginalized, and underrepresented throughout history; and, sadly, of just how often this still happens. When I learned about Living Her Legacy, I was delighted for my daughter and her peers to learn about and be inspired by the significant contributions of these strong women.

In the intervening years, I've seen my daughter grow to become an accomplished and confident woman. Her journey has made me even more acutely aware of how important it is for girls and women to be strengthened and empowered by the many other remarkable women, past and current, who serve as positive role models.

Having strong female role models is critically important for our girls. But, just as importantly, our boys are also seeing and learning about these same strong and powerful women through Living Her Legacy's work. In this way all growing minds, female and male alike, can understand that becoming a capable, smart, strong, accomplished person is not dependent on one's gender.

Living Her Legacy recognizes and celebrates the accomplishments of area women, and in doing so, empowers girls and women of all ages to dream, to strive, and to succeed. It also represents and expands on what it means to be a female; and shows what women are capable of, especially when supported by both men and women. Living Her Legacy is Patti Smith's legacy to Fort Collins and Northern Colorado – and there can be no better work than striving to create a community that equally recognizes, supports and empowers all of its residents...today and in the future."

Karen McWilliams

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Retired Fort Collins Historic Preservation Services Manager

