

## Sue Ferguson

Sue Ferguson was born in Chicago, Illinois. She was educated through High School by the Sisters' of St Joseph of La Grange and attended Northwestern University where she studied to become a teacher of the hearing impaired, she began her teaching career in 1969.

After a family move to West Virginia, she worked in women's empowerment in the continuing education department of West Virginia Tech. Her family relocated to Loveland CO in 1979 where she took a program development/grant writing position with the Elizabeth Stone Resource Center. The name was subsequently changed to The Women's Center and she left in 1985 as it's executive director. She continued her work with women and girls as executive director of Mountain Prairie Girl Scout Council. The council was headquartered was in Greeley and served girls in the 15,000 square miles of northeastern CO.

In 1990 she accepted the position of executive director of The Fort Collins Area United Way providing leadership for community problem solving in partnership with 24 member agencies. She lead the effort to payoff the outstanding balance on the UW Building and helped nurture Team Fort Collins.

In 1995 she left Fort Collins for New York City to join the national staff of the Girl Scouts of the USA where she managed the program aspects of their national cookie sale. Her next assignment in 1999 was as executive director of the USA Girl Scouts Overseas - West Pacific. She was stationed at Army Base Zama outside of Tokyo. Her team served military families living on 14 US installations on the mainland of Japan, the island of Okinawa and in South Korea.

When her overseas assignment concluded in 2002 she returned to Fort Collins and took a position as consultant and trainer for Interbake Foods, one of the licensed bakers of Girl Scout cookies, she worked with a variety of GS councils in the western United States until her retirement in 2009.

The mother of two grown children, she continued to indulge her love of travel and enjoy her three grandchildren as she retired.

In 2010 she began her involvement with Faith Family Hospitality (FFH) bringing to Fort Collins a collaborative interfaith initiative to house families experiencing homeless in church buildings. She provided leadership to the initial steering team, recruited new congregational partners, helped open a day center for families and remodel it by adding showers and laundry facilities. After incorporating the organization and securing 501(c)3 nonprofit status she served as president of its first board of directors until June 2015. FFH which began with 16 congregations has grown to over 30 and is preparing to open a transitional housing facility in 2017. Sue continues to lead the hosting team for her congregation, Foothills Unitarian Church, and takes on special projects for Faith Family Hospitality as needed.

Provided by Sue Ferguson