

Mary Carraher, Social Worker

Her Legacy: Advocacy for women and families

Throughout her career Mary Carraher has been an advocate for people in need, especially low-income women and families. As director of Project Self-Sufficiency (P S-S), a program designed to bring women out of poverty into the working world, she initiated a scholarship fund for single parents enrolled in the program, a grant for child care, emergency funds for families, and ways to provide transportation to people without vehicles through the Cars for Families program. Thanks to her efforts, P S-S also provides a volunteer car repair program and classes to enhance self-esteem, as well as career-planning services.

Mary chaired the City of Fort Collins Affordable Housing board and the Victim Compensation board for the 8th Judicial District. A former member of the *Fort Collins Coloradoan* editorial board, she helped found Funding Partners for Housing Solutions, a Fort Collins-based organization that operates throughout the state. She is a board member of the Colorado Nonprofit Association and is on the advisory committee for the Larimer County Community Services Block Grant program.

She holds degrees from the University of Nebraska and the University of Denver and has been honored by United Way of Larimer County as the Collaborator of the Year, by Rotary Club of Fort Collins as the 2012 Service Above Self recipient, and as a Woman of Distinction by the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work's 2008 Robert L. Hawkins Social Work Achievement Award. Other awards include the 2007 Women's Foundation of Colorado "Be Bold" Award and the 2004 Marcile N. Wood Award from the Women's Commission of the City of Fort Collins.

Mary, who is currently serving as the distance learning field education coordinator at Colorado State University, is passionately committed to creating opportunity for those who cannot speak for themselves.

Written by Barbara Fleming, Author, Coloradoan Columnist and Living Her Legacy Wordsmith