

Dear Readers,

It is with great enthusiasm that I continue my journey at Parenting Place in a new role as Executive Director. I have been at Parenting Place for almost five years as the Program and Volunteer Coordinator. During this time I have worked with staff, board members, volunteers, families and donors and have learned an immeasurable amount about non-profits and Parenting Place in particular. I have a passion for working with children and families that I am excited to share as Executive Director.

Fran has built a strong organization and a caring community for families. She has left big shoes for me to fill, and I am honored that the board feels I am the person to fill those shoes. While it is sad that Fran is leaving, I know that she will thoroughly enjoy her semi-retirement and not be a stranger! It is also an exciting time for Parenting Place. We have a dedicated and enthusiastic staff and a new structure that will allow us to provide more quality services. Our short and long term goals for Parenting Place include:

1. Expanding programs to include more parenting classes and collaborations with other organizations as well as starting groups in other communities such as Broomfield, Lafayette and Erie.
2. Growing our ability to be a resource and referral center for families with young children by continuing to develop and promote our website, Parent's Directory to Boulder & Broomfield Counties, donation closet, lending library and the wealth of knowledge our staff has to offer.
3. Ensuring that we have stable funding in order to sustain and grow our programs by recruiting dedicated board members, writing grants, building relationships with our supporters and organizing fundraising activities.
4. Increasing our visibility in the community both to families and potential supporters by participating in community events and creating a strong marketing plan.
5. Working for a stable home for Parenting Place, whether that means extending our lease at the First Baptist Church or eventually buying a building.

I invite you to join Parenting Place in working towards these goals and welcome your ideas, support and questions. Please feel free to come by Parenting Place for a visit or contact me to chat.

Salutations,

Gail

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“We find a delight in the beauty and happiness of children that makes the heart too big for the body.” Ralph Waldo Emerson