



## An Important Announcement Regarding Community Vision's Leadership

Jennifer Knapp will take over for Joe Wykowski as Executive Director

It is with both gratitude and hope that The Board of Directors of Community Vision would like to announce an important leadership change, effective February 1, 2021. Executive Director Joe Wykowski will be stepping down, and Jennifer Knapp, current Deputy Director, will become the new Executive Director.



Joe founded Community Vision in 1989 to help one man move out of the state-run institution. He became a beacon of light for people with disabilities and their families, and for 31 years he unwaveringly advocated for people with disabilities to live in their own homes, even when others thought it impossible. His dedication to ensuring people could live amidst their community changed the lives of hundreds of people. Joe is a natural connector and has forged vital relationships between the disability and affordable housing worlds. In the immediate future, he will continue working with Community Vision as the Housing Outreach Consultant/ED Emeritus. During this critical time of housing challenges and opportunities, our community will continue to benefit from his expertise, innovative thinking, and commitment to dreaming big.

Jennifer came to Community Vision in 2016. Previously, she founded, and was the Executive Director of, a similar organization in Illinois. She also worked on advocacy campaigns to help people with disabilities move into the community, and escape institutional life. While at Community Vision, Jennifer has seen the strength of what Joe built, and the clear direction for even more impact going



forward. Jennifer has a special talent for pulling out people's strengths and led the development of internal structural changes to position CV for the future. She also enhanced program tracking/evaluation, launched the diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative, and strengthened relationships within the disability community. Jennifer holds fast to the belief that people with disabilities deserve the opportunity to live independently, with the tools they need to do so. She has a strong vision for how to build capacity to make that dream a reality for more Oregonians with disabilities.

We are forever grateful for all Joe has done for people with disabilities across Oregon, and we believe Jennifer has the ability to lead Community Vision into its next chapter of meaningful change. Please join us in congratulating Jen and Joe on their new roles, and thank you for continuing to be an integral part of Community Vision as we work together to make the world a more accessible and inclusive place.

Looking forward to the year ahead,

**Community Vision's Board of Directors**