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Dear Beloved FamilyWorks Community,

After over two decades of involvement with FamilyWorks, I will retire as Executive Director in June. Over the next several months, I'll continue to support staff and participants and hope to connect with many of you in person.

It has been a wonderful 22 years in my role of Executive Director at FamilyWorks. I have cherished my time working alongside this amazing and caring group of people to strengthen and nourish our community - it really has been a great honor. Although it seems that there is never a "good time" to leave something that you love so deeply, this is the time that makes sense for me and my family, and it is a time when our organization is strong and healthy. I am confident that a terrific new leader will be found who will be embraced by our community, build on a strong foundation to meet community needs, and will advocate with dignity, inclusion and empowerment.

I remember so clearly on Day 1 as the first hired staff member (serving in roles of ED/volunteer and program coordinator/childcare helper/janitor, etc.) wondering, "do I really have the stuff to make this work?" You have all supported me and this mission every step of the way, and I am so proud of all that we have accomplished thus far! I feel so fortunate to have had this life gift of meaningful work, and the chance to co-create, with staff, volunteers, the community, and our participants, a welcoming place that truly builds on peoples' strengths and resiliency, where folks can find the food, resources and support they need.

It means the world to me. There is nothing like the FamilyWorks community, and my life has been enriched by knowing all of you. I will always be part of the FamilyWorks Family!

If you'd like to provide input or have questions about our search for a new leader, please feel free to contact Clare Breidenich, Succession Committee Chair: cbreindenich@yahoo.com or Ali Pollock, Board Chair: alessandra.pollock@gmail.com. I look forward to diving into these last few months with gusto and would also love to see/talk with you if you'd like to call me at (206) 694-6726. More to come!

With enduring thanks,

Jake Weber, Executive Director