

Betty Moseley, Advocate for the Elderly

Her Legacy: Turning concern for lonely elderly men and women into reality

The Colorado Women of Influence Foundation has chosen Betty Moseley, co-founder of Elderhaus, as one of its 12 honorees in 2018. Betty, a retired teacher of mathematics at Colorado State University, has been recognized for her tireless advocacy for the elderly, who often languish in loneliness and lack of stimulation every day.

In the late 1970s, the American Baptist Church learned of adult day care programs for the elderly being established in the East and on the West Coast and began studying the possibility of bringing the concept to Fort Collins. Betty, a member of the church, devoted untold hours of time and energy to researching how to implement the program here. She successfully lobbied the state legislature to appropriate Medicaid funds to support the project, a critical factor in sustaining the program. Thanks in large part to her efforts, Elderhaus was launched by 1980—the first such program in the Rocky Mountain region.

The goal of the program was and remains to create a home-like atmosphere where those who spent the day felt welcome and comfortable. The concept has succeeded well beyond Betty's vision.

Talking with friends and colleagues, Betty helped the idea spread to other communities. By the 21st century the concept has grown to include providing stimulation and care for veterans and others in need of such services as well as for senior citizens.

She has spent the last several decades as a voice for those with disabilities, low-income members of the community, and the elderly.

"It was a good idea, even if I do say so myself."

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