



Executive Director Announcement

From Sally Buckman, President
ILO Board of Directors

January 12, 2023

Dear ILO Community,

I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday season and that 2023 is off to a great start. I am writing today with an important announcement about ILO.

After nine years, our founder, Maedi Tanham Carney, has made the difficult decision to step down from her role as executive director once we find a new executive director. Maedi plans to pursue some other interests (which-- to nobody's surprise I am sure-- include travel and bike riding) and to spend more time with her family. She will also continue working at M&L Special Needs Planning, LLC on a part-time basis.

When Maedi launched ILO in 2014 she understood that there was a great need in the DC area for a sustainable organization that could provide young adults with the opportunity to live independently as part of intentional communities with support. ILO was modeled after an organization in Evanston, Illinois called The Center for Independent Futures. After visiting Evanston, five founding families worked with Maedi to form ILO and establish ILO's mission. As we all know, Maedi worked incredibly hard to get ILO off the ground and she has continued to work tirelessly and enthusiastically during the past eight years to make ILO what it is today—a successful organization that serves over 37 families and has helped 32 self-advocates to move out of their families' homes and begin the journey to independent living. ILO's community group, which consists of 98 families, provides families with valuable information and resources and young adults with the opportunity to participate in fun activities and meet other members of the ILO community.

On a personal note, I can attest that ILO's model works. When our son, Gregory, received a housing voucher almost five years ago, ILO helped us navigate the stressful process of obtaining the voucher and finding an apartment and live-in aide. ILO community builders have helped Gregory feel part of the Bethesda ILO Pod and build relationships with his fellow Bethesda self-advocates.

The ILO Board of Directors will begin a search for a new executive director in February, and we hope a new ED will begin in July. While we will never be able to replace Maedi, our hope is to find someone who can work with ILO staff, families, self-advocates and other stakeholders to continue to build on Maedi's vision. The job will be posted publicly soon, however, I am attaching the job description to this email. If you know of someone who may be interested, or organizations that may be able to refer candidates, please share the announcement with them.

Without Maedi's vision, dedication, hard work and infectious enthusiasm, there would be no ILO. I know you will join me in thanking Maedi for everything she has done to make ILO what it is today and to wish her the very best as she transitions to the next chapter in her life. If you have any questions, please email me at sbuckman@lrmansenter.com.

Sincerely,

Sally A Buckman
Board President