



May 4, 2023

Dear ILO Community:

I am writing today to share exciting news about ILO. The Board has hired a new executive director—Tait Danielson Castillo. Tait has spent most of his career working with and leading community based non-profit organizations located in Washington DC, the Twin Cities in Minnesota, and Florida.

Tait's prior work has focused on community building, fundraising and advocacy. He describes himself as "a community organizer at heart, with a strong background in financial management and fundraising." Tait is enthusiastic about the opportunity to apply his community building, fundraising and management skills to expand upon the impressive foundation for ILO which Maedi has built during the past nine years.

Tait has recently returned to the DC area and will be living in Rockville with his wife and 13 year old daughter.

Tait will officially begin as Executive Director on July 1<sup>st</sup>; however, he will be spending some time over the next several weeks learning more about ILO. He is looking forward to meeting ILO families and self-advocates, and he will attend our Hike, Bike and Barbeque on May 21<sup>st</sup> and the Participating Families Meeting at Maedi's house on June 27<sup>th</sup>. I am excited for all of you to meet Tait. As I have gotten to know him during the hiring process, I have been tremendously impressed by Tait's knowledge of the non-profit world and his relationship building skills. He is thoughtful, caring and dedicated to the organizations he serves.

I would like to thank Arthur Ginsberg and Pat Ritter, who served with me on the Board's Executive Director search committee, for the considerable time and effort they have spent on the search process over the past several months. I am also grateful to the rest of the Board for working hard to prepare ILO for this important transition.

In closing, I would like to thank Maedi for the amazing job she has done over the past nine years in taking ILO from a concept to a well-established organization with a critically important mission that serves over 37 families, has helped 33 self-advocates to move out of their families' homes and begin the journey to independent living, and has a growing community group now comprised of 86 families. Maedi has devoted nine years of her life to ILO and without her vision, dedication, hard work and infectious enthusiasm, there would be no ILO. I am pleased that Maedi will be working with Tait on a consulting basis for at least three months to help ensure a smooth transition. And, of course, Maedi will always be part of ILO in

ILO Community

May 4, 2023

Page 2

her role as Ellie's mom. We will be planning a future event where we can honor Maedi and thank her for all her efforts.

I know you will join me in welcoming Tait and thanking Maedi for everything she has done to make ILO what it is today. If you have any questions, please email me at [sbuckman@lrmansenter.com](mailto:sbuckman@lrmansenter.com).

Sincerely,

*Sally A Buckman*

Sally A. Buckman  
Board President