

## *The Arc of Colorado welcomes the new State Director of Developmental Disabilities Services*

### *To The Arc Membership:*

At the invitation of Bill Baesman, and as the new Director of Developmental Disabilities Services of Colorado, I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the many consumers, families and other advocates of Arc of Colorado.

I am a Colorado native. My wife and best friend, Carol, is from Connecticut. We met in Ohio almost 16 years ago. I completed my undergraduate studies at Southern Colorado State College in Pueblo, Colorado (1968). My graduate work was completed at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio (Masters of Social Work) in 1970. My second year of graduate work at the university included a year's internship at the Nisonger Center, a graduate training program for students whose primary area of study was developmental disabilities. I completed my second Masters Degree at the University of Dayton (Masters in Educational Administration) Dayton, Ohio in 1980.

My professional career has been exclusively in Ohio where I held the following positions:

1. Director, Richland Area Center for Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (1970 –73) in Mansfield, Ohio;
2. Assistant Superintendent, Montgomery County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (1973 –85) in Dayton, Ohio; and
3. Superintendent, Lucas County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (1985 – 2001) in Toledo, Ohio.

*Core values of my administrative/leadership practice concerning families and their sons and daughters, include the following:*

1. *The health and safety of consumers is of primary importance;*
2. *Consumers, their families and other advocates should be provided the opportunity to make informed, reasonable and responsible choices that enable the consumer to:*
  - a. *Live safely in the community of his/her choice;*
  - b. *Be with family and friends;*
  - c. *Have a meaningful job;*
  - d. *Be included in his/her community; and*
  - e. *Be a good citizen.*

My initial priority is to “listen and understand” what the primary issues, concerns and proposed resolutions are as viewed by the many constituencies who are invested in Colorado’s developmental disabilities services system. I will be actively engaged with the Policy Advisory Committee and visible within your respective communities as much as I am able upon assuming my new responsibilities.

I look forward to meeting you and exploring new opportunities to fulfill the Vision of both The Arc of Colorado and Developmental Disabilities Services of Colorado.

Sincerely,

*Fred L. DeCrescentis*