

DENVER CITY COUNCIL



Proclamation No. 25-1400

Honoring Joyce Neufeld for her service to Community Ministry

WHEREAS, Joyce Neufeld joined Community Ministry as a board member in 2001, quickly stepping into a leadership role by setting up a clothing bank, becoming the school food drive ambassador, 5k walk coordinator, and liaison to Garden Park Church; and

WHEREAS, because of her determination for Community Ministry to serve more individuals experiencing hardships, Joyce was elected board president in 2006; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Joyce was appointed interim executive director after the board recognized her leadership and vision, as she guided the board in setting strategic goals and assessing community needs; and

WHEREAS, upon her appointment as permanent executive director in 2009, Joyce demonstrated her value through hard work, organization, and innovative leadership—launching a monthly newsletter, implementing a client survey, prioritizing fundraising, promoting self-determination by transitioning from pre-packed food bags to a self-choice pantry model, enhancing marketing strategies, building community partnerships to grow healthy food gardens, and participating in grocery store rescue efforts; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, Joyce created the Food Exchange Resource Network, which increases the volume and quality of food offered to hunger-relief organizations through collective food acquisition, coordinated food delivery and storage, shared best practices, and building waste-reducing systems; and

WHEREAS, when the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted critical statewide services for the most vulnerable populations, Joyce found ways to safely continue operations, fostering a sense of community during a dark time; and

WHEREAS, Joyce helps people meet their own needs in a way that is dignified and respectful, helping them find their own service-oriented niche in the community, and ensuring people feel included; and

WHEREAS, members of the community, staff, and the board of directors value Joyce's many admirable qualities, including her courage for always striving to do the right thing, her constant grace under tremendous pressure, her steadfast resilience, and her unwavering commitment to the community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE DENVER CITY COUNCIL:

Section 1. That the Denver City Council hereby recognizes Joyce Neufeld for her years of dedication to Community Ministry and her relentless service to the people of Denver.

Section 2. That the Clerk and Recorder of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Joyce Neufeld and Community Ministry.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL September 22, 2025

PRESIDENT

