

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Last September, Mosaic was honored to have Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson address our national leadership assembly on the important role Lutheran social ministries play in today's world. I was honored also to have the bishop install me as the new President and CEO of Mosaic.



In his words, the bishop commended Mosaic on our work with and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, people who are often forgotten or set aside in our society. Our mission—to help all people know wholeness of life—is God-given and I feel privileged to have been a part of this ministry for more than 25 years.

Bishop Hanson and Linda Timmons

Mosaic also celebrated our 95th Anniversary last year. One of our legacy organizations, Bethphage, was founded in 1913. (The other legacy organization, Martin Luther Homes, was founded in 1925.) Our anniversary theme was "5 Years Young, 95 Years Strong," reflecting the energy of a young organization combined with the wisdom of a seasoned organization.

As we move ahead, we have five priorities:

- Our services will be of the highest quality;
- Our staff will be highly engaged in the mission of service and advocacy;
- Our stewardship will create mission enhancing efficiencies;
- Our advocacy and social justice efforts will boldly reflect our call to serve;
- Our success will draw partners to our ministry.

You are invited to share Mosaic's ministry. There are many ways you or your congregation can be a partner with us: through relationships with the people we support; through volunteer and donor opportunities; and through your prayers. Please consider this my personal invitation to join us, carrying forth the work that Bishop Hanson called "the labor to bring forth dignity and life in its fullness."

May we all be faithful and joyful in God's work.

Linda Timmons

Linda Timmons
President and CEO

For many people, arranging to attend a martial arts class would not be a reason to celebrate. For Richard (J.R.) Dunseth, it was an event ten years in the making.

Dunseth began receiving services from Mosaic in 1998. As a new resident, he rarely talked to anyone, refused to go to work, would not make eye contact, and had violent tendencies. Dunseth was only allowed to be home by himself for half-an-hour a day, and could not go into the community without a staff member. He seemed content to close himself off from the world.

Mosaic staff, however, were not content with this.

"Everybody worked for years with J.R. to break him out of his shell," said his group home manager.

Staff members realized the best way to communicate with him was to explain the consequences of his actions: being direct was the best way to get a response. They also invited him to their homes for holidays and treated him like family.



J.R. Dunseth

The change over the years has been incredible.

"I want something better for myself," said Dunseth, "I like doing things on my own."

Dunseth now has a second-shift job that he works Monday through Friday, where he has plenty of friends who are happy he's there. He is able to spend more time alone at home and in the community, and takes responsibility for himself, and has learned to check his blood sugar and to monitor his medication schedule.

He is also more articulate and outgoing. An avid fan of wrestling, Dunseth was interested in taking a martial arts class. Instead of asking for assistance, he found the phone book, looked up the number, called the organization and arranged for a trial visit. For the staff of Mosaic, it was an enormous steppingstone. For Dunseth, it was just the right thing to do.

"I'm proud that I can do these things by myself," he says, "I learned that from Mosaic."

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Opening Doors to Extraordinary Lives

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