



Seeing Strengths. Creating Options. Restoring Health.

*Integrated treatment and services
for people with mental illness*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grace Tangjerd Schmitt, President, Announces Retirement

ST. PAUL, Minn., (March 6, 2017) – Grace Tangjerd Schmitt, President, [Guild Incorporated](http://www.guildincorporated.org), has announced her retirement for mid-July 2017.

Tangjerd Schmitt's history with Guild goes back to 1980 when services were provided under the auspices of The Guild of Catholic Women. She was appointed President in 1990 as part of the founding of Guild Incorporated. She credits early social work positions in state hospital psychiatric units and county social services as an invaluable foundation for learning the value of community integration and serving individuals "in vivo", or in life; always supporting self-direction and empowerment.

"The opportunities to serve have been endless – the celebrations many," says Tangjerd Schmitt. "I'm humbled by the individuals and families who face the challenges of living with mental illnesses and allow us to partner with them on their recovery journey. I will carry that with me, along with deep appreciation for the agency's dedicated, skilled staff and volunteers working together each day to move the mission forward."

Under Tangjerd Schmitt's leadership, Guild has grown from serving an estimated 125 individuals in 1990 to more than 3,400 across all service lines in 2016. Growth has come not only in numbers, but also in innovation: implementing the "housing first" concept in the early 90s creating opportunity for normalized housing and participation in community life, pioneering and growing supported employment, customizing Assertive Community Treatment for transition-age youth, and facilitating "whole health care" through new Behavioral Health Home services launched in 2016.

"What is remarkable about Grace is her constant drive to innovate and evolve," says Michael Sampson, Chair of the Board of Directors. "Through Grace's leadership, that spirit of constant innovation has become an indelible part of the culture of Guild Incorporated, and it will continue to serve us well as the health care landscape continues to change."

Mr. Sampson has formed a Search Committee of the Board, who will work with W.J. Flynn & Associates of Eagan to name a successor. Karen Kaplan, Guild's Human Resources Director, will lead an Internal Transition Committee, composed of representatives from each service line and act as a liaison to the Board during the search.

[Guild Incorporated](http://www.guildincorporated.org) helps individuals with mental illness lead quality lives. We provide an array of recovery-focused, community treatment and rehabilitation services for individuals 16 and older who have serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, and bipolar disorder. Within this population, we serve those who have long-term histories of homelessness, experience other social complexities like the lack of employment and poverty, and who often have legal barriers to finding and keeping stable housing. Many individuals also deal with substance abuse and chronic medical issues. On any given day, Guild staff serves nearly 900 individuals in the Twin Cities metro area. Services are mobile, provided in the community when and where needed. Learn more: www.guildincorporated.org