

Ann Dillon

*Creative, Visionary,
Strategic, Supportive,
Bold, and Kind.*





wife...



MOM...





grandparent...



**Family is not an
important thing. It's
everything.**

Michael J. Fox





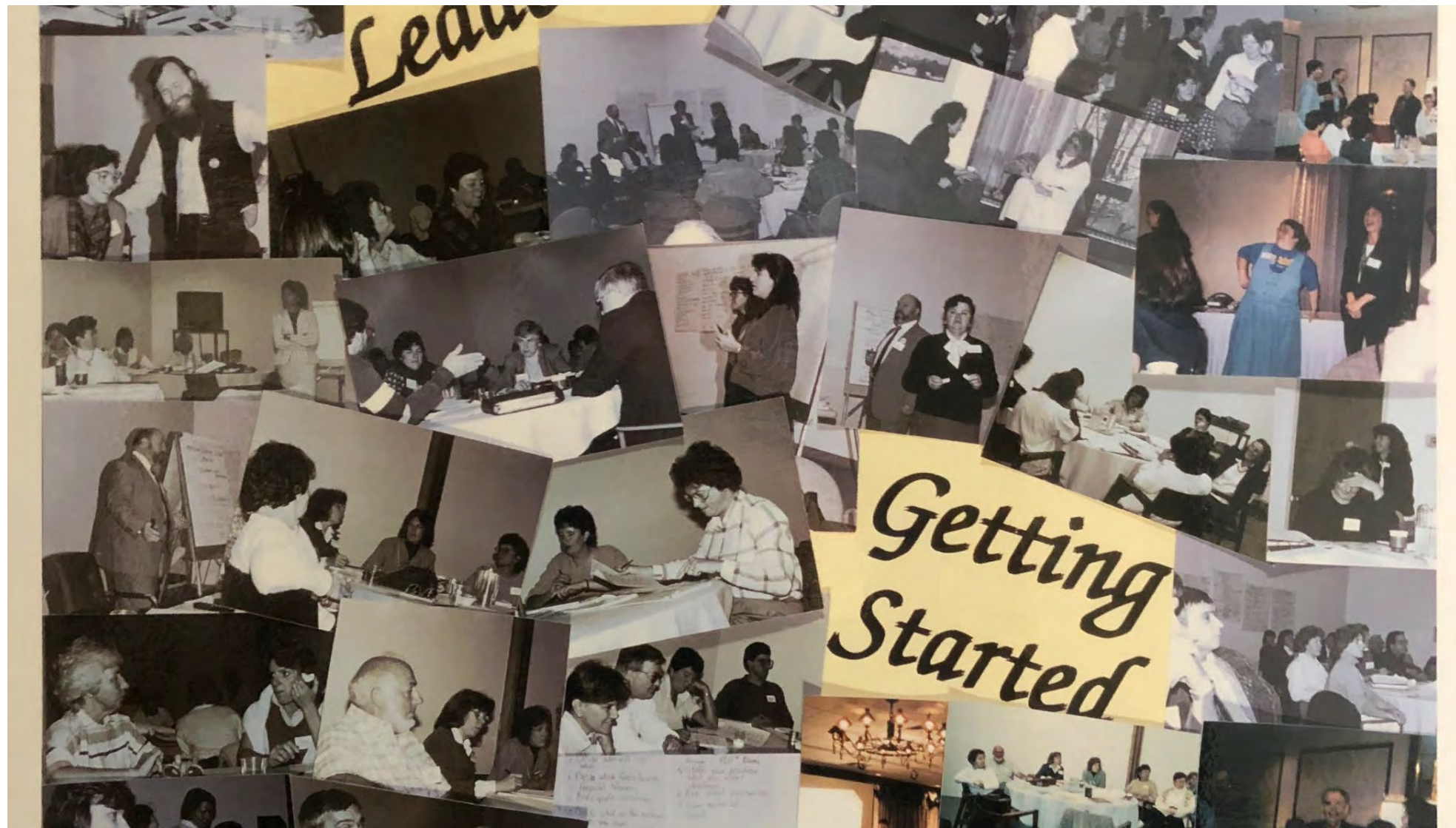
friend...



Having been able to observe Ann in many settings over our more than 30 year friendship, my thought has always been that she is, and has always been, a “true visionary”. In her long time advocacy for the disability community, she is that very special someone who has been able to use her imagination, creativity, skills and passion to first see how the future could be, and has been able to move her efforts toward that future while motivating others to join her in that quest to promote positive change.

Susan Murphy





First Leadership Class! Class of 1988



Ann,
Friends since we met in 1988 at
Leadership!
Thanks for all of your hard work &
contributions ever since that allow the
Series to continue.
Enjoy your time with the grand babies!

Beth Dixon



“ I can sincerely say that Ann and her family – Bill, Brie, Kayla, and David have been instrumental in establishing and solidifying the mission, vision, and values of the IOD. As a member of the first NH Leadership Series class, Ann broke through every single barrier that prevented Brie from living an ordinary life. From creating an accessible bus so Brie could ride to school with her friends, creating communication systems that supported Brie to participate in the general curriculum, to participation in higher education – Ann and her family led the way.”

Mary Schuh

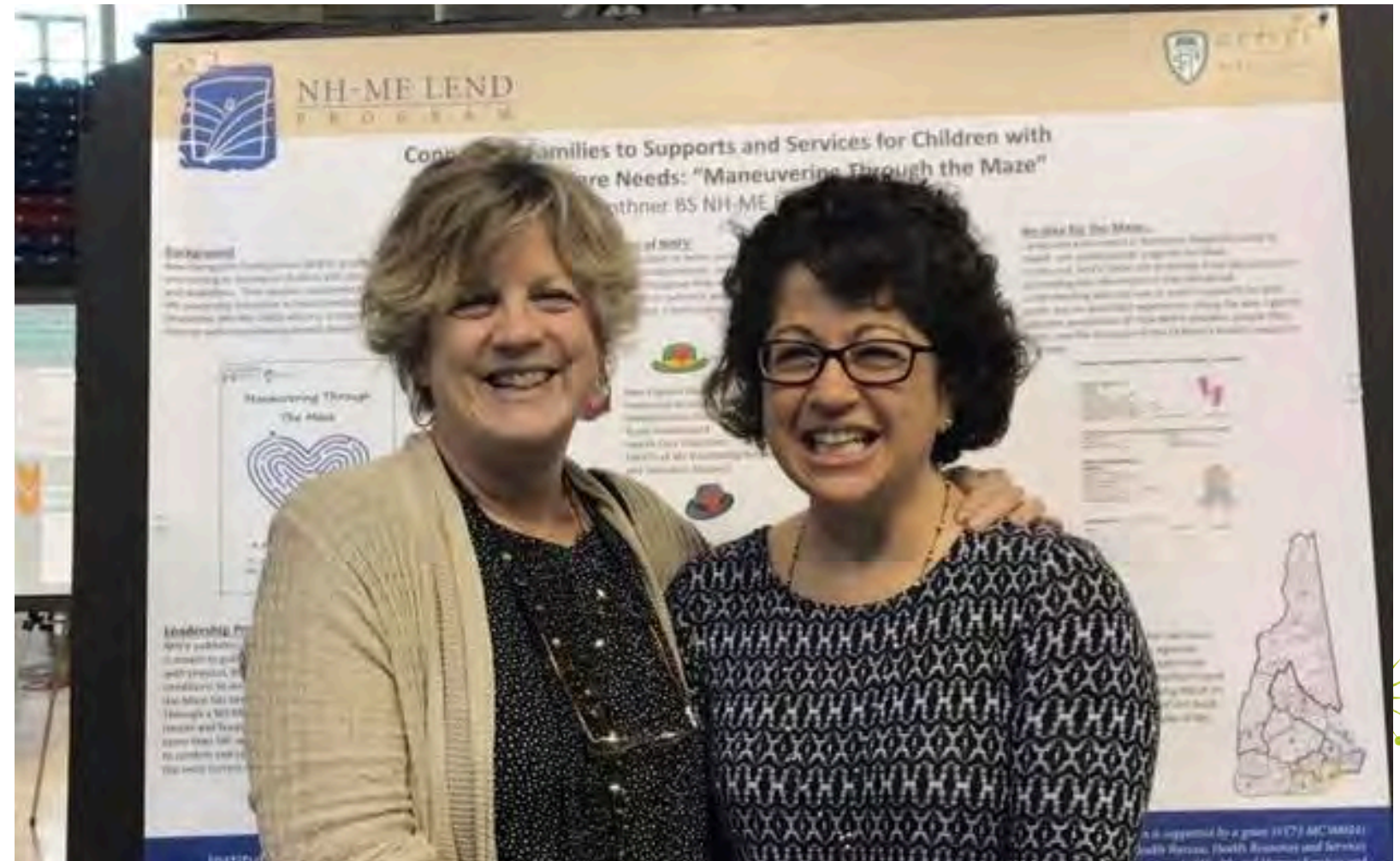


Coordinator NH Leadership Series



I have always been amazed by the way, Ann can pull out a story or scenario to weave together the pieces of our sessions; she taught me the importance of making connections in everything we do. My mentor and friend!

Deb Genthner



Ann encourages others to reach for the stars and to think outside of the box in getting there. Her confidence in those she has impacted is infectious and has truly made a difference in our community.

Nancy Glynn



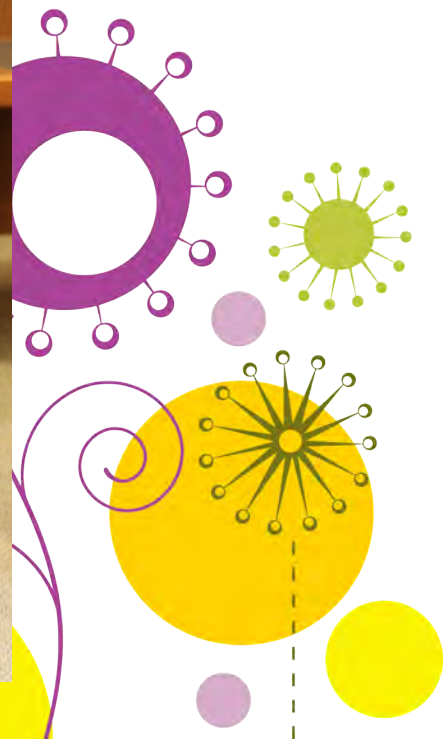


Thank you for all you have done to support parents, caregivers and individuals with disabilities over the years.

Cyndi Turkington



*“Don’t let distraction keep you from getting traction”
Ann Dillon - submitted by Danielle Poirier*



Honoring Brie



Kathy Bates blog... perfect!

Brie's way

"In a gentle way you can shake the world"

NH is a beautiful little state. I think we are lucky to live here. Winter is not my favorite season because it is very difficult to get around in all the snow. (One season out of four isn't bad.) Our varied New England landscape makes it easy to get a change of scenery, traveling from one end of the state to the other in just a few hours we can see beaches, rivers, lakes, woods and mountains. That said, it's our diverse landscape that can make experiencing the outdoors so inaccessible for those who use a wheelchair or have a walking disability. A simple walk through the woods can be impossible. That is unless you visit "Brie's Way" on the corner of Haigh Road and Rowell Road in Brentwood, NH. Winding through the trees, the naturally beautiful pathway is completely accessible and follows alongside the Exeter River. Several layers of crushed stone make it very easy to travel on with a wheelchair.

The woodland walk way was built to honor the memory of Brianna Rose Dillion who passed away in 2010. Brie was well known and loved by the Brentwood community and had many friends. Her family really felt the need to give back to the community, because so many people were welcoming and supportive when Brie needed them, due to her disabilities and health issues. Thanking them for all their friendship and support was the primary reason for this project.

When I visited there last week I positioned myself in a central location and closed my eyes. It was sunny that day. I could feel the warmth on my face but most importantly I could hear the Exeter River rushing by. When I opened my eyes, I looked around. I loved all the plants I could see. I saw Hosta, Wild Ginger, and Ferns. Most people that know me, know that I am addicted plants. My favorite part however, was how the sun shined through the trees and danced around in the breeze. All the trees made beautiful sun lit shadows on the walkway. It was a perfect day.

I said to Brie's mom, Ann "I can hear the river." She said "Yes, that is why we chose this location. Brie would have liked the sound of the river. She couldn't see but she really loved sounds." There is a large boulder that is flat on top just like a table. It's appropriately named "picnic rock." We sat down to chat some more and have a snack.

Ann explained that Brie's way was built in two weekends. Many volunteers gathered to haul stone dust and plant shrubs and other greenery. The Wilson family happily allowed use of their private property for this worthwhile undertaking. The plants and lumber were either donated or discounted very generously.

In their effort to give back to the community the Dillon family never expected Brie's way to become so important to the community but Brie Dillon was important. She helped the Brentwood community to be more accepting and welcoming. The other side of this is that the Dillon family is willing to be part of the community. Our communities are stronger when everyone is involved.



Ann always looks like she stepped out of a magazine, but every year at leadership she tells the participants about a time when a legislator came to her house and she was outside doing gardening and it was hot so she went and got binder clips to hold her hair out of her face...

Kathy Bates



Institute on Disability - over 25 years!



At one of my first All-IOD meetings, Ann handed me a bag of cookies and said that it was for the ride (I was new to working remotely and travelling) and to enjoy them. I think it made Jill Varney jealous. It was a simple token of how kind Ann Dillon is and always has been, and how much I love to annoy Jill Varney.

Art Frick





“When I think of Ann I immediately smile. That’s because she exudes happiness and joy, compassion and kindness! Ann is one of the most genuine people I know. She will be missed.”

Scott Trudo



I've always appreciated Ann's warmth. She has a smile and a kind word every time we see each other. Even when I was "new" at the IOD, Ann treated me like part of the family.

Kim Phillips



One of the funny stories that I remember was Nancy Cicolini tell was the story about how Ann had a lot of AA meetings on her calendar. She thought that she was so brave to put them on her calendar, and that she didn't seem like she had a drinking problem. She soon came to realize that they were Area Agency Meetings!!

Mary Ann Allsop



Perfect blend of preserving tradition and pushing the envelope for positive and creative change – everyone loves Ann!





Ann and I fell into step on one of the Healthy UNH walks (against my better judgement). She was an instant confidant, someone who spoke easily about the tough things. Like everyone at the Durham lunch table, I knew she was one of the nicest people in the world. She was also so very strong. In our work on the GEMSS website, Ann wanted to show that everyone could have a full life. The way she helped families shape their stories, and sometimes their whole perspective, was something I don't get to see very often.

Thank you, Ann! You are missed!

Karen Volle



NH/ME LEND



*Ann is most delighted when she sees possibilities
and growth in future leaders!*



Ann shared this quote with me one day when I was feeling a bit frazzled at work:

“Don’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good”

She wrote it quickly on a yellow sticky note, with a smiley face, and stuck it to my desk.

I was in a hurry in that moment and didn’t really realize the message behind those 10 words until I sat down the next day and really read them over again.

I have spent most of my life chasing perfectionism in my work. She didn’t realize it then, but by writing those 10 words down and giving them to me, it was as if I was being given permission to “do my best” and be happy with just that – my best.

My best may not always be perfect, but it will be just fine.

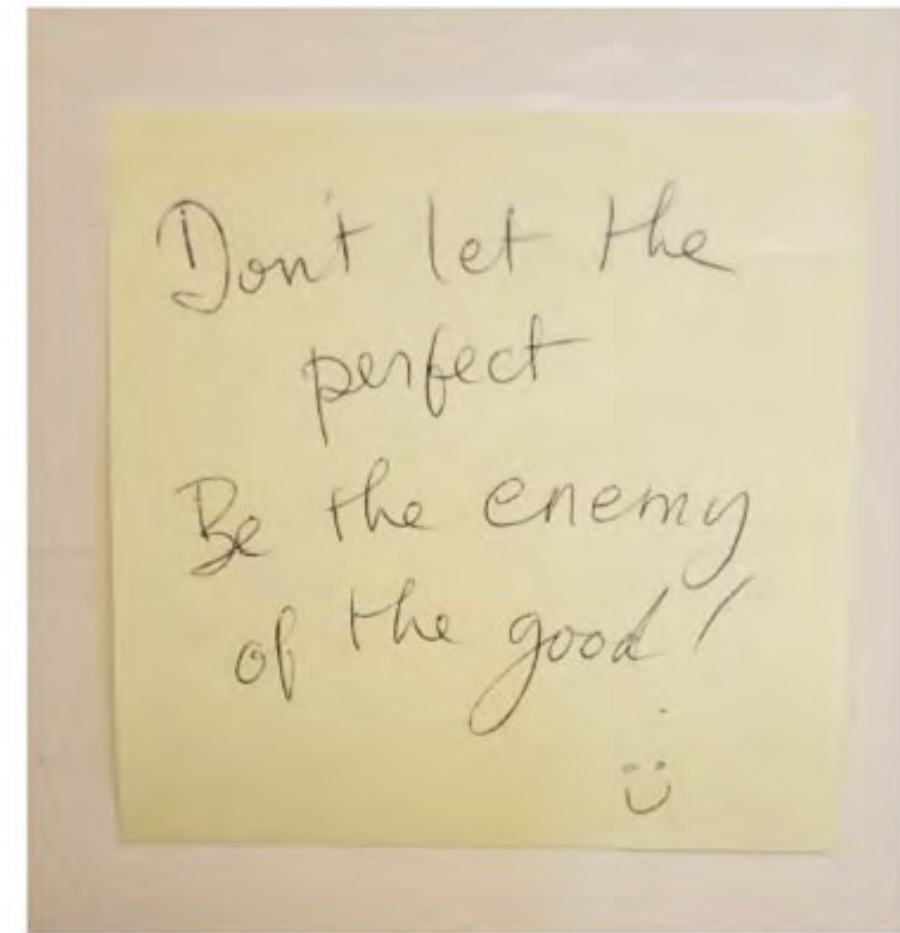
Several days later my oldest daughter called me from college having a panic attack about a project she was working on. I shared this same quote with her. In the moment, as with I, she was too stressed to appreciate it. Later on, after digesting it’s true meaning, she recommended that it be a tattoo that we share together. We have plans to get that done this summer.

Ann’s impact on the lives of those she meets directly and indirectly, reaches out (further than she knows) just like the branches of the Leadership tree represent.

I will miss her always smiling, upbeat personality in our LEND Office.

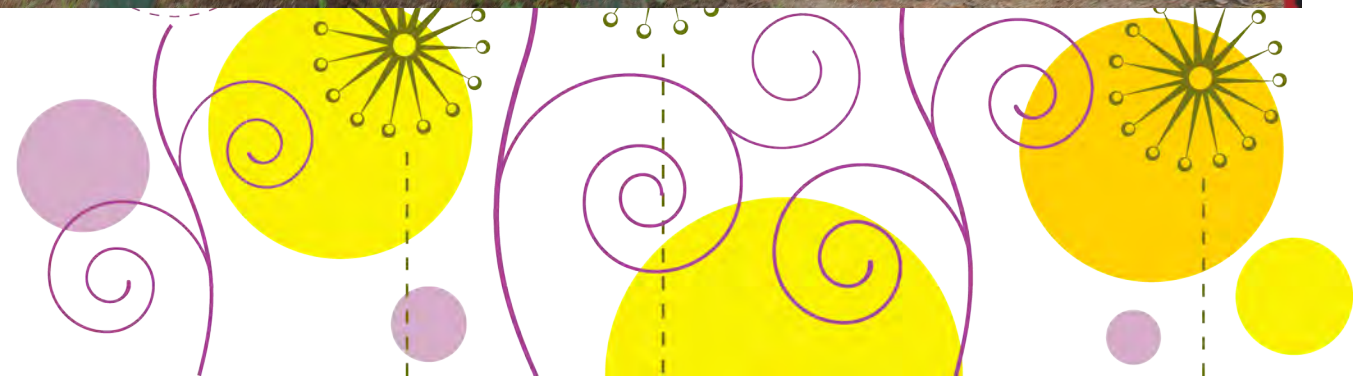
Congratulations on your retirement Ann!

Love, Kelly



Ann's leadership in family centered care paved the way for today's families. Her dedication built the foundation of how our families are included in decision-making. I thank her for inspiring me and hundreds of parents in New Hampshire to find and value their voice, to protect what has been built, and to be visionary leaders to improve the lives of all families.

Julie Smith



Ann always made me feel welcome as a relative newbie at IOD! In our work together on the Strategic Team, she was a tremendous help with the transition from the Strategic Team to the Strategic Council. We couldn't have been successful without her!



Karla Armenti



When I think of Ann , I think of a person who always has a kind thought to share, concern and interest in your work and personal life, and a smile to share. When I think of Ann I think of a great leader and all the lives she has touched. And when I think of a great leader I think of this quote by Sam Houston, "A leader is someone who helps improve the lives of other people or improve the system they live under.

Ann has done both - a true leader, role model, mentor, and friend . Thank you, Ann for work, support, and sharing your gift!

Best Wishes
Kathy Francoeur



Amazing teams!





Leaders and friends



What's next?



*Best wishes Ann!
You will be missed...*

February 11, 2019

