

Karen Murphy

Executive Director, Camphill Foundation

Karen Murphy joined Camphill Foundation in July 2018 as executive director, bringing to the role a unique combination of fundraising and nonprofit management expertise, along with direct work experience supporting people with disabilities and mental illness.

Murphy began her career in the nonprofit sector with a focus on fundraising. From 1999 to 2006, she worked as assistant vice president at CCS Fundraising, a strategic fundraising consultancy. There, she led capital, annual, and endowment campaigns for prominent organizations, such as Doctors Without Borders and the Archdiocese of New York. After leaving CCS, Murphy held senior positions with the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York and the Desmond Tutu Peace Foundation. Through a decade of work in fundraising, she was responsible for raising more than \$75 million.

Murphy's interest in pursuing person-centered work was sparked when she served as a Jesuit volunteer at Western Montana Mental Health Center in Missoula, Montana, from 2009 to 2010. In that role, she supported women and men with chronic debilitating mental illness. The post proved so fulfilling that Murphy extended her service for ten months beyond her volunteer term, working as a staff member in the day treatment program.

Following her work in Montana, Murphy joined Putnam ARC as residential community director. There, she oversaw four group homes for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, embracing the role and opportunities it afforded her to make meaningful connections with residents.

Through her work at Putnam ARC, Murphy developed a friendship with a resident with an intellectual disability who was also deaf from birth. Murphy learned basic sign language in order to help the resident communicate—in the process, opening up a world of mutual empowerment.

With communications barriers lifted, the resident was able to share her thoughts, ideas, and abilities with others. She began to flourish, and the relationship opened Murphy's eyes to what is possible when people with and without disabilities work together, each contributing the best of their abilities to the communities around them. Murphy now serves as that individual's advocate.

Murphy's work at Putnam ARC inspired her to pursue a graduate degree in theology—an endeavor born of her desire to discern the ways she could make everyday life more sacred for herself and others. That posture came to fruition in her role as director of operations for the Fellowship of Reconciliation, where she used her management acumen in service of upholding the inherent dignity and worthiness of every human being and creating enduring, systemic changes to social systems that marginalize persons and groups.

"I have witnessed firsthand the power we all have to help others create lives of greater fullness and wholeness. This work has been life-giving and rewarding," said Murphy. "It is a privilege to help build communities that value each person's inherent significance through Camphill Foundation, and to strengthen and support the Camphill movement."

A native New Yorker, Murphy has a Bachelor of Arts degree in theology and philosophy from the University of Scranton and a Master of Arts degree in theological research from Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Centre, Mass. Her interests include singing, swimming, crocheting, and being an aunt to two beloved nieces.



EXPERTISE

Person-centered advocacy
Fundraising
Strategic planning
Nonprofit management
Nonviolent communication
Spirituality

SOCIAL

www.linkedin.com/in/karen-murphy-8b31a9168

CONTACT

To arrange an interview with Karen Murphy, please visit:

www.camphillfoundation.org/media-center/

To contact Karen Murphy directly, please e-mail:

karen.murphy@camphillfoundation.org

