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**First Place® AZ Promotes Executive Director  
to COO at Groundbreaking Residential Property in Phoenix**

PHOENIX (January 27, 2021) — [First Place® AZ](#) recently promoted Nancy Ottmann from executive director of First Place–Phoenix to chief operations officer of First Place AZ.

With more than 25 years of leadership experience in health and wellness and resort operations, Ottmann has served as executive director of First Place–Phoenix for two years, advancing its innovative, supportive housing model for adults with autism and other neurodiversities.

“Having completed 75 marathons and the IRONMAN Triathlon, Nancy’s athleticism is a testament to her leadership, strength, stamina and can-do spirit,” says Denise D. Resnik, First Place AZ founder, president and CEO. “She builds and empowers teams through mentoring and collaboration, impacting the delivery of our promise and resiliency of staff with her heartfelt commitment to those we serve on a daily basis. Thanks to her leadership, we are delivering on First Place’s long-standing vision: ensuring that housing and community options are as bountiful for people with autism and other neurodiversities as they are for everyone else.”

First Place–Phoenix is an innovative 81,000-square-foot, \$15.4 million residential property opened in 2018 in the heart of the city at 3001 N. Third Street. Ushering in a new era of housing options for special populations, First Place combines apartments, the Transition Academy residential life skills program and the Global Leadership Institute to advance more independent and community-integrated living options. In addition to 55 apartments, First Place–Phoenix offers a suite of supports for residents, sports pool, culinary teaching kitchen, community center, health and wellness center and more.

As chief operations officer, Ottmann is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day administrative and operational functions of First Place–Phoenix, providing leadership

that aligns purpose, performance and people to create and sustain a healthy team environment and culture in service to residents.

“To build a supportive housing model for adults with autism and other neurodiversities is an achievement,” says Ottmann, “but true success is to build a community filled with pride, purpose and endless possibilities —a place that residents call home.”

Ottmann has a bachelor’s degree in special education from Ball State University in Indiana. She has been a licensed emergency medical technician and advanced exercise specialist through the American College of Sports Medicine Association. She is also a certified respiratory therapist.

For more information or to get involved, email [info@firstplaceaz.org](mailto:info@firstplaceaz.org) or visit [firstplaceaz.org](http://firstplaceaz.org).

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### **About First Place® AZ**

First Place AZ, a charitable nonprofit organization advancing innovative residential options for adults with autism and other special abilities, celebrates neuro-diversity, independent living and the belief that housing options for people with autism and other special abilities should be as bountiful as they are for everyone else. First Place is creating replicable residential and post-secondary education models that promote collaboration among the public, private, philanthropic and nonprofit sectors, serving as a catalyst for advancing public policy focused on housing solutions for special populations. First Place—Phoenix, the nonprofit’s first new property, opened in 2018. Leasing opportunities are available. View PBS NewsHour’s two-part series about First Place at [“Giving Adults with Autism the Skills to Build Independent Lives”](#) and [“How Phoenix Became the Most Autism-Friendly City in the World.”](#) Learn more at [firstplaceaz.org](http://firstplaceaz.org).