



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Rachael Curley, DRA Collective
rachael@dracollective.com
602.424.8645

First Place® AZ Elects Joyce Millard Hoie to Board of Directors

PHOENIX (April 25, 2019) — [First Place® AZ](#) has elected Joyce Millard Hoie, a nonprofit executive with 20 years of experience, to serve on its board of directors.

The nonprofit's new 81,000-square-foot, \$15.5 million residential property for adults with autism and other different abilities—First Place—Phoenix—is located in the heart of the city at 3001 N. Third St. Ushering in a new era of housing options for special populations, First Place is combining apartments, the Transition Academy independent life skills program and the Global Leadership Institute to advance more community-integrated and independent living options. In addition to 55 apartments, First Place—Phoenix offers residents a suite of supports, as well as amenities that include a sports pool, culinary teaching kitchen, community center and LEGO lounge.

“Joyce’s extensive experience in nonprofit leadership, especially in organizational capacity, lifecycle stage assessment and business development will be incredibly valuable to First Place as our organization matures,” says Sara Dial, chair of First Place’s eight-member board.

Millard Hoie is the former, longtime executive director of Raising Special Kids, where she was responsible for statewide program development, public policy advocacy, financial management and revenue generation. She has received five gubernatorial appointments to state policymaking boards and councils, most recently as a member of the ABLE Oversight Committee, Arizona’s tax-advantaged savings program for people with disabilities.

Millard Hoie earned a bachelor’s degree from Creighton University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of West Florida. She completed certification in nonprofit board education and consultant training with the Nonprofit Lifecycles Institute. In 2017, the Organization of Nonprofit Executives recognized Millard Hoie as a Leader of Distinction.

For more information or to get involved, email info@firstplaceaz.org or visit firstplaceaz.org.

###

About First Place® AZ

First Place AZ is a nonprofit organization advancing innovative residential options for adults with autism and other special abilities. 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 celebrates neurodiversity, 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–Phoenix, the nonprofit’s first new property, opened in 2018. Leasing is underway. 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.