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## **Road To Responsibility Establishes Action Committee**

### ***Young-at-heart members tasked with environmental, organizational sustainability initiatives***

MARSHFIELD and SOUTH SHORE, MA, ISSUED JANUARY 23, 2020...Road To Responsibility (RTR; <http://roadtoresponsibility.org>), one of the region's largest and most successful non-profit organizations, recently announced the formation of an Action Committee throughout its organization. This group will be led by Jackie Schmidt, a Quality Monitor for RTR and Marshfield resident.

Schmidt, who has worked at Road To Responsibility for more than 13 years, initially approached RTR CEO Christopher White, Ed.D., about the idea of creating a sustainability group that would help RTR examine its carbon footprint, reduce one-time use items wherever possible, and be more environmentally sustainable as an organization.

"Given that we're the biggest service provider in the area, with the number of homes and day programs we oversee, number of individuals we serve, and staff we employ, our efforts could have a huge impact," said Schmidt.

White liked the idea, and together they decided that the group should focus on sustainability from a multi-dimensional perspective – as an organization that provides services to individuals, as an employer, and as community members.

"The landscape of human services is quickly changing, as we employ a whole new generation of Millennials, in addition to those that represent all generations," said White. "Not surprisingly, the ideals and values and desires of all of these individuals is somewhat different. The Action Committee is meant to bring all of these perspectives together in a thoughtful forum, identify any issues that might exist, and be creative in thinking about potential solutions."

As such, the Action Committee aims to have representation from all throughout the agency to ensure the group's mission's feasibility and practical application.

Schmidt, with responsibilities that include monitoring day service programs and day habilitations, as well as internal audits and human rights investigations as needed, was a natural fit to lead the group. Currently, the group is comprised mostly of directors, residential managers, and quality monitors, with a great mix of people from day and residential programs, as well as information technology.

The group holds monthly meetings with frequent communications in between, and has already coordinated its first big project: Santa for Seniors. The group reached out to local Councils on Aging in different communities, and adopted seniors who did not have much family around during the holiday season. The project made a huge impact on nearby seniors, and also got other RTR employees involved in an external event.

"So many people in our community support RTR, we want to make sure that our community members know that RTR also supports them," added Schmidt.

In addition to holding other external events, the Action Committee's goals for the New Year include a careful look at the organization's use of one-time-use plastics. "We've already switched all of our plastic cups to paper cups, and we're looking to completely eliminate the use of plastic cutlery, or at least cut it drastically," said Schmidt. "Our day programs offer an added challenge in this regard, but we're looking at other options, including potentially biodegradable cutlery.

"It's exciting to see the progress we've made in such a relatively short time, and even more exciting to see the enthusiasm the group is generating throughout RTR, and to think about what more we can accomplish in 2020," Schmidt added.

### **About Road To Responsibility, Inc.**

Celebrating over 30 years of making lives better, Road To Responsibility, Inc. (RTR) was established in 1988 with the overarching belief that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities deserve to have full, rich, and rewarding lives in the community, and therefore works to provide the means, the opportunity, and the support necessary to allow citizens with disabilities to take their place as productive members of the community. RTR offers residential, work/employment, day habilitation and other day supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. RTR supports individuals with very diverse needs, including those with significant challenges who would otherwise go unserved if not for RTR. It succeeds where other organizations often fail, through the use of an integrated clinical behavioral approach. This model has proven successful and yielded positive results for the organization and the individuals served.

Road To Responsibility offers services to almost all the towns and communities throughout the South Shore and South Coast of Massachusetts, operates 49 residences as well as co-operative and supportive living apartments, and manages nine day-service locations that focus on education, employment, and community enrichment. Road To Responsibility's main office is located at 1831 Ocean Street, Marshfield, MA. For more information, please visit [www.roadtoresponsibility.org](http://www.roadtoresponsibility.org).

*Photo (left to right): Action Committee members Jackie Schmidt, Walter Da Cruz, Yvonne Malley, Jessica Kelly, Kate Njenga, and Andy Andresen.*