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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 9, 2015

### **Colorado Youth for a Change Names Mary Zanotti as New Executive Director**

Denver, CO—The Colorado Youth for a Change (CYC) Board of Directors has chosen Mary Zanotti to succeed Chris Telk as the Executive Director. Zanotti began her new position on July 1. For over 16 years Zanotti has worked in a variety of capacities changing the lives of young people in Colorado.

Zanotti has been a leader within CYC for the past seven years during which she oversaw dramatic growth. Since 2005, CYC has substantially contributed to decreasing the number of dropouts in Colorado by 42 percent. And of the nearly 2,000 students we serve annually, 75 percent continue enrollment or graduate.

Most recently, Zanotti served as CYC's Associate Director. Prior to her work at CYC, Zanotti worked for Urban Peak, a local nonprofit serving youth experiencing homelessness. During her tenure at Urban Peak, she received her master's degree in counseling from the University of Colorado.

Zanotti's natural ability to create systemic change to meet the needs of the clients and staff of the organizations she leads is evident in all she does. "The board was thrilled to be able to appoint Mary as our new Executive Director," said CYC's Board Chair, Scott Spendlove. "Her knowledge of Colorado's education system, her dedication to the CYC mission, and her experience and tenure with the organization made her the perfect fit." Zanotti is looking forward to the challenge of leading CYC.

"I am incredibly passionate about educational opportunities for all young people and I am honored to have been chosen as the new Executive Director of CYC," Zanotti said.

### **About Colorado Youth for a Change:**

The dropout problem in Colorado is serious and our community pays a hefty price. Currently, there are more than 10,000 dropouts in our state. The average high school dropout is not eligible for 90 percent of available jobs and will cost taxpayers nearly \$300,000 over their lifetime in lost tax revenue, crime, incarceration, and health related costs. Celebrating 10 years of service in our community, Colorado Youth for a Change is solving Colorado's dropout crisis. Since 2005, CYC has substantially contributed to decreasing the number of dropouts in Colorado by 42 percent. And of the nearly 2,000 students we serve annually, 75 percent continue enrollment or graduate. Find out more at [www.youthforachange.org](http://www.youthforachange.org).

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