



Janet Farnsworth

Executive Director

Meet Janet Farnsworth— West Ridge Academy Executive Director.

Janet found work in the social services field in the early 90's, while working in a large corporate setting. In her roles in customer service and marketing and this company, she learned about how to network and how important the customer's experience and perception is. Moving from the corporate world into a role that allowed her to care for and influence the kids in her care has been fulfilling and challenging, but also the most rewarding endeavor she's ever undertaken. More than twenty years later, Janet still gets excited every single day to create opportunities for young people to discover their best selves. She says, "There is no more meaningful work that this!"

Janet started as a family teacher, working with severely troubled young men at a community-based group home. She served as family teachers for six years before moving to Mississippi to work for a faith-based treatment program. Janet advanced from family teacher to residential supervisor and trainer/compliance officer while in Mississippi. She returned to Utah in 2002 and began work at a private residential treatment program for girls. Eventually, she became the director of the girls program and helped it to grow from a small community-based program to a large facility.

Janet earned an associates degree at Ricks College prior to becoming a family teacher. Through a national organization, she earned practitioner certification numerous times, and additionally became a certified site reviewer as part of the *Teaching-Family Model*. Parent coaching and support programs are one area of specialty for her, and she believes that working with the parents and supporting the family system is critical for long-term change. She created a workshop and support program in several settings to support the parents during their student's treatment journey. She is also a certified facilitator in equine therapy, through the Eagala organization.

Janet's work ethic comes from growing up in a small town. Her parents instilled the importance of working hard and delivering on promises. Janet is the proud mother of three almost grown kids. She is a living example of a blended family; her "bonus" kids bring the family count to nine, plus two adorable grandsons! She grew up on horseback and loves to spend time in the country, as well as quiet time digging in the dirt or reading a good book.