

Dear NACHSA Members,

The time has come for me to pass the baton as NACHSA President to our Vice President, Rick Bengtsson, from El Paso County, Colorado. Serving as your President has been an absolute honor. I will value the friendships I have made with many of you for the remainder of my professional career and I will hold each of you in the highest regard for the remainder of my life.

We know the work of leading the administration of human services agencies is quite challenging and yet immensely rewarding. We work to reduce poverty, put people to work, feed the hungry, make health care a reality, protect the vulnerable, provide critical assistance to our citizens in crisis and I could go on and on. Truth is we all share that common bond of working to make human services in our counties or jurisdictions a bright light of hope at the end of the tunnel for children, families and adults of all ages. Oftentimes, our agencies lack the capacity to serve at the level we would aspire but we keep serving every day because our staff and citizens need us.

The frustration of insufficient resources combined with overwhelming need often takes us to the end of our rope and makes us question if we can continue on... but that grateful smile on the face of a child or elder person or the simple "thank you for being there for me" reminds us why we are in this business in the first place and keeps us moving forward.

Looking back, together we have experienced some incredible times! The federal budget process brought us the sequester leading to budget reductions, as well as the federal shutdown that put so many states and counties on edge. The uncertainty of what to expect from Washington has become the standard norm and when legislation is passed, often we are unsure if we should breathe a sigh of relief or feel a gut wrenching pain as to what the impact will be to those we serve back home.

Despite the many challenges, incredible work continues in county human services agencies all across America. NACHSA provides us excellent forums to share best practices, programs and services from our jurisdictions through the board meetings, one-on-one conversations, E-alerts, human services reports on our website and especially through the Networker. Hopefully, we can continue to support these channels of communication and build upon them in the future.

I am very proud of the growth of NACHSA over the past three years. Today we have more members than ever! Our budget is as healthy as it has ever been. We have a fantastic Washington Representative in Tom Joseph. Tom's expertise in regard to Congress and the Administration, the status of federal legislation, and what to expect in the near future has served to inform us as we attempt to determine how best to plan for the future administration of the programs and services back home in our jurisdictions. We are extremely fortunate to have Tom and I hope NACHSA is able to keep him for many years to come.

Finally, let me wish each of you a very happy, healthy and prosperous 2015! I look forward to serving with you as a human services director and participating as an active member of NACHSA. I wish Rick all the best as he leads NACHSA as our new President.

Take care everyone,

Glenn