



## Celebrating 40 Years

*Yes We Can and Yes We Will with Our Care and Our Skills*

1976. Jimmy Carter was President. Gas was 59¢ a gallon. “Happy Days” ruled the airwaves. Apple was formed by Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak. A spunky, independent, once-math teacher turned community organizer from South Minneapolis decided she and her mother would form their own company too.

Mary Tjosvold, Founder and CEO of Mary T. Inc., had a vision, and along with her mother, Margaret Tjosvold and brother Dean, turned that vision into reality. Mary T. inherited land from her grandmother and decided the only logical way to use the land was to continue the legacy of her grandmother, a nurse, and care for others. Though Mary and Margaret faced many challenges throughout the development phase, mostly due to being women business owners, they persevered. Doors opened in October of 1976 to Camilia Rose Group Home, one of the first community-based homes for people with disabilities in the country. Mary T. Inc. was born.

Over the next two decades, Mary T. opened additional group homes, and expanded services into hourly programs. They offered people who were able to live more independently the supports to meet their needs in a Supported Apartments program. Additionally, services for older adults were developed in 1987. Residents 55+ began moving into Margaret Place Senior Apartments. Through the years, assisted living sites were developed, specializing in memory care and offering an alternative to traditional nursing home care. Through these programs, Mary’s vision of a continuum of care began to take shape.

Additional services were added through the years, such as home health, hospice care, and more market-rate rental townhomes. Mary T. Inc. grew outside the state of Minnesota, setting up business in Wisconsin, Maryland and Arizona. In 2014, Mary followed another dream with her husband, the late Larry Dunsmore, and opened a restaurant and live music venue, Crooners Lounge & Supper Club. Crooners is emerging as one of the leading live music clubs in the Twin Cities area, located just north of 694 on Highway 65 on Moore Lake.

**Fast Forward to 2016.** Barack Obama is in his final year of his second term as President of the United States. Gas is \$2.64 a gallon. “Big Bang Theory” rules the airwaves. And a spunky, independent, once-math-teacher-turned-community-organizer-from- South-Minneapolis has a national business with annual revenue of \$35 million, employs more than 800 people and offers services to hundreds more.



*The Tjosvold family: Colleen, Jason, Mary T., Dean, Margaret, and Lena*



*Mary T. and Margaret Tjosvold*



*Margaret always enjoys the events*



*Mary T. and Margaret join clients on lots of outings*