

LARADON'S VISION

OCTOBER 2016



Laradon was founded 68 years ago as the first provider of its kind for children and adults with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities.

Laradon was there at the beginning, and continues to be a trailblazer for Person-Centered Thinking and advocacy. Over the years- Laradon has led the way- as society became more enlightened as to the human potential and personal desires of the participants served by Colorado's intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) system.

In the 1940's, that meant two young parents converting a house into a schoolhouse to teach children who were deemed "uneducable" by the public school system and had no better options.

In the 1950's, it meant building a safe and caring campus-based setting where all personal, educational, recreational, vocational, and residential needs could be provided for children as they grew to adulthood.

In the 1960's, Laradon expanded its influence in Colorado as a leader for expanded rights and government funding for those with disabilities, and nationally as an innovator of patented teaching and diagnostic tools.

In the 1970's, Laradon pushed the IDD model to the next level with its in-home early intervention program, social enterprise ventures, and the addition of two acres for residential facilities on campus.

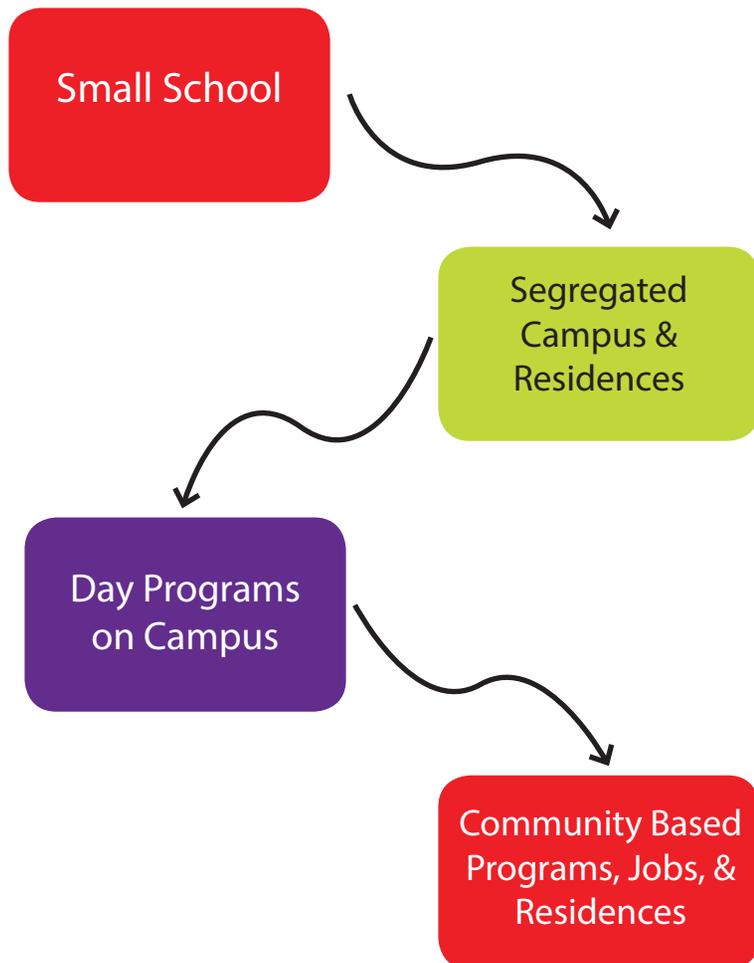
In the 1980's, society was now more comfortable welcoming adults with developmental disabilities to live in their home communities. The vision for services evolved as people moved from group homes on our central campus, to neighborhoods across the front range, becoming active residents.

In the 1990's, The Laradon School for children of ages 5-21 continued to be the program of choice for front range school districts and students who were not able to be served in their home school district. Two school buildings were added on campus.

Today, Laradon is still the state's leader, offering an enlightened model of programming that:

- Is grounded in Person Centered Thinking
- Connects our participants to activities and opportunities across their home community
- Creates partnerships to share scarce resources and to provide innovative services

The following are examples of our commitment to **partnerships** and **collaborations** to build a stronger safety net for the individuals we serve:



- Creation of an Aurora transportation hub and potential satellite location for adult day programs in collaboration with another non-profit organization
- Establishment of the Raleigh House, a three person home for Colorado's most challenged IDD residents, located by Regis University
- Commitment of an affordable housing complex on the West campus that will meet the needs of our Laradon community and the greater Globeville neighborhood
- Developing in partnership with a Denver development company strategic service partnerships on the North campus, sharing programming and facilities
- Improving financial stability by creating partnerships with other non-profits and by reducing operating expenses through consolidating programs to the South campus and to potential satellite locations
- Increased community engagement to maximize partnerships and funding programming

