

DANBURY -- Gov. M. Jodi Rell honored Sharon Danosky, the former vice president of development for Ability Beyond Disability, this week. "Through your outstanding leadership and selfless drive for helping those who are disadvantaged to achieve self-reliance and fulfillment in all aspects of society, you have demonstrated your dedication to the community and to the state of Connecticut," Rell said in a statement released this week. "Your energy, altruism and passion are truly impressive."

Danosky first came to Ability Beyond Disability about 10 years ago as a consultant. Not long after that she was named vice president of development and raised at least \$20 million for the organization, which serves people with physical and mental disabilities.

About \$7 million was used to close the organization's shelter workshop, where clients worked together on a variety of jobs for local businesses. The program was transformed to allow the clients to work for businesses throughout the area.

"The belief and principle was that everyone has the right to work and live in the community," Danosky said. When I first came on board I certainly didn't expect to stay for 10 years. But I soon found that people with the organization had a true passion and really believe in their mission."

Danosky recently left Ability Beyond Disability to again work as a consultant.

Greg Bastek, the organization's director of development, said she will be greatly missed.

"I worked with her for more than two years, and I've never met anyone as compassionate," he said. "Her contributions to the agency in terms of fundraising helped to spur a huge growth period."

Bastek said Danosky in some way touched the life of every client of the organization during her tenure.

"She is someone who truly understands philanthropy."

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