

Biography

Mrs. Iva (Eva) Walsh was born in the Czech Republic and immigrated to the United States in 1989. She is a mother of 4 children one of whom was born with Down Syndrome. Iva is the owner of Maeve's Place Coffee Shop, a café in Phoenicia, NY named after her daughter Maeve whose mission is to provide employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The coffee shop first opened in 2018 in Pine Hill and moved to their current bigger location in 2020 during the pandemic. They employ a total of 9 employees of whom 2 have an intellectual disability. The coffee shop offers full breakfast, lunch, and coffee menus along with an extensive retail gift selection several products of which also come from small business of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Mrs. Walsh earned an Associates Degree in Ceramic Production and worked for two decades in both the hospitality and retail trades. Her work included catering, wedding planning, flower shop operation, and marketing for a vast array of small businesses. She is a member of the Ulster County Chamber of Commerce, and is often called on to advocate for people and issues that impact the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities community.