

# Pathways Hospice

Community Care for Northern Colorado



## InTOUCH

NEWSLETTER



### OUR MISSION

*Honoring every moment of life, Pathways Hospice, provides compassionate, excellent, comprehensive care for those who have an advanced medical condition and those who are grieving.*

### OUR VALUES

*We honor life through: Compassion, Respect, Integrity, Excellence, Stewardship*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE  
AND A NEW NAME FOR HOSPICE OF  
LARIMER COUNTY

NAME CHANGE FOR HOSPICE

A NEW VENUE FOR A VINTAGE AFFAIR

ABBY'S SIGNATURE CONCERT SERIES ADDS A  
SECOND PERFORMANCE THIS CHRISTMAS

PATHWAYS HOSPICE SELECTS  
FHSSA PARTNER

CONCLUSION OF THE HOSPICE HEARTS AND  
ANGELS COLLECTION

PATHWAYS: PROGRAMS FOR GRIEF AND LOSS

VOLUNTEER STORY:

DANI THE PET THERAPY PONY

ENDURING LEGACY SOCIETY

## CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE AND A NEW NAME FOR HOSPICE OF LARIMER COUNTY

BY KAY RIOS



**DR. JIM DANFORTH**  
*Medical Director*  
Involved with Hospice  
of Larimer County since  
its beginnings in 1978



**DR. JOE LOPEZ**  
*Medical Director*  
With Hospice of Larimer  
County Since 1986



**DR. DAVID ALLEN**  
*Medical Director Executive*  
With Hospice of Larimer  
County since 2002

With November designated as National Hospice Month, it's fitting that Hospice of Larimer County will celebrate 30 years in existence. In that time, Hospice has provided physical, emotional, and spiritual support to more than 6000 terminally ill patients and their families.

Its quiet origins in October 1978 began with a compassionate group of Loveland nurses banding together to care for a co-worker in the final stages of breast cancer. "There really wasn't an organized hospice in Fort Collins," says Dr. Jim Danforth, Hospice of

Larimer County's Medical Director. "They wanted to help her die at home so they formed an ad hoc volunteer group."

Danforth was in family practice at the time and the nurse was one of his patients. "That's really how I got involved."

The effort didn't end with her death, he says. "They continued to meet after she died because the community needed something like this and the group continued to provide services to patients in their homes.

A group in Fort Collins started about the same time we started in Loveland.”

Interest in hospice care was beginning to grow as Great Britain created freestanding inpatient facilities to provide comprehensive care to terminally ill patients. Information on those efforts crossed the Atlantic Ocean in the 70s and medical thinking began to change.

Danforth witnessed the benefits of hospice firsthand as a resident at the University of Washington in Seattle. “I observed situations where patients were not part of the decision-making process in their own care and they were dying in hospitals without an option. Then I had a patient about 85 years old with congestive heart failure. He was in a nursing home and tired of taking meds. He asked me what would happen if he just stopped taking them. I said, ‘You will probably die.’ He said, ‘That’s okay. I’ve written my life story, said goodbye to family. Can I just do that?’ It was amazing to see the peace he found in that decision. So when this group started up, I thought, gee, this makes a lot of sense.”

On February 3, 1979, the organization was incorporated as a non-profit 501(c) (3) but both the Loveland and Fort Collins groups continued to operate informally and as volunteers until about 1982 when the federal government passed the Medicare Hospice Benefit.

“We were getting a little more sophisticated and a little more formally organized,” Danforth says. “Then Medicare put new requirements in place and we felt we needed to meet those. That’s when the two groups came together. That gave us the opportunity to pay CNAs, nurses, chaplains, and all the people on the team,” he says.

In the early days, Danforth and Fort Collins family physician, Joe Lopez served as Medical Directors. “But it grew to where it was more of a full-time job. We both also continued to be full-time physicians so it became apparent we needed a full-time dedicated medical director.” Dr. David Allen joined the staff as a full-time Medical Director Executive and Lopez and Danforth step in when Allen is not available. All three are board certified in hospice and palliative care.

“Part of the reason Hospice has been so successful is that the Board of Directors has been so creative in raising money in the community. Medicare and some private insurance pays for it but still doesn’t pay the entire cost,” Danforth says.

## NAME CHANGE FOR HOSPICE

BY KAY RIOS

A rose by any other name may still be a rose but, for an organization, that name becomes important in its effort to communicate with the public. For Hospice of Larimer County, the name just didn’t tell the whole story, says Executive Director Evan Hyatt.

So a new name has been selected. Pathways Hospice becomes the official name as of November 5, 2008. “We offer so many things and we aren’t just offering our services in Larimer County as the old name would suggest. It just seemed time for a name change that would more appropriately reflect who we are and where we are.”

The new name, he adds, takes an existing theme and builds on it. “Our Pathways

Programs have become very popular so we wanted to dovetail around that reputation. And it more clearly defines the organization as a whole.”

The organization does offer hospice care for those terminally ill patients, but it also provides support services for families as well as bereavement options for those who have suffered a loss. In addition, Hospice serves patients beyond Larimer County and is continuing to grow, serving many areas in Weld County as well. The name Hospice of Larimer County also gives the impression that Hospice of Larimer County is a county organization, he says.

“We’re a non-profit organization and we rely on our donors and our ability to raise funds from the community. Being regarded as a county agency can hamper those activities that keep us alive.”

The process for the name changes began about two years ago when a marketing firm was hired to explore potential names that would best represent the organization. That agency, Lightsource Creative Communications, Inc. and Hospice studied the names of over 3,500 hospice organizations across the nation. After researching and brainstorming over a period of several weeks, a list of several hundred possible name choices was created. By removing those names that didn’t immediately establish Hospice’s distinguishing qualities, the list was reduced.

“The final name was selected with input from the community, staff, referral sources and everything kept leading us back to that name,” Hyatt says. And the rest is now history.



A NEW LOOK FOR PATHWAYS HOSPICE



A VINTAGE AFFAIR 2008

## A NEW VENUE FOR A VINTAGE AFFAIR

After many years at the Lincoln Center, the 7th Annual Vintage Affair moved to a lovely facility, the new Miramont Lifestyle Fitness Central. Thanks to Cliff Buckholz for graciously offering the use of the club. Highlights of the evening included an extensive wine tasting, gourmet food, live music provided by Jerry Palmer and browsing the silent auction.

Net proceeds for the event were in excess of \$15,500; the largest amount ever generated by this event. The new location resulted in more tickets being sold at the door (70); a total of 249 tickets were sold.

We would like to thank Dennis & Nancy Dinsmore and the staff at Wilbur's Total Beverage for organizing the wine tasting. The buffet was donated courtesy of Whole Foods Market; our thanks to Tawny Duckworth for an inspired and delicious menu.

We would like to thank and recognize the following sponsors for making this event a success:

Dellenbach Motors  
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Marcey Mushore and the Staff of  
Chapungu Gallery  
Northern Colorado Anesthesia Professionals  
Vaught Frye Ripley  
Vision Financial Group

Our appreciation to Image Catcherman for the photography and to all the Wine Vendors, Silent Auction Donors, Volunteers and Attendees for their support of A Vintage Affair 2008 and Pathways Hospice.



## ABBY'S SIGNATURE CONCERT SERIES ADDS A SECOND PERFORMANCE THIS CHRISTMAS

Please join us for this quiet, reflective celebration featuring Dave Beegle (guitar), Christy French (piano), and Chuck Landgraf (percussion) on Monday, December 15th at First Presbyterian Church, 531 S. College Avenue in Fort Collins. Due to popular demand, this concert has been expanded to two performances, 10 AM & 5 PM. Benefit offerings will be accepted for Respite Care and Pathways Hospice. The newest CD in the Abby's series, "Hope," will be available at this concert for a suggested donation of \$15. Many thanks to the following sponsors:

### **Christmas Concert Sponsors -**

The Dellenbach Family and The Foresters

### **2008 Series Sponsors -**

Carole Egger and Fort Collins Sertoma

# Abby's SIGNATURE CONCERT SERIES

### ABBY'S STORY

In 1989, Abby French was born with severe developmental disabilities. Though her doctors gave her a life expectancy of only two years, Abby lived until she was ten. Her circle of caregivers included her family and friends, with invaluable support from Respite Care and Pathways Hospice.

Abby spent much of her day listening to music. In fact, music was one thing that seemed to bring her comfort. Over the years, Abby's mother, Christy, a pianist, brought

together many talented musicians to play for Abby. The music touched Abby in a special way and, in turn, Abby touched the lives of the musicians who gathered to play for her.

Abby's Signature Concert Series has been established in Abby's memory and is inspired by the belief that every life has a special purpose. The concerts have become a wonderful opportunity for others to donate their time, talent and resources to helping children and families in our community.



THE STAFF AT BULAWAYO ISLAND HOSPICE, ZIMBABWE

## PATHWAYS HOSPICE SELECTS FHSSA PARTNER

Over a year and a half ago, the agency and Board of Directors of Pathways Hospice saw a unique opportunity to help improve hospice care beyond our national borders. The Foundation for Hospices in Sub-Saharan Africa (FHSSA), the only U.S. organization focused on hospice care in Africa, was actively looking for U. S. partners to develop mutually beneficial idea-sharing relationships between hospice organizations on both continents, to generate financial support for the African organizations, and to involve U.S. hospices in improving the quality of palliative care in sub-Saharan Africa. Ninety percent of all donations go directly to the beneficiary; FHSSA retains only 10 percent for administrative purposes. The Board enthusiastically supported the formation of a partnership with FHSSA. Pathways Hospice became an accepted partner in January 2008. Africa / AIDS Partnership Committee members wanted to go to the area of greatest need, Zimbabwe. In researching the palliative care needs in the area, it was determined that Bulawayo, the second largest city in Zimbabwe, would benefit most from our involvement and a partnership with Bulawayo Island Hospice was initiated. Pathways Hospice has the distinction of being the first U.S. FHSSA partner in Bulawayo.

The gravity of the situation pulls at even the toughest heartstrings. Daphne Clark, Director of Bulawayo Island Hospice, describes the need for assistance, "There is so much lacking that it is hard to know how to start building again. The basic needs are quality personnel, with reasonable remuneration, reliable cars with maintenance and fuel." Three nurses care for over 160 patients, many of them in remote locations, who are suffering from life-threatening cancer related to AIDS. In Zimbabwe, a quarter of all adults were infected with AIDS (2003).

The eight-member staff is desperately in need of another full-time nurse, at a cost of \$5,400 a year. To give this team some relief, and meet Island Hospices secondary goals (further development of services, internal training and outreach), our FHSSA Committee members set a goal to raise \$30,000 - \$40,000 a year. Within the first week of fundraising in July, HLC raised \$10,000 in pledges for Bulawayo Island Hospice. The most recent contribution of \$2,727 was generated from the silent auction at A Vintage Affair, held September 28, 2008. Additionally, the FHSSA committee will brainstorm different approaches to fund a trip, potentially in August, for a few individuals to visit Bulawayo to get a real feel for their needs.

The encouragement and support already received by Daphne and her team prompted this statement: "You are a light at the end of a dark tunnel. Thank you for being so willing to try and help this ailing Hospice."

To learn more or make a contribution, please contact Georgia Torson or Jane Anderson, Co-chairs of the Africa / AIDS Partnership Committee at Pathways Hospice, (970) 663-3500.

## CONCLUSION OF THE HOSPICE HEARTS AND ANGELS COLLECTION

The Angel of Hospice Series of handcrafted ornaments, designed and created by artist Judy Murphree, have been given as gifts or purchased in remembrance of a special loved one for many seasons by Pathways Hospice families, donors, volunteers and staff. The artist is no longer making these beautiful pieces but we can still offer you an opportunity to give the undated 12th and 13th Edition Angels to friends and family. Please inquire at the Pathways Hospice Reception Desk, 305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins to see these simple but elegant designs. Angels are \$20 each; there are still a few hearts available as well.



ANGEL OF HOSPICE – 12TH EDITION

## PATHWAYS: PROGRAMS FOR GRIEF AND LOSS

All groups/events meet at Pathways Hospice, 305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins. Space is limited. Advance registration and payment required. \*\*Pathways Hospice families are exempt from registration fee for \*\*these groups only, but may donate the fee. Please call 663-3500.

### PRESENTATION: SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

#### *After the Death of a Loved One*

December 4

Evening 6:30-8:00 P.M.

No fee, no registration required

### HOLIDAY GROUP FOR KIDS AND TEENS

during the December 4th Surviving the Holidays

evening presentation. Call to register,  
\$5.00 fee per child/teen for materials

December 4

6:30-8:00 P.M.

### THE NEXT COURSE

#### *A Cooking Class for Widowed Persons*

Thursday December 11th

6:00-8:00 P.M.

Cost: \$25.00 per class

### THE MOURNING AFTER

Monday evenings 6:30-8:00 P.M.

8 Week Group

January 19-March 9

\*\*\$75.00

### FOLLOWING IMAGE ART MAKING

Monday evenings 6:30-8:30 P.M.

January 19-March 9

\$80.00 plus \$20.00 materials fee

### JOURNEY BY JOURNALING

Tuesday evenings 7:00-8:30 P.M.

February 3-February 24

\$35.00

### FAMILY GRIEF CONNECTION

#### *Parents Grief Connection*

#### *Teens Grief Connection*

#### *Kids Grief Connection*

Thursday evenings 5:00-6:30 P.M.

February 19-March 12

\*\*\$40.00

### ON OUR OWN

Meets monthly, every 2nd

Wednesday at 6:30 P.M.

*December topic: "Looking Back, Looking Ahead—When Past and Present Meet"*

*January topic: Getting over the "Firsts"*

*February topic: "Emerging from WE to ME"*

No fee, no registration required

### HOPING

Drop-In Group

*Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support Group*

Every 1st Wednesday 6:00-7:30 P.M.

No fee, no registration required

### THE GIFTS OF GRIEF FILM

Thursday, 7:00 P.M.

January 29

Suggested donation is \$5.00,

no registration required

## WEAVING THE ARTS

May 15, 16, and 17, 2009

### PATHWAYS: PROGRAMS FOR GRIEF AND LOSS AT PATHWAYS HOSPICE PRESENTS: WEAVING THE ARTS CREATIVE THERAPIES TO ADDRESS GRIEF AND LOSS, A HANDS-ON CONFERENCE

Combining creative art therapies with grief theory is a powerful way to address grief and loss. This conference offers a way to expand awareness of the effectiveness of integrating the arts and grief counseling. Whether you are a trained creative arts therapist, grief counselor or would like to better understand the intersection between grief and the expressive arts, this conference will show ways to incorporate these approaches into your practice effectively. For more information contact Nancy Jakobsson, Pathways Services Director, by email: [nancy.jakobsson@pathways-care.org](mailto:nancy.jakobsson@pathways-care.org) or phone (970) 663-3500.

### WINTER MEMORIAL SERVICE

An Evening of Remembrance

Community Memorial Service

Monday 5:30 P.M.

January 12

Please join us for a time of remembering.

If you would like to participate in a special slide show honoring loved ones, mail or bring a photo of your loved one to the Pathways Hospice office, 305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins, CO 80525, by January 5th. Please include their name and date of death, as well as your name and address. All photos will be returned. The theme of this year's service is "I Have Been Changed"; e-mail a sentence or phrase that describes how your loved one changed your life to [nancy.jakobsson@pathways-care.org](mailto:nancy.jakobsson@pathways-care.org).

## VOLUNTEER STORY: DANI THE PET THERAPY PONY

*In fall of 2007, HLC volunteer Judy Jaffe and her therapy pony Dani paid a visit to the bedside of patient Ray. You can maybe imagine the excitement at Windsor Health Care as we paraded the pony down the hallway to Ray's room. Ray passed away the following day. In Judy's words, following is an account of this magical visit:*

In defiance of a grand name – El Dorado Moonlight Dancing – little Dani is modest in size and demeanor. But she is big on trust for me, her Delta Society Pet Partner human handler. So the day we went to visit Ray, Dani was willing to load into the trailer (her least favorite place) and travel (her least favorite activity) an hour to Windsor with me.

I had anticipated Dani schmoozing with Ray in the courtyard but he was too weak to come outside. Though Dani clearly disliked the slippery linoleum floors under her hard hooves, she gamely followed me inside and down the hall to Ray's room. Ray, a one-time trick rider and lifelong horseman, lay thin and anxious, beneath an oil portrait of a favorite bay horse. Though he struggled to focus on the little bay mare beside him, once Ray saw her his gaze became intense. Caregivers helped him sit up and extend a thin hand. Little Dani took one more trusting step toward Ray and his fingers brushed her soft muzzle. That was all Ray could manage but as he lay back down he closed his eyes and sighed, his face now peacefully contented.

In total, it was a visit of only a few minutes. But it was one that made our hours of preparation utterly worthwhile. Thank you, Ray, for the gift of your touch. Thank you, Dani, for your trust.





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## ENDURING LEGACY SOCIETY

Pathways Hospice created The Enduring Legacy Society to recognize and honor those donors who have invested in the future of Pathways Hospice through estate plans, bequests, retirement plans, charitable gift annuities, trusts, life insurance and other deferred or planned giving options.

The financial contributions that we receive from donors enable us to provide much needed hospice care and grief support to an ever increasing number of people in our community. In 2007 alone, Pathways Hospice

provided hospice care to 943 patients and their family members and also supported and counseled more than 5,700 community members struggling with the loss of a loved one. The Enduring Legacy Society helps ensure the sustainability of our organization, the services we provide, and the future of hospice care in our community. Gifts from Enduring Legacy Society donors will be placed in our endowment fund at the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado.

For more information, please contact Evan Hyatt, CEO of Pathways Hospice, at 970.663.3500 or [evan.hyatt@pathways-care.org](mailto:evan.hyatt@pathways-care.org).

