

# 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.

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## A WORLD WAR II VETERAN REMEMBERS

There are approximately 38,000 veterans living in Larimer and Weld County (2009). At Pathways Hospice we are privileged to provide service to some of those men and women and their families. The Pathways Hospice Honoring Veteran's program was created in order to recognize the contributions of veterans and address the unique needs they may have with a life-limiting illness. This program focuses on providing respectful, compassionate care, recognition of service and specialized support for families.

Recently, we had the honor of talking with Earl Rathke and his son, Gary, to learn about Earl's experience in the military. Mr. Rathke is now 91 years old. His son, Gary, visits him often. On the day we visited to talk with Earl about his time in the Army Air Force, his face lit up with a joyful smile when he saw his son walk into the room. Gary was loving and gentle as he encouraged his father to share memories from such a long time ago.

In November of 1942, when Earl was just 22 years old, he enlisted in the



Earl Rathke as a young Army Air Force Pilot

Army Air Force. He was trained as a pilot, receiving his pilot wings in August of 1943. Eventually, Earl was assigned to the 92nd Bomb Group, 407th Bomb Squadron, whose nickname was "The Favored Few." Over the next several months, Earl and his squad flew missions over Germany.

Earl remembers those missions as being very dangerous. On one flight, an American plane was shot close enough to Earl's plane for him to feel the heat of the blast. "I could see the guys getting blown out of the thing." On February 24, 1944, Earl and the crew were on a mission to Schwienfort, Germany, the location of

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## A WORLD WAR II VETERAN REMEMBERS

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a ball-bearing plant. This plant was well-protected, since ball-bearings were an integral part of motors used by the Germans, including the engines for their planes. Earl's plane was shot down by German pilots. He recalls that all but one of the crew survived; the navigator's parachute had been damaged by the gun-fire and didn't open. After parachuting to the ground, Earl was captured by German soldiers and brought to a local jail. "Oh, that was a terrifying night," Earl tells us, "I thought they were going to kill me right then." Instead, Earl was put on a train and taken to a prisoner of war camp, Stalag Luft 1, in Barth, Germany. During the time Earl was a prisoner of war (POW), he was awarded the Air Medal for being shot down while in service to his country.

At first, Earl's family thought he was missing in action, but eventually received the information that he was being held as a prisoner of war. When asked how he and the others were treated in the POW camp, Earl said,

"Fairly good, I'd say, for Germany, because we were officers. Our enlisted men came from a different prison camp and they had it rougher." In May of 1945, Russians came to Stalag Luft 1 to liberate the prisoners. This was a frightening time, since they were not sure if the Russians would treat them well, or bomb the camp thinking there were still German soldiers there. Luckily, the American Army Air Force came, loaded up the POWs, and flew them to France. There they were fed and given lots of eggnog, so they could gain back some of the weight they had lost over the last 15 months. In September 1945, Earl returned to the U.S. and was treated to a stay at the Ritz Carlton. At this time he was promoted to First Lieutenant, honorably discharged, and returned to his family.

Earl expressed his feelings about being part of the war in Germany. "Oh, man, you can't believe the torture they (the Germans) put on people. That's why I know we were

fighting a just war. I knew I was doing the right thing. I couldn't have done it if I didn't." He became quiet and thoughtful for a moment. "It makes a whole difference in how you feel about things."

Gary brought out an album that Earl's mother had kept, telling the story of Earl's experience in the military. The album included newspaper stories about Earl's capture and internment in the camp. Earl held the album, smiling with a look of amazement, as he and Gary looked through it together. "Oh, wow. Oh, wow. That is sacred." He thanked Gary for helping him remember. "I'm glad to see this. What a day this has been. Beautiful. Beee-ut-iful."

All of us at Pathways Hospice thank Earl Rathke for his bravery and sacrifice. We appreciate Earl and the other men and women who have served our country, and will pay special tribute to them every year on Veterans Day.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS SHARE THEIR TIME AND TALENTS

There are many ways individuals, businesses and organizations use their effort and resources to express their "heart for hospice." This helps to provide others with end-of-life and bereavement care when they need it most. We recognize and are grateful to all who have been so generous and take this opportunity to highlight a few recent supporters.

Since 2007 the Northern Colorado Cares Golf Tournament has included

Pathways Hospice as one of the beneficiaries from the event. This kindness is extended in memory of Sharrie Olsen, who received care from Pathways Hospice. These generous contributions help us meet the needs of others seeking end-of-life care.

Once in a Blue Moon Boutique & Art Sale was held twice in 2011, once in June and again in September. An eclectic collection of fun and unusual items, some vintage, some new were

offered for sale. The events were hosted by Carole Egger; proceeds were allocated between Pathways Hospice and the Larimer Humane Society.

Project Linus, whose mission is to make beautiful blankets to bring comfort to any child facing a difficult situation, has kindly chosen us as one of their recipients. Our staff will share the generosity of these talented

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## PATHWAYS HOSPICE WORKING HARD TO IMPLEMENT ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS



*Pathways Hospice staff receives training in electronic medical records*

Electronic medical records are more and more becoming a standard of practice in health care. In order to help fulfill the mission of our organization to provide the highest quality end-of-life care and bereavement support to our community, Pathways Hospice will be implementing a comprehensive Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system in January of 2012.

Since February of 2011, Pathways Hospice has been working with consultants to personalize the EMR system to accurately reflect the service we provide to our patients. An important part of system development is smoothly incorporating computerized tools into the compassionate and gentle care being given every day. Since June, clinical staff has been spending many hours to ensure that when they begin to use the system in the field, they will do so

with as much ease and confidence as possible. It is exciting to know that adapting this new technology will benefit both Pathways Hospice and the patients and families we serve.

One of the major benefits of implementing electronic medical records is improved quality of care to our patients. The use of EMR will reduce the time spent on charting by allowing many documentation processes to become automated. As the amount of time spent on clerical and administrative duties is decreased, more time is available for clinical staff to spend at the bedside with patients and their families.

Current information essential to the care of the patient will be more easily and accurately accessible to the interdisciplinary team providing care for the patient. Staff members who

work after regular business hours and on the weekend will have immediate access to patient information at the location where care is being provided. Improvements in quick and accurate information sharing, and reduced time spent with clerical activities will all play a part in providing the highest quality care to our patients and families in a way that is attentive and personal.

Another key benefit of the EMR system is improved communication with other healthcare providers. The system Pathways Hospice is implementing is one of the leading systems in homecare and hospice. It is compatible with systems being used by McKee Medical Center, Poudre Valley Hospital, Medical Center of the Rockies, physician practices in both Larimer and Weld Counties, and skilled nursing homes in our community. As always, medical records are HIPPA protected and will only be available to those who need access to provide care.

Since 1978 Pathways Hospice has cared for more than 12,000 terminally ill residents of Larimer and Weld counties and their families. We are proud to be a nationally recognized, community-based hospice and continue to look for ways to enhance and expand our services. The implementation of the comprehensive EMR system will help Pathways Hospice better meet our community's need for compassionate, excellent care for those with a life-limiting illness.

## PATHWAYS HOSPICE EXTENDS SERVICE TO GREELEY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

The Staff and Board of Directors are pleased to announce that Pathways Hospice has begun caring for patients in Greeley and the surrounding communities as far east as Kersey and as far south as Platteville. After many requests from western Weld County physicians and community members for end-of-life care and bereavement services from Pathways Hospice, our Windsor office opened in 2007. As these requests continue to come from the Greeley area, and after careful consideration of the needs of that community, it was decided to expand our services within Weld County.

Pathways Hospice provides a depth and breadth of programs and services currently not available from other hospice agencies. In addition to our expertise and compassion in management of symptoms associated with life threatening illness, we offer counseling and bereavement services unparalleled in Northern Colorado. Our highly acclaimed counseling center offers alternative therapies such as writing, music and art, chronic-illness related counseling, therapists trained to work with bereaved children and a variety of groups designed to support the diverse needs of our clients. We have also developed specialized programs to meet the unique needs of veterans and their families, and have designed an assisted living program to ensure the best care to individuals in this home-like setting. Our outreach to the Weld County community includes meeting the needs of the Spanish speaking population. Our materials are available in both English

and Spanish, to ensure that the hospice care we provide is accessible to everyone. The variety of services offered by Pathways Hospice is sure to enhance care available to the Weld County community.

An important part of our expanded service area is truly becoming a part of the community we serve. We have begun working with other non-profit agencies, are a member of the Chamber of Commerce and have adopted a highway to keep trash-free. We anticipate becoming an integral part of the Weld County community, participating in and adding to the many events and celebrations throughout the year.

We look forward to providing loving care and support to community members and their families as they face the changes and challenges of serious illness.

*To help meet the needs of Pathways Hospice patients and their family members, we are currently seeking volunteers from the Greeley area and are planning an extensive volunteer training session in January. Please contact Sara Van Etten, Volunteer Services Director, as soon as possible at (970) 663-3500 if you are interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity.*

## FIRST FLAG-RAISING IN THE NEW HONORING VETERANS GARDEN

On Veterans Day, 11-11-11, veterans and community members gathered to recognize our veterans of military service and raise the flag for the first time in the newly established Honoring Veterans Garden at Pathways Hospice. The ceremony was attended by 140 veterans and active duty military, staff and supporters of Pathways Hospice, and community members wishing to pay tribute to those who've served. The ceremony included a Color Guard, sharing of patient Veteran Life Stories and a reading of the names followed by a wreath laying ceremony, first flag raising and bugling in the Honoring Veterans Garden. A reception

concluded the event. Thanks to all who attended!

The garden is an extension of the Pathways Hospice Honoring Veterans program, and recognizes the sacrifices made by more than 25% of our patients who are veterans or spouses of veterans. For more information on the Honoring Veterans Garden, contributing to the second phase scheduled for completion July 4, 2012, or to learn more about permanently recognizing an active duty military individual or veteran, please contact Kathy Anderson or Kim Mueller at 970.663.3500.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ***The Stories We Tell***

Thursday, March 29, 7:00 PM  
A sharing of the "stories we tell" through the arts.  
Admission \$10  
Pathways Hospice  
305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins

### ***Abby's Signature Concert Series***

#### ***Good Friday Concert***

Friday, April 6, 2012 at 9:30 AM Organ  
Prelude, 10:00 AM Concert  
Admission is free; donations accepted for Pathways Hospice and Respite Care.  
First Presbyterian Church  
531 South College Avenue, Fort Collins

#### ***12th Annual Debbie Boose Memorial Tennis Tournament***

June 4 – 10, 2012  
North Lake Park, Loveland, and other satellite courts as needed  
A week full of activities for tennis players and their families including the popular Friday night dinner, a prize drawing, and exhibition matches. Call 970.663.3500 for more information or to obtain registration details.

#### ***Community Memorial Service***

Monday, July 9, 2012 at 5:30 PM  
The community is invited to join us at Pathways Hospice for an evening of remembering loved ones. The service will include a message from a hospice staff member and a dove release.  
Pathways Hospice  
305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins

#### ***15th Breakfast in the Park***

Saturday, July 21, 2012  
8:30 AM – 11:00 AM  
Not your ordinary picnic! Great food, kid's activities, butterfly release,

live music and more.  
Admission \$7 for Adults, \$5 for Children. All proceeds benefit the children's and teen's bereavement program at Pathways for Grief and Loss.  
City Park (Shelter #7)  
1599 City Park Drive, Fort Collins

#### ***11th Annual A Vintage Affair***

Late September, 2012  
Evening  
Presented by Wilbur's Total Beverage, this is a classic wine and beer tasting offering attendees the opportunity to taste wines and local microbrews while sampling delectable foods in an intimate setting. Proceeds from the event support Pathways Hospice programs and services.  
Fort Collins  
Location to be announced

#### ***Abby's Signature Concert Series Fall Concert***

November 2 – 3, 2012  
*Time to be determined*  
Sunset Events Center  
242 Linden Street, Fort Collins  
Call Pathways Hospice at (970) 663-3500 for more information and to purchase tickets.

#### ***Veterans Recognition Ceremony***

Monday, November 12, 2012  
3:00 to 4:00 PM  
All members of the community are welcome to join us as we recognize the contributions made by all veterans of military service.  
Pathways Hospice  
305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins

#### ***Abby's Signature Concert Series Christmas Concert***

Monday, December 17, 2012  
Organ prelude at 9:30 AM, concert at 10:00 AM with a second performance at 5:30 PM preceded by the organ prelude at 5:00 PM  
Admission is free; donations accepted for Pathways Hospice and Respite Care.  
First Presbyterian Church  
531 South College Avenue  
Fort Collins



## INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM INTEGRAL IN PROVIDING HOSPICE CARE - PATHWAYS SOCIAL WORKER RECOGNIZED



*Rick Riddoch receives recognition for being exemplary team member*

When a person accepts Pathways Hospice care at the end of life, they are cared for by an interdisciplinary team of professionals and volunteers who will address a variety of needs. We first ask patients and families what their goals and hopes are for hospice care. These goals form the foundation of our plan of care. Care strategies evolve to remain in line with these goals as patients' needs change. The core hospice care team is made up of a Registered Nurse, Certified Nurse's Aide, Social Worker, Chaplain, and Music Therapist. Our full-time Medical Director provides consultation and oversight.

The concept of the interdisciplinary team (IDT) approach is central to the clinical work at Pathways Hospice. This approach ensures good communication between and among the different disciplines providing care to patients and families. Most importantly, it ensures that the care being given is comprehensive, addressing the multi-faceted needs of each individual. The interdisciplinary approach involves team members working together to exchange

information and ideas so that each team member effectively meets the changing needs and wishes of the patient and family.

When the Colorado Center for Hospice and Palliative Care called for nominations for a 2011 award in the category of Interdisciplinary Team Member, Rick Riddoch immediately came to mind. Rick joined Pathways Hospice with a Master in Social Work and a Master of Divinity. His responsibilities include being the primary Social Worker at our Pathways Hospice Care Center serving the needs of acutely ill patients and their families, and providing social work support to Pathways Hospice patients in southern Larimer County. He is actively involved in helping others in his profession as a preceptor for interns at Pathways Hospice. Rick is the first Social Worker in Colorado to receive the Advanced Certified Hospice & Palliative Care Social Worker (ACHP-SW) designation and is a member of many national hospice and social work organizations.

Clinical Team Director for the Care Center, Judy Platt, and Clinical Team Director for Home Care, Julianne Gaul, elaborate on Rick's work. "Rick has the heart of a servant, always willing to assist clients, co-workers, and his agency. He provides excellent customer service and brings a very calming and peaceful presence to his work. Rick considers each patient and family uniquely and honors the dynamics of each family's situation. He is very knowledgeable about community resources and goes the extra mile to assist patients and families. Rick is dedicated to broadening his knowledge of social work and end-of-life care and sharing that knowledge with others."

On October 27, 2011, the Colorado Center for Hospice and Palliative Care presented Rick with the Interdisciplinary Team Member Award, recognizing him as a team member who has made a significant impact through his excellent work. We are proud to work with Rick and congratulate him for this well deserved acknowledgment.



*A patient and family meet with Pathways Hospice Team Members.*

## DAN DENNIS, PATHWAYS HOSPICE CFO, RECEIVES AWARD

We are proud to announce that Dan Dennis, Chief Financial Officer for Pathways Hospice, received the Northern Colorado CFO of the Year Award. This is an honor greatly deserved and earned through hard work and a love for what he does.

Dan joined Pathways Hospice in 2003 when the agency was smaller in size and budget. Since that time, Dan has been instrumental in the growth of the agency. He played an important role in managing the capital campaign that led to building the Pathways



*Dan Dennis, CFO for Pathways Hospice*

Community Counseling Center for Grief and Loss. He manages the agency's annual budget, which has almost doubled since his arrival. He does all this and much more with an understanding of and appreciation for the important work being done by the rest of the Pathways Hospice staff. His competence, humility and humor make him a well-loved and respected member of the Pathways Hospice team.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS SHARE THEIR TIME AND TALENTS

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volunteers with any child who might be comforted by the warmth of a hand-made blanket.

Pathways Hospice thanks the National Charity League, a national mother-daughter membership organization where mothers and daughters serve the community together through philanthropic activities. They recently created "comfort bags" to be shared with children and teens who are dealing with the loss of a loved one.

In the spirit of "giving back," the Diamond Back Saloon in Severance hosted a Thanksgiving Day Dinner benefit for Pathways Hospice. Owners Colleen and Barry Brim prepared a traditional holiday menu.

Friends and family of James "Chopper" Goodwin gathered to remember their loved one and support Pathways Hospice. On October 2, the 6th

annual motorcycle run kicked off with a buffet breakfast hosted by Diamond Back Saloon in Severance and concluded at Al's Canyon Grill in Fort Collins, where owners Lisa and Al Poppy provided food, beverages and live music.

On December 15, 2011, Mary Ann Randels held a photography exhibit and sale with proceeds benefitting Pathways for Grief and Loss. Mary Ann has been an invaluable volunteer with Pathways Hospice for over 11 years, and is leaving the agency to enjoy new adventures in her life. Her generosity and support has been treasured and she will be missed.

Pathways Hospice is appreciative of so many who've shared their time and talents on our behalf. If you are considering a fundraising event or activity to benefit Pathways Hospice, please contact Kim Mueller, Marketing and Outreach Executive, at (970) 663-3500.



*Thanksgiving Day Dinner at the Diamond Back Saloon*

## COLORADO GIVES DAY A BIG SUCCESS

Colorado Gives Day is an opportunity for donors throughout the state to support nonprofit organizations through online giving. On December 6th generous Coloradans demonstrated this support by contributing over \$12 million dollars to 932 nonprofit agencies. This was an astounding increase of 40 percent when compared to last year.

Over \$8,000 was contributed to Pathways Hospice by 62 donors, almost double the amount received in 2010. The generosity of these donors allows Pathways Hospice to deliver high-quality

care to members of the community facing a life limiting illness and the family members who love them. As one of the nonprofit agencies that benefitted from Colorado Gives Day, we want to thank all the donors who included us in their end-of-year giving plans. For more information on this initiative, visit [www.givingfirst.org](http://www.givingfirst.org).

