



News to Friends  
September 2020

HOPEWEST



HOPE is blooming

It is with deep appreciation for all of the outpouring support HopeWest has received over the past several months that I am writing to give you an update. There were dark days in the beginning of this crisis and we were not all together sure we could make it through – but then the clouds passed and blessings abound. I hope you will read all the amazing things happening thanks to some wonderful employees, volunteers, and supporters.

Big news, **the Center for Living Your Best is complete!** That is simply nothing short of amazing. Both the East and West wings are complete and it stands ready to

move our staff back in place and to launch our PACE Center. What a thrill. We marked the occasion by unveiling a beautiful sculpture titled “With Love” in front of the east entrance (pictured above). We hope that sometime in the near future we can get the CLUB opened again for all of you who miss it.

We have adapted so many things it is almost hard to keep track. We are grateful for our creative development team who has had all kinds of virtual and live events – all adapted to our new environment.

Things are **rapidly moving ahead with PACE** including work on the seemingly endless policies

and procedures. We are thrilled to announce recent hires and changes:

- Dusty Dodson, Senior VP of PACE
- Holly Howell, Senior Director of PACE Operations and the CLUB
- Torrey Anderson, Senior Director of Clinical Service & Quality
- Mandy DeCino will oversee enrollment
- Julie Elliott will oversee activities
- Joanna Stortz will manage PACE volunteers

Even in the midst of this pandemic things are moving forward.

*Christy*

## A Special Thank You Received by our Montrose COVID-19 Team Nurses



The HopeWest Montrose COVID-19 Nurses Team: Sandi Berger, Lisa Perez, Holly Duensing, and Victoria Herrera

When these amazing professional nurses “leaned in” and volunteered for the team taking care of COVID-19 positive patients they didn’t do it for recognition. They did it because THAT is who they are. However, what a fun day when the Montrose Community Foundation took some time to recognize them in a special way – dinner on the town with their family. Whether it’s showering in the office between patients or taking all the extra precautions required, this team is amazing. They deserve a big thank you every day! Thank you to the Montrose Community Foundation for their recognition of our COVID-19 team of RNs.

## HopeWest Kids in Montrose Still Making it Happen – Just Outside!



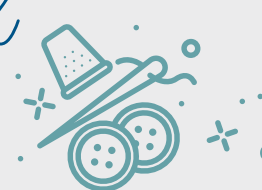
You’ve seen it...time and time again since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic...CANCELED. Without the creativity of the Montrose HopeWest Kids staff that might have been true as much for our grief programs.

Gratefully, our Montrose and Delta HopeWest Kids leaders Teri Kindade and Bethany Floyd jumped into action and devised plans to safely have groups to support more than 40 children – all while keeping them safe and adapting to social distancing. Three grief groups – Open Art Studio, HopeWest Kids Grief Scapes and Nature’s Grief Group were all held in outdoor locations, including in the gardens at the Montrose HopeWest office and Riverbottom Park.



HopeWest Kids’ Grief Road Trip activity helps children and teens navigate their grief journeys.

## Changing the World One Stitch at a Time



A few of our fabulous seamstress volunteers in Montrose gathered in the Community Room (masks and distancing observed!) to cut out 42 Veteran quilts from fleece. These knotted fringe quilts will be delivered to the 15 veteran patients we currently have in our care. The fleece quilts are a hit amongst the veterans who have already received them! One veteran told his nurse, “I love the quilt!” He was afraid that someone was going to steal it, so he had the staff put his name on it and hide it in his closet.



Thank you to volunteers Carol, Grace, and Mindy Jo for crafting beautiful quilts for veterans.



## Thank You for Voting! Montrose Best of the Valley



Montrose Heirlooms 1st PLACE

Visit the store for fabulous fall finds!

## What a Wonderful Surprise from Local Delta County Artist Lincoln Fox!



Lincoln Fox is pictured left with the two bronze sculptures – “Ran Out of Gas” & “Will I Be Pretty” – he donated to the Delta Office. Fox is a local artist whose work has been featured at the Smithsonian. Thank you Lincoln!

*Please accept my two bronzes as a gift of love from Rachelle and I...to givers of love. Hopefully a little something to lift tired spirits at home base, the office, as the team comes and goes. This gift is specifically for the Delta, CO branch of HopeWest hospice care. It's deeply moving to experience the quality and consistency of the unconditional love hospice shares with those in need.*

*Thank you for being here,  
Lincoln*



## Helping Families Say Goodbye During COVID-19



David Woolley, alongside his family, had a Celebration of Life planned for March 29, 2020. This was meant to be a time for friends and family to be able to meet and celebrate Dave's life before he would pass away from cancer.

Sadly, what seems to be the norm these days, the family's best laid plans were interrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was time to get creative.

Dave's HopeWest team got busy brainstorming how they could help Dave and his friends and family still

celebrate his life in a meaningful way. The Woolley's had already created a beautiful video full of pictures and music that had been lovingly put together and meant to be played at the ceremony. HopeWest contacted one of their tech savvy volunteers who was able to help finalize and share the video.

Friends and family from near and far were able to celebrate Dave virtually by watching the video.

The beautiful 20 minute video reached hundreds of people prior to Dave's passing on April 29.



## Birthday Celebration

### Patient Celebrates 104<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Delta patient Anna Marie Suppes celebrated her 104th birthday in August! The beautiful flowers were from her nephew and while her daughter visited from out of town, they were able to share a wonderful time enjoying the outdoors.

Her Delta County team enjoyed being able to share in just a little bit of her celebration – what a milestone!

## Celebrating our Extraordinary CNAs During National Nursing Assistant Day!

Every year there is a designated day to celebrate CNAs – Certified Nursing Assistants. Although there is a special day set aside, we celebrate our CNAs all year and think we have the best in the world!

CNAs are specially trained and certified to provide comfort and personal care to our patients. They spend the most time and have the closest relationships with patients and their families. The care they provide makes a significant impact and helps make the end of life experience more meaningful and peaceful.

*Top Left: Gidget, CNA, helps a HopeWest patient view a video tour of his hometown. Please note that this interaction took place before social distancing was instituted.*

*Top Right: CNA Melissa and a patient visiting with horses at an assisted living facility.*

*Bottom: Thank you to all of our CNAs for all that you do (pictured Felisha and Rosemarie)! Our CNAs received extra special goodie bags to celebrate and show them how much they are appreciated.*



## Welcome Dusty Dodson – Newly Appointed Senior Vice President of PACE

HopeWest is excited to announce that Dusty Dodson has accepted a position as the new Senior Vice President over the HopeWest PACE program. Dusty has been a long time, highly respected, health care administrator on the Western Slope and most recently has served as a health care consultant. For a decade he was the Director of Extended Care and Services for Grand River Hospital District. He has an extensive background in both acute and long term care, and has served as a consultant for CMS Region V. He holds an MBA in Healthcare Administration from the University of Colorado and a B.A. in Sociology.

Dusty has been active in the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) and has served on the board of the Colorado Health Care Association. He has also been involved with governmental affairs and policy working as a Governor-appointed member of the Community Living Advisory Group and Colorado Rural Health Center Policy Committee.

Throughout his career as a leader in healthcare, he has been successful in not only starting programs but dramatically turning around programs. Dusty strongly believes in the power of teamwork and credits his successful track record to those who have worked for him – speaking volumes about his leadership style.

HopeWest is truly thrilled to have Dusty as part of our Senior Leadership Team and knows that the people working on his team will enjoy working for such an inspirational and capable leader.



*HopeWest is excited to announce Dusty Dodson as Senior Vice President over the PACE program.*

“HopeWest is built on a tradition of meeting the needs of the people of the Western Slope with innovation, caring, and compassion. Through the PACE program HopeWest will continue this tradition by providing new options to senior adults for living with quality, living well, and living independently as aging takes place. I am very excited to be part of this great organization and serve the people that make the Western Slope such a great place to live!”

– Dusty Dodson, Senior Vice President, PACE

## HopeWest Presented with Mary J. Nelson Inspirational Award from United Way

HopeWest was honored to be presented with the prestigious Mary J. Nelson Inspirational Award from United Way of Mesa County. HopeWest was presented with this award for excellence in their field of service, leadership, and innovation, specifically with the new programs that will be helping our seniors, and for far exceeding all expectations with their United Way workplace campaign each year.



HopeWest was honored to be presented with the prestigious Mary J. Nelson Inspirational Award from United Way of Mesa County.

## Healing with Horses – Reaching Grieving Kids in a Unique Way

HopeWest Kids held two equine assisted grief groups in Grand Junction recently with 13 children and teens from ages 8 to 16 years old. This is the first time we have had groups meet back-to-back, so it was fun to see the horses adjust to the personalities and needs of each group.

Creativity is important during these sessions. The group with younger children found different things within the arena to create something that represented their grief. It was an interesting exercise to watch and then hear from the children about what they created. One child explained feeling stuck in her grief as her horse came over to move the items she assembled – in the child’s words, “the horse was helping me get un-stuck.” The horse that came to help is one that typically does not engage in this way, so it was interesting to see this shift as he was able to meet the needs of the child in how she was feeling in that moment.

We have so many stories that demonstrate how the horses seem to know when to insert themselves during an activity and then ultimately end up helping the child process through their grief and begin to heal. The equine program is extraordinary! Thank you to longtime supporters, Joe and Jill Breman, who so generously allow HopeWest Kids to utilize their arena for this extraordinary program. It makes a significant impact on little lives!



Lindsey petting Will the horse during a HopeWest Kids equine group. It was fun to see the horses adjust to the needs of each kid in the group.



## Thank You for Voting! Mesa County Best of the West



- HopeWest**  
**1st** – Best In-Home Health Care  
**1st** – Best Volunteer Group  
**2nd** – Best Nonprofit  
**Spoons bistro & bakery**  
**3rd** – Best Brunch

- Heirlooms for Hospice**  
**1st** – Best Thrift Store  
**1st** – Best Consignment Store  
**2nd** – Best Downtown Store  
**2nd** – Best Antique Store

# Meeker

## HopeWest Meeker Debuts Circle of Hope with World's Best Sundaes!

Successful sundaes! HopeWest had a booth at the recent Farmers Market in Meeker and sold Christine's famous Baklava sundaes. 80 sundaes were sold to a lot of satisfied customers – even though we had to contend with a nasty wind storm.



The goal was also to launch our Circle of Hope campaign to let our community know how they can support HopeWest through a monthly online donation. We talked with about 125 people that day so all the way around it was successful. If you would like to sign-up for the Circle of Hope, visit [HopeWestCO.org](http://HopeWestCO.org).



Jen Phelan, HopeWest Meeker Nurse and Patient Care Coordinator, was recently awarded the Nightingale Luminary Award.

## Congrats Jen Phelan!

### HopeWest Meeker nurse receives Nightingale Luminary Award

Jen Phelan, HopeWest Meeker Nurse and Patient Care Coordinator, was recently awarded the Nightingale Luminary Award. This prestigious award was named after the legendary Florence Nightingale who transformed the world of healthcare through the art of nursing.

Jen is now a finalist representing Western Colorado for a Nightingale Award at the state level (presented by the Colorado Nurses Foundation). She was nominated by colleagues and supported by the Meeker community for her compassion, kind spirit, tireless support, dedication, and expert medical care.



## Help us complete the Circle of Hope to sustain HopeWest

*Let's join hands to ensure HopeWest will be here when someone we love needs it.*

The Circle of Hope Society — our monthly giving program — is an opportunity for you to support and sustain the future of HopeWest programs in your community. A monthly donation of any size adds up quickly and makes a significant impact.

**Joining is easy! Visit [HopeWestCO.org](http://HopeWestCO.org).**

## Calcutta for a Cause

GOLF TOURNAMENT BENEFITING HOPEWEST KIDS  
OCTOBER 17-18, 2020 • TIARA RADO GOLF COURSE



Register today and mark your calendars for this fun event that benefits a great cause! This two-day, two-person golf tournament will follow COVID-19 safety precautions. Enjoy a weekend of golf, meals, a silent auction, caddies, and more.

For more information about sponsorships or to register your team to play, visit [HopeWestCO.org](http://HopeWestCO.org).

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!



- Rocky Mountain Health Plans
- Bacon Family Foundation
- Alpine Autohaus
- Alpine Bank
- Doehling Law
- Go-Fer Foods, Redlands
- Grand Junction
- Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
- Grand Mesa Mechanical, Inc
- Hightower Supply
- Tito's Handmade Vodka
- Compass Outdoor Living
- Jolene Hanson - Academy Mortgage Corp.
- High Country Beverage



# HopeWest

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Grand Junction, CO 81506

HopeWestCO.org

*As a nonprofit, HopeWest is dedicated to profoundly changing the way our communities experience aging, serious illness and grief - one family at a time.*

**They are majestic.  
They are strong.  
They are night owls.**

***We understand night nurses.***

We know it's different and there are many reasons why it might be perfect for you - a close team, special time with patients without the frantic daytime activities, and it works for your family.

We also know you are more on your own and it takes special skills and judgment. We believe the sacrifices of night nurses should be honored.

**Learn more about the benefits of working as a night nurse at HopeWest and apply at [HopeWestCO.org](http://HopeWestCO.org).**



HopeWest