

MAY 2017

# News to Friends

  
HopeWest  
HopeWestCO.org

May is filled with excitement as kids are racing to start summer, new graduates are anxious to begin that next step and everything is starting to bloom.



Christy Whitney Borchard,  
President & CEO

It is the same at HopeWest as each day seems to bring something new.

This edition of News to Friends is a glimpse inside what you help make possible.

You will read about Mari and how through her experience with HopeWest Kids, she is able to share her story of grief and healing. You will learn about some of our amazing event volunteers and how they capture their creativity to create successful events in each of our communities. You will see the number of friends and loved ones who are honored through a gift to HopeWest.

I am happy to share these things with you and hope that it inspires you to see what a difference you, our donors and volunteers, make every single day.

*Happy Spring!*



## Inside This Issue



Expressions of Healing – A child's journey with HopeWest Kids.

Page 2



HopeWest celebrates Gala Volunteers

Page 4



19th Annual HopeWest Golf Tournament in Montrose

Page 7

# Expressions of Healing

A child's journey with HopeWest Kids



## A Poem of Healing

I loved camp because we all painted  
the small plain terracotta pots  
with our memories, we wrapped them

in cheesecloth and then each of us  
broke them. I cried so hard, I never  
cried so hard in my life, then we

took the pieces and glued them back  
together, and they were still broken  
but healed, and more beautiful.

– Mar's story as told to Sandi Dorr

Photos courtesy of Mar's family.

"After my dad died it was really hard  
for me. I felt broken and lost."

Mar, 13 years old

Living in a small town, Mar didn't know anyone else who had lost a parent. While attending Camp Good Grief she met six other girls her age who were going through the same thing. They all cried, laughed and quickly became new friends.

On the last day at camp when counselors asked the children what had changed for them, Mar was the first to raise her hand. She simply said, "We are not alone."

A glimpse into Mar's story shows the importance of our HopeWest Kids program. This project reaches hundreds of kids each year across Western Colorado and it simply would not exist without the dedication of our donors.

Through our community's support we are able to reach kids on a level that is specific to their needs – through family-centered grief groups, Healing with Horses, school grief groups, summer camps, art therapy and much more.



Thank you for making a lasting impact on young lives.

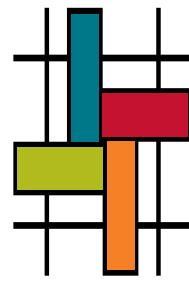
# *Upscale Resale*

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# HopeWest Celebrates Gala Volunteers

## Colorful Hope Blooms theme inspires many.



Entering the ballroom at Two Rivers Convention Center to Dale Chihuly-like flowers suspended from the ceiling and greenery dispersed throughout the room is partly what made this year's HopeBlooms Gala another memorable community event. Beyond the vibrant décor and finely met details, what is even more awe-inspiring is the great deal of creativity and dedication displayed by HopeWest's gala volunteers.

"Our gala volunteers truly demonstrate compassion and devotion to HopeWest's mission – their efforts have improved the lives of many and that is always worth celebrating," said Debbie Horwitz, Vice President of Development at HopeWest.

This year's volunteers played an invaluable role in the commitment of more than 3,000 hours used to create the HopeBlooms Gala. While the funds from these events support a serious cause, HopeWest gala volunteers would agree that being a part of the planning and execution of this event is rewarding.

"Time is very valuable and I think spending my time as a volunteer and the amount of joy that I receive is well worth it," said Laura Lenhardt, HopeBlooms Gala Volunteer.

It's no secret that the HopeWest development team depends on the skills and collaboration of all 130 gala volunteers. This year, volunteers spent hours assembling party favors, creating signs, preparing the auction tables and items, and decorating the venue to transform it into a magical setting.

"Our vision was to recreate the Bellagio and I'd say we accomplished that," said Lenhardt. "Each year, our goal is to create an experience to awe our guests. When you consider the funds we are able to raise for a gala in a community our size – it's unbelievable."



The HopeBlooms Gala theme and decorations were not only displayed at the Grand Junction gala, but have been the focal point of galas held in, Montrose, Plateau Valley and later this year in Delta.

"The impact these volunteers have on our community goes far beyond painting flowers or arranging centerpieces," said Horwitz. "To me, what's most inspiring is why they give their time to HopeWest. Whether it's to ensure that families will have access to hospice care or to show grieving children that they are not alone – HopeWest simply could not provide these services without the hard work and heart of each and every volunteer."

In addition to the volunteers who helped coordinate this event, we thank all who attended, sponsored or donated to these events. HopeWest depends on your generosity in order to continue providing for those who need our services. Your kindness,

generosity and time are not only what make these events such a huge success, but also what contributes to the success of achieving our mission.



## Smiling faces, warm hearts

We see the impact every day volunteers have on the lives of patients, families and employees. As a nonprofit organization, where no one is ever turned away, we know just how important our volunteers are.

*Without their generosity, our mission  
would not be possible.*

We are always looking for warm hearts and smiling faces in the following areas:  
Patient & Family Support, Bereavement, Administrative Support,  
Heirlooms for Hospice and so much more.

**Visit [HopeWestCO.org](http://HopeWestCO.org) and join our family of volunteers!**



## Tanglewood Gardens at HopeWest

Spring is here! Our dedicated volunteers spend hours maintaining these vibrant gardens to create a peaceful place to memorialize our loved ones and appreciate the natural beauty of our home here on the Western Slope.



# Spotted around

Happenings across

## Spring Swing!

Spring Swing was a success! Thank you to our employees, volunteers and donors for stepping up to make this event so memorable.



# our communities

the Western Slope



## Montrose Golf Tournament

Tee up for the **19th Annual** HopeWest Golf Tournament on **Saturday, June 24** at the Bridges Golf and Country Club in Montrose. There is still time to register and it's a great opportunity for you and your friends to have a day out on the course while supporting the mission of HopeWest.

Visit [HopeWestCO.org](https://www.HopeWestCO.org) and click on the events tab for more information or call Nancy at (970) 497-5203.

## Delta Spring Memorial

During the Spring Memorial Ceremony in Delta, loved ones gathered to honor and remember those we have lost. Following special musical numbers, readings and poems, Lindsay Cusack, Bereavement Coordinator, led the balloon release.

*"It was a beautiful moment that united our group and brought new friends together."*

– Felicia Sabartinelli, Volunteer Coordinator



# More than 20,000

patients and families have benefitted from  
extraordinary care provided by HopeWest since 1993.  
With your help we will be here for generations to come.

Thank you  
for your generosity.

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