

Meaning Finds us in Unexpected Ways

Sometimes meaning finds us in unexpected ways. For Ed, his came in the form of a butterfly. This recurring symbol became especially significant during his family's experience with HopeWest.

Ed often looks back on the life he shared with his wife, Frankie (as most knew her by). Seventy years ago, the newlyweds spent their honeymoon visiting his parents at Sherwood Park in Grand Junction.

"Many would laugh at honeymooning with your parents at a park," Ed said with a smile. "But that's what we did."

Over the years, Ed and Frankie often stopped at Spoons bistro & bakery for lunch after doctor appointments. He would order the mini burger with beer-battered fries, and she would order a salad or a slice of quiche. These visits are how they first became familiar with HopeWest, well before Frankie ever needed hospice care. When the time came, Ed knew exactly who to call.

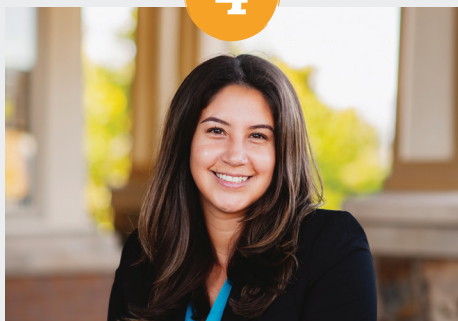


Bronze Butterfly on the Wings of Hope Memorial Wall at the Ferris Hospice Care Center.

With the support of the HopeWest team, providers stepped in offering the kind of care that Ed says exceeded what he and his daughter could manage alone. Nurses and CNAs came promptly when needed. "Thank heavens," Ed said.

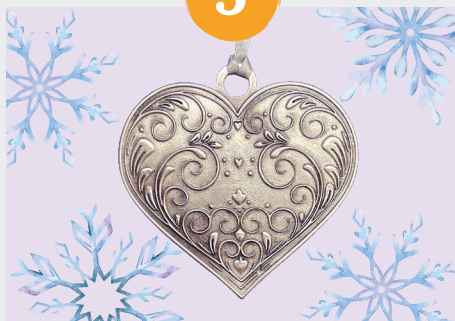
When a nurse noticed Frankie's care needs had become more than could be managed at home, the decision was made to admit her to the Ferris Hospice Care Center. There, she spent several days receiving what Ed described as "excellent care." ...continued on page 4...

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**Welcome Breeana,
Chief Development Officer**

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**Celebrate Those You Love
Lights of Life**

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**Spotted Around
Our Communities**

Care, Your Way

A Volunteer's Unexpected Gift of Comfort

At HopeWest, we often say, "We meet you where you are." If you've experienced our care, you've likely heard this phrase. But what does it really mean?

When you choose to trust HopeWest, whether for yourself or a loved one, our goal is to understand your needs, honor your wishes, and create a plan of care special to you.

For more than 30 years, HopeWest has had the privilege of serving western Colorado. Thanks to the support of our community, we've been able

to grow, adapt to the ever-changing landscape of healthcare, and respond to the needs of those living here. Yet through all of this, one thing has never changed: we care for you in the ways you want to be cared for.

Until you've been in the shoes of a caregiver for a loved one with dementia, a family member searching for support for an aging parent, a spouse cherishing the last months with their life partner, or a parent guiding a child through unimaginable loss, "meeting you where you are" is hard to describe.

Jenni Neil, Director of HopeWest programs in Delta, has had the honor of witnessing countless examples of HopeWest's mission in action. But one memory, even after nearly a decade, still stays with her today.

One Saturday in December, Jenni's teenage son, a volunteer at HopeWest, spent the day visiting patients with her. With his guitar slung over his shoulder, he joined her as they stopped at several homes.

During each visit, he would play Christmas songs. Some patients tapped their feet, others hummed

along, and some closed their eyes as the gentle music filled the room.

She vividly remembers visiting one particular hospice patient who listened quietly, soaking in every note. After a few songs, the woman softly asked, "Do you know this hymn?" and began to sing. Though Jenni's son didn't recognize the hymn, he smiled and strummed along, finding the chords to match her voice.

Tiny streams of joyful tears began to stream down the patient's cheeks. For the patient, this music was a gentle opportunity for reflection on her beautiful life, as well as many of the happy moments that shaped her.

Something as simple as playing a song for someone at the end of her life demonstrated how powerful music truly is. It wasn't just a beautiful song; it was a gift.

That is what "meeting you where you are" looks like. Sometimes it's the steady hands of a nurse offering reassurance. Sometimes it's a CNA tenderly providing personal care. And sometimes, it's a teenager strumming his guitar, providing comfort in a way words cannot.

At HopeWest, our goal is to continue to make moments like this possible. Thanks to the exceptional care of our care teams, volunteers, and the generosity of our donors, these moments help support patients and their families facing aging, illness, or grief in finding hope, healing, and comfort in the ways they need it most.

A Message from Deneen



Deneen Silva
HopeWest
President & CEO

Fall in Colorado is one of the many reasons I feel so grateful to call the Western Slope home. There's something magical about watching the aspens shift from green to gold—it always makes me stop and take a breath. In those quiet moments, I'm reminded of what this season represents: transformation, letting go, and making space for what's next. How meaningful that

this beautiful change coincides with the important observances HopeWest honors each year.

September marked National PACE Month, and in October, we celebrated the beginning of our fourth year of PACE at HopeWest. Now, as November brings Hospice and Palliative Care Month along with Children's Grief Awareness Day, I'm reminded of how beautifully this season reflects the spirit of our mission.

Each of these observances—rooted in care, dignity, and compassion—mirrors the quiet transformation we see in nature. Just as the aspens let go of their leaves, we are reminded that life, too, is full of change. Whether it's supporting a loved one with dementia, helping someone remain safely at home, managing a serious illness, or walking beside a family through grief, each journey comes with its own uncertainties. But no one should have to face those moments alone—and thanks to the generosity of donors like you, they don't have to. Your support ensures HopeWest is there through every season of life, providing patients, families, clients, and participants with care when they need it most.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to those who have trusted us with their loved ones, and to those who continue to stand with us in our mission. No matter the season, we will walk this journey together.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deneen".

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One afternoon, after Ed and his daughter had gone home to rest, a nurse called to let him know that Frankie had passed away. The two rushed back to the Care Center. Upon their arrival, the HopeWest Care Team performed a beautiful ceremony as Frankie left the Care Center for the last time.

After Frankie left, Ed remembered noticing a butterfly on the door of her room. At home, Ed searched for the meaning of the butterfly when he discovered this passage:

*The butterfly is a symbol of hope,
A symbol of new life,
And a symbol for those who
are bereaved.*

*Before it becomes a butterfly,
it must spend time in a cocoon.
We too must grieve, hurt, cry,
and struggle to free ourselves
From the cocoon of grief.*

*And one day we emerge:
A beautiful butterfly,
A stronger person,
A more compassionate and
understanding person.*

-Anonymous

Ed shared that he and his daughter "are still caterpillars, but they hope to become butterflies someday."

While Ed acknowledges the journey of grief that lies ahead, he remains grateful for the care his family received. And soon, two bronze butterflies will be placed on the HopeWest donor wall as a lasting tribute to his beloved Frankie and the beautiful life they shared. ❤️💙💜

HopeWest Welcomes Breeana Gumpert as Chief Development Officer



HopeWest is proud to welcome Breeana Gumpert, MBA, to our leadership team as Chief Development Officer. Breeana brings nearly a decade of experience in nonprofit leadership, with expertise in fundraising, donor relations, community outreach, and event management. In her new role, she will lead HopeWest's philanthropy and community engagement efforts, helping to advance our mission across the Western Slope.

"What stands out most about Breeana is her exceptional blend of vision, passion, and relationship-building skills," said Deneen Silva, President and CEO of HopeWest. "Her strong ties to our community and the relationships she's built over the years are key to driving our mission forward."

Previously, Breeana served as Development Director at Colorado West Land Trust, where she led major donor engagement and strategic partnerships to support land conservation and outdoor access. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Services and an MBA in Leadership from Northeastern University.

"HopeWest's mission is profoundly personal to me," Breeana said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to cultivate relationships with our donors, volunteers, and community members, and to help ensure that every family we serve feels supported and cared for during life's most difficult times."



Colorado Gives Day is Tuesday, December 9!

On this special day, your donation will support the HopeWest Dementia Support Program.

Scan to schedule
your donation today at
<https://hopewestcares.org/COGives2025>.



Lighting Ceremonies

Join us for our Lights of Life events as we honor our loved ones during this special time of year. Each celebration will be unique with music, candles, refreshments, and beautiful holiday lights.

Grand Junction

Wednesday, December 3 • 6:00 p.m.
Ferris Hospice Care Center, 3090 N. 12th Street

Meeker

Wednesday, December 3 • 5:30 p.m.
St. James Episcopal Church - Richards Hall
368 4th Street

Montrose

Thursday, December 4 • 5:30 p.m.
United Methodist Church, Baldrige Hall
19 S. Park Avenue

Delta

Thursday, December 4 • 6:00 p.m.
Taylor Funeral Service & Crematory
682 1725 Road

Plateau Valley

Thursday, December 11 • 6:00 p.m.
HopeWest Plateau Valley Office
58128 Hwy 330, Building B, Collbran

Personalize a Pewter Heart Ornament

These beautiful, commemorative ornaments are engravable with the year, your loved one's name, or your personal sentiment. The ornaments are \$35 each and will be shipped to you or anyone of your choosing. If sent to someone else, the recipient receives a note telling them you gave a gift to support the HopeWest mission.



Dedicate a Luminary

Luminaries are displayed throughout the holiday season. With a \$50 donation, luminaries are personalized with your loved one's name. When lit, the luminary provides a warm glow, graciously honoring their spirit. Ask your local HopeWest Office about luminary display locations. *Luminaries are not available at our Plateau Valley location.*



Purchase ornaments and luminaries at your local HopeWest office, Heirlooms store, or online at HopewestCO.org/lights-of-life.



Meeker

The HopeWest Kids equine therapy program is in full swing in Meeker, and we have a great group of kids. Thanks to the generous support of board member Billy, who hosts the program on his property, alongside our dedicated team members and volunteers, the equine therapy program continues to offer a place of healing for children experiencing grief.



Montrose

What an incredible donor community we have in Montrose! More than 70 donors, supporters, Advisory Board members, and staff came together to celebrate our amazing community that helps make the mission of HopeWest possible. The weather was perfect, the food was delicious, and the company was even better.

Plateau Valley

Regional Outreach Coordinator for Plateau Valley, Jenni Adams, attended and supported Collbran Supply's Oktoberfest this past September. The annual event, hosted by the owners and staff of Collbran Supply, provides a wonderful opportunity for the community to come together. Neighbors, old and new, flocked to Main Street to enjoy free authentic German food, drink, and music. A little bit of rain even tried to shut the party down, but in true Collbran fashion, the community rallied and moved the entire event into the newly renovated Collbran Auditorium.



Grand Junction

Hunter, owner of Quality Meats and proud HopeWest Kids alum, gives back to the organization that once lifted him through loss. After losing his mom at just eight years old, HopeWest Kids gave him tools to heal and grow. Now a dedicated Advancement Board member, he volunteers, organizes events, and rallies community support. At a recent Jackalopes game, Hunter threw the first pitch and served HopeWest Burgers, with a portion of the sales benefiting HopeWest Kids—bringing his story of resilience full circle.



Delta

Delta staff and volunteers came together with a goal—to raise enough money to purchase a trip to Iceland for the Delta Gala's live auction! From collecting spare change and team donations to creative efforts like a volunteer sewing items and community events like Hippies for Hospice and Elks Bingo, everyone pitched in. The team had so much fun and surpassed their fundraising goal by so much that they were able to purchase not just one, but two trips for the auction!





HopeWest

3090 North 12th Street
Grand Junction, CO 81506

HopeWestCO.org

News to Friends

NOVEMBER 2025



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Delta • Grand Junction • Montrose
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