

THE DENVER HOSPICE

Organization Info:

Name of Organization: The Denver Hospice

Website: www.thedenverhospice.org

Address:

501 S Cherry St, Ste 700
Denver, CO 80246

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to encircle those facing advanced illness with an unprecedented level of comfort, compassion and expertise.

Contact Person for Questions:

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Please check the most appropriate issue dealt with by your organization:

X Health/Wellness

About Your Issue Area:

What is the deeper issue behind your organization?

We provide services to patients of all ages and to all of those in need, regardless of ability to pay. Our care teams including nurses, social workers, chaplains, certified nursing assistants, and others, along with the patient's physician, develop individualized patient and family care plans.

Regular team meetings and frequent communication among our staff and physicians ensure the families are being given the care that reflects their continually changing needs.

Hospice personnel provide on call services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Patients are cared for in their homes, hospitals, skilled nursing and assisted living facilities, and in our Inpatient Care Center at Lowry.

Our program utilizes the social work model of coordinated care. This approach not only provides patients access to expert medical care and symptom control, but treats the psychosocial needs of the patients and families, addressing questions of hope, meaning, despair, fear and death. This model meets the comprehensive needs of the individual and their family members – the body, mind and spirit – in order to transform care for the seriously ill.

Our staff assists families in finding financial and legal services and acts as liaisons with community service agencies and is dedicated to lessening the pain, loneliness and stigma surrounding death and terminal illness. We offer a vast range of programs all tailored to the individual's medical and cultural needs.

Hospice is the natural transition between healthy aging and the end of life. The number of aging in need of this next step of care through hospice is growing. Between 2010 and 2030 the Colorado population for those over 65 years of age is estimated to increase 247 percent.

We are uniquely positioned at the forefront of hospice care to serve this growing community and is investing to create a best-in-class infrastructure to provide superior service delivery.

What programs or services does your organization offer?

The Denver Hospice offers a vast range of programs all tailored to the individual's medical and cultural needs. In addition to our hospice home care and inpatient care programs, TDH offers several flag-ship programs:

- **Grief and Bereavement Support.** Through our "Footprints" program for children and teens and our Adult Grief Center, we provide education and support for community members as well as hospice patients and families. In 2010, the grief center provided over 3,700 adults support through counseling, support calls and grief support groups. Footprints Children's Grief Center served over 500 grieving children and their families through individual counseling and support calls.
- **Pediatric Hospice Care** serves children and youth 19 or younger, with life-limiting illnesses. The child and their family are offered emotional, physical and spiritual support through expertly trained nurses and physicians, complementary therapy, volunteer support, and grief counseling.
- **Pathways Palliative Care Program** provides aggressive pain and symptom management. Palliative care is coordinated care offered alongside curative treatment before a patient is admitted to hospice. The goals are to relieve pain and symptoms, addresses emotional-spiritual concerns, align community resources for patients and caregivers and create a seamless continuum of care for patients.
- **Integrative Therapies** include reiki, art therapy, music therapy, animal assisted therapy, therapeutic touch and aromatherapy. In addition, hypnotherapy is available to those in our care center. Integrative therapies can improve a patient's quality of life by relieving emotional strain, reducing a patient's physical ailments such as pain, nausea, anxiety and sleep disorders, and easing the end-of-life transition.
- TDH is the preferred hospice provider of the Veterans Administration in Denver. 25% of TDH patients are military veterans, 90% of whom do not qualify for veterans benefits. TDH is uniquely qualified to care for this population, offering specialized, expert care and grief counseling targeted at their unique needs.

Do you have an interesting story about your organization or clients to share with the students?

Healing Kids' Hearts with Art

Did you know that The Denver Hospice has an art therapy program for kids?

Although most of our programs are for children grieving the pending loss of a family member, we sometimes have children in our care as well. Attached are photos of art therapist Molly Van Rijssen working with some children in the program, creating masks for our 2010 Mask Project.

In these three photos, Art Therapist, Molly Van Rijssen works with Denver Nuggets' star JR Smith to help three of the children in our services with art therapy during the 2010 Mask Project.



Our Sister Hospice

Did you also know that we have a “Sister Hospice” in Tanzania, Africa?

We raise funds to support over 3,300 patients at Selian Hospice. Selian provides medications, basic food supplies, and social and spiritual support. Selian also provides support to some of the thousands of orphans in the area.



Working with Selian orphans.



A Selian nurse and her patient.

How can students help through specific, tangible cash grants?

Every gift counts...

- \$1 a day supports anticipatory grief services to children expecting the loss of a loved one.
- \$1 a day supports veterans by offering quality and compassionate care as they live out their final days.

Or, a gift of...

- \$25 ensures a needy patient use of a wheelchair for ten days.
- \$50 pays for four weeks of grief counseling.
- \$100 covers one day of compassionate end-of-life care for an uninsured individual.
- \$250 provides a Certified Nursing Assistant to aid patients with personal care.
- \$500 sponsors anticipatory grief counseling for children facing a difficult loss.
- \$1,000 provides one week of in-home hospice care

How can students help through group service projects?

Unfortunately, due to the challenging nature of our work, we do not offer volunteer opportunities to children.

Are there opportunities for students to be recognized by your organization?

Absolutely! We have both an internal and external newsletter and occasionally will feature stories like these in email campaigns and/or on our website.

