

# THE DENVER HOSPICE

More from life



2021 COMMUNITY  
BENEFIT REPORT

# Letter from Our President and Board Chair

It goes without saying that 2021 was another extraordinary year that none of us could have anticipated.

2021 was a year of progress and inspiration for The Denver Hospice as we navigated the year with resilience, compassion and innovation.

Our Mission is to encircle those facing advanced illness with unprecedented levels of comfort, compassion, and expertise.

In 2021, we have worked to fulfill this mission by adding to our existing strengths and growing new capabilities – with your help. We are pleased to share with you our Community Benefit Report for 2021.

A few highlights of our 2021 advances have included:

- We renovated an entire wing of our Inpatient Care Center to safely care for patients with COVID-19 and other respiratory diseases by installing negative pressure capability
- We added an outdoor play therapy area for children experiencing grief at the Amy Davis Hospice Support Center
- We continued our annual trend of reaching even more patients and families with hospice and palliative care and grief and loss counseling
- We provided over \$664,691 of charity care to ensure that everyone receives vital needed care.

As the leading, largest and most trusted not-for-profit provider of life-enhancing hospice and palliative care in Colorado, we offer more expertise, more resources and a more complete continuum of compassionate care to patients facing life-limiting illnesses and end-of-life transition.

Thank you for your support and to help us continue to face the challenges ahead. We have much to look forward to as we continue our mission.

We encourage you to read more about how we have impacted the lives of those in our community in 2021. We thank you for your generous support and continued trust in The Denver Hospice.



Melinda Egging

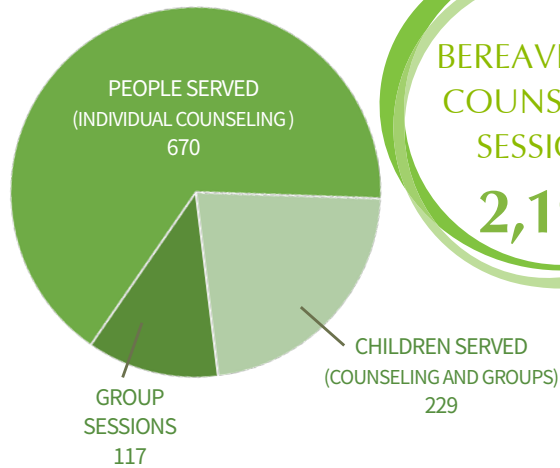
*Melinda Egging*  
President



Brad Baumgartner

*Brad Baumgartner*  
Chair of the Board of Directors

# 2021 Care Statistics and Financial Highlights



## REVENUE AND EXPENSES

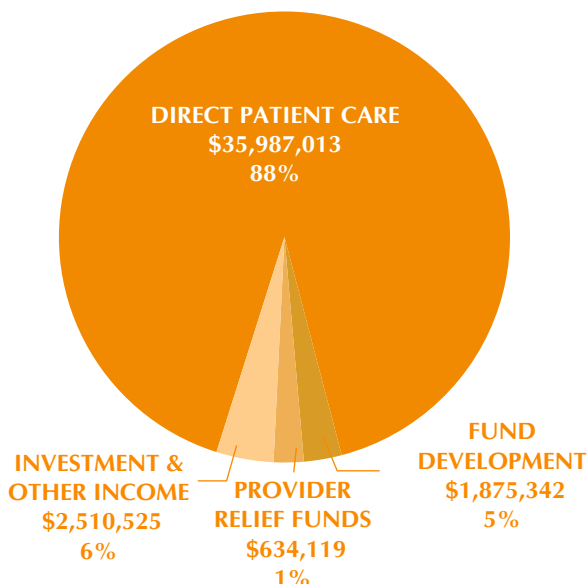
Our work is guided by our not-for-profit mission to put people before profits and encircle those facing advanced illness with unprecedented levels of comfort, compassion and expertise. We frame all decisions, strategies, personnel, programs and community outreach with the single focus on what is best for patients and families. Our service to the community includes providing hospice and palliative care to those in need regardless of ability to pay.

## MORE FROM LIFE

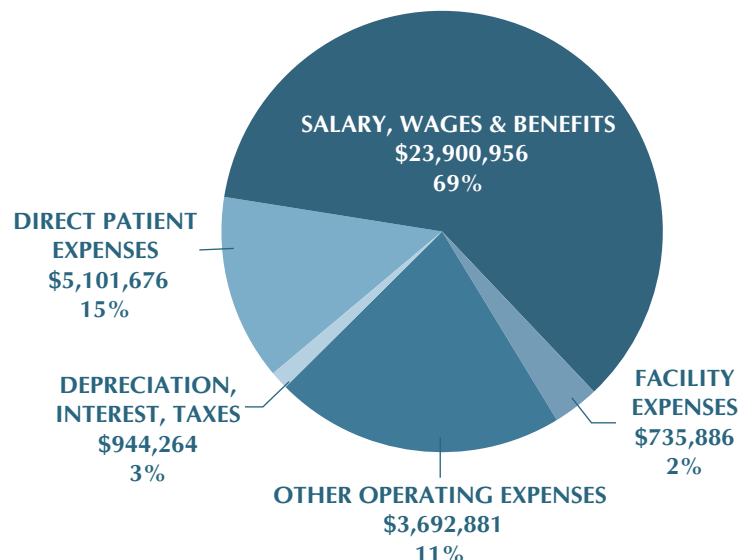
The Denver Hospice provides high-quality, life-enhancing hospice and palliative care services for patients with a life-limiting illness or terminal diagnosis. We offer patients and families more options and more control about how they want to manage their illness and their day-to-day lives, allowing them to enjoy more from life. In 2021, The Denver Hospice and our palliative care program, Optio Health Services, provided care to over

**5,000 PATIENTS.**

REVENUE: **\$41,006,999**  
SOURCES OF REVENUE



EXPENSES: **\$34,375,663**  
HOW WE SPEND THE FUNDS ENTRUSTED TO US



# Highlights of 2021

## Negative Pressure Rooms Added to Inpatient Care Center

The Denver Hospice added five negative-pressure rooms that will allow compassionate care to patients with COVID-19 in a more comforting home-like setting. These negative-pressure rooms — the first and only ones available for hospice in-patient care in the Front Range — also allow patients to receive compassionate care visits from family at end of life.

The negative-pressure rooms are in a newly renovated wing of our Inpatient Care Center at Lowry. Along with the use of proper personal protective equipment, this environment significantly reduces the risk of transmission of respiratory infections. Patients admitted to the wing can have compassionate care visitation, with guests receiving infection control training.

The Denver Hospice worked to ensure the new negative-pressure rooms were designed to maintain the home-like feel found throughout the rest of our Inpatient Care Center. Surrounded by wood paneling and warm lighting, patients and their loved ones can enjoy views of the facility's gardens from the windows.

"It was important to us to be able to provide critical health care to our patients with COVID-19 here at the Inpatient Care Center rather than in an intensive care unit in a hospital. The rooms will remain a benefit to our community even after this pandemic has passed," said The Denver Hospice President Melinda Egging.

"Staff have been asking how to do more for our community and people affected by COVID-19. We continue to train team members on the safety protocols for the negative-pressure rooms, and we'll be ready to continue to provide care to our community. One thing we have learned through this pandemic is the importance of family and being together." said Inpatient Care Center Clinical Manager Stacey Stafford.

## Negative-Pressure Rooms are Recommended for the Following Health Conditions:

- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
- Anthrax
- Aspergillosis
- Blastomycosis
- Chickenpox
- Enteroviruses
- Influenza
- Rhinovirus
- Measles
- Mumps
- Smallpox
- Tuberculosis
- Bordetella pertussis
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)
- and more





## Fall Festival for Pediatric Children on Service

Many of our families can't attend public events because of the risk of illness. Our first Fall Festival gave a lot of children a safe, fun space to celebrate Halloween. Pediatric patients and their families gathered for trunk-or-treating, pumpkin decorating, an art show and other activities and games. Thank you to everyone who joined us and who helped make this event happen!



## What a Day at Water World: A patient's special request provides rare outing for the whole family

Amber Vaughn often spent several summer days with her three kids the way many parents do — cooling off at Water World. Unfortunately, her husband, Mike, a Denver Hospice patient, was only able to share in their family outings through Snapchat or hearing stories after the fact. In 2021, through a special request to The Denver Hospice and Apex Paramedics, Mike got to join them at the water park to make more special memories as a family.

The Vaughns' three kids enjoyed their favorite rides and slides at the park — and the oldest got to show off her daring spirit on The Peaks, Water World's six-story-tall water slide. The highlight for Amber, though, was being able to share the experience with Mike. She said the brightest parts of the day for her involved simply being with her husband outside, talking with him out of their house and showing him what their children had been doing all summer.



"It was something nice that the kids could look forward to and he could look forward to and they could have a special memory with him," she said.

Apex paramedics helped Mike stay comfortable and picked him up in an ambulance decorated with a beach theme for his special day. The Apex team got the Vaughn family drinks, snacks and pool floats and made sure Mike had a clear path to the best spots.

Apex paramedics said opportunities to help fulfill a terminally ill person's wish are good for the patient as well as for the employees who spend much of their time responding to emergencies.

Amber said she was grateful to have a relaxing few hours out of the house with Mike. "For me, it was nice seeing him outside and sharing that experience. It's different seeing videos of the kids and being there in person."

# Highlights of 2021



## Sunflower Day Provides a Bright Spot for Children with Illnesses and Their Siblings

At age 23, Kylie Schwartz was diagnosed with cancer. Although she was an adult, Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children was best equipped to treat the rare form of cancer that typically afflicts children. During her illness, she dedicated herself to help other young people like her.

Kylie started a fundraising campaign to raise money for the Child Life Program at Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children. After her death, she continues to help others. Her campaign has continued to grow with community support and now includes The Denver Hospice, which provided her with hospice care, in its list of recipients.

Among the 2021 events was Sunflower Day at Misfit Crew Ranch in Colorado Springs, a refuge for horses and miniature cows that are rescued from kill lots and given another chance at life. Sunflower Day — a

theme inspired by Kylie's love of the flower — brought together families with children with illness and included a petting zoo with alpacas, horses and miniature cows; music; cupcakes; crafts; and a "red carpet" horse show.

This private event allowed our most vulnerable children and their siblings to enjoy a day at the ranch that they might not have otherwise ever been able to do.

After Sunflower Day's success, the owners of Misfit Ranch plan to host other family days for The Denver Hospice's children patients.

## American Needlepoint Guild Makes a Heartfelt Gift

After Pat Dalton's husband, Kenneth, died at The Denver Hospice in 2014, she wanted some way to give back. "Everybody was so kind and compassionate," she said. It wasn't until five years later that she found a way to pay it forward.

Pat rallied members of the Mile High Chapter of the American Needlepoint Guild to make handmade hearts for future patients of The Denver Hospice. The project started with the Greater Kansas City Needlepoint Guild in 2015. The Mile High chapter started making their hearts in fall 2019, and members created more than 100 in the year that followed. Chapter president Mindy Slater said Pat created more than half of them herself, and more are in the works.

"I have a personal motivation," Pat said. "I think it would have been meaningful to me. I would have appreciated getting a heart, and I think other people will too."

The hearts are intended to serve as "Do Not Disturb" signs that give family members added privacy in



the time surrounding a patient's death. They also serve as a memento that the patient's family can take home.

Each heart takes roughly 20 hours of work before being sent to a finisher who stuffs and sews them together. Mindy said each heart is a donation of time and energy — from the finisher as well as the needlepoint artist. Each comes with a tag with the message: "Our hearts are with you and your family during this journey."



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## OUR MISSION

Our Mission is to encircle those facing advanced illness with unprecedented levels of comfort, compassion and expertise.

## BOARD MEMBERS

Brad Baumgartner - Board Chair

Tim Bowen

Kay Cowling

Susan Law

Evi Makovsky - Board Secretary

Betsy Moran

Adele Phelan

Shari Repinski

Rodney Rice - Board Vice Chair

Joanne Sherwood - Board Treasurer

Becky Takeda-Tinker

The Denver Hospice and Optio Health Services

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