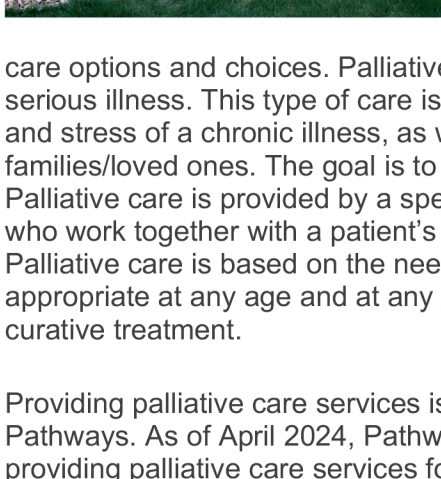


**Pathways Opens Palliative Care On-Site Clinic**



Pathways Hospice is excited to announce the opening of our palliative care on-site clinic. The clinic is located at 305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins, in the administrative building next to the Pathways Inpatient Care Center. The on-site clinic started accepting patients on January 8, 2024. The clinic will be seeing patients on-site approximately 12 hours a week.

The **Pathways Palliative Care Program** is a specialized service providing pain and symptom management, counseling, support, and guidance in navigating health care options and choices. Palliative care is specialized medical care for people living with a serious illness. This type of care is focused on providing patients with relief from the symptoms and stress of a chronic illness, as well as information, counseling, and support to a patient's families/loved ones. The goal is to improve the quality of life for both the patient and the family. Palliative care is provided by a specially trained team of doctors, nurses, and other specialists who work together with a patient's primary care doctors to provide an extra layer of support. Palliative care is based on the needs of the patient, not on the patient's prognosis. It is appropriate at any age and at any stage in a serious illness, and it can be provided along with curative treatment.

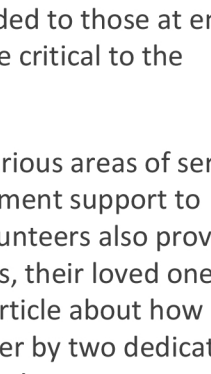
Providing palliative care services is a priority for Pathways. As of April 2024, Pathways is currently providing palliative care services for almost 350 patients monthly.



To find out more about palliative care services and to make an appointment, please call 970-633-3500.

**InTouch**

*Message from the President:*  
**In April We Honor and Thank Our Volunteers**



**National Volunteer Week, April 21 – 27**

Our community is at its best when we come together to help others in a time of need. This is clearly the case and is evident in many ways at Pathways. We are fortunate to have a sizeable group of over 150 trained volunteers who give their time, attention, and compassion to help people facing the end of life live as fully as possible.

Before hospice care became a Medicare benefit in the early 1980s, care was provided only by volunteers. This is the story of Pathways, where a group of committed volunteers came together to provide care for seventeen patients in our first year - 1978. When hospice became a Medicare benefit, in the early 1980s, one of the best things that was made part of the service for Medicare certified programs is that at least 5% of the care must be provided by volunteers. Volunteers were recognized at that time as a vital part of the overall care provided to those at end of life and their contributions continue to be critical to the delivery of high-quality care.

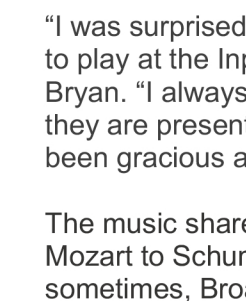
At Pathways, our volunteers specialize in various areas of service ranging from direct patient care to bereavement support to administrative assistance in our offices. Volunteers also provide unique talents and skills to help our patients, their loved ones, and our staff. I encourage you to read the article about how music is provided at our inpatient care center by two dedicated groups of volunteers as an example of the unique ways volunteers impact the patients we serve.

April 21 – 27 is National Volunteer Week, and hospice volunteers create lasting memories of comfort and care for the patients and families they serve every day. Across the U.S., more than 430,000 hospice volunteers give over nineteen million hours of service every year. Every single volunteer deserves our appreciation and grateful acknowledgement.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and our professional team members, I want to thank all our volunteers for their dedication to the mission of Pathways hospice. We could not fulfill this mission without you.

If you are interested in learning more about volunteering at Pathways, please visit our website at [www.pathways-care.org/volunteer](http://www.pathways-care.org/volunteer) for more information.

With Appreciation,



Evan Hyatt  
President

**OUR SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM**

**Evan Hyatt**  
President

**Dr. Nathaniel Chappelle**  
Medical Director

**Angie Sickmon, RN**  
Director of Clinical Services

**Jacque Taylor**  
Director of Business Development

**2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

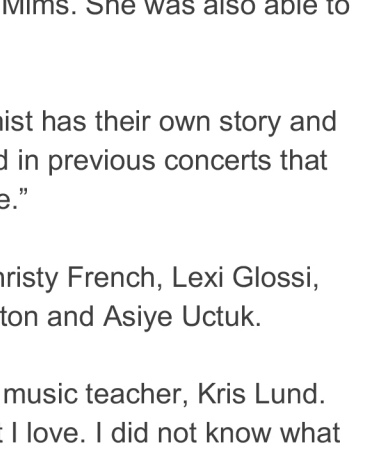
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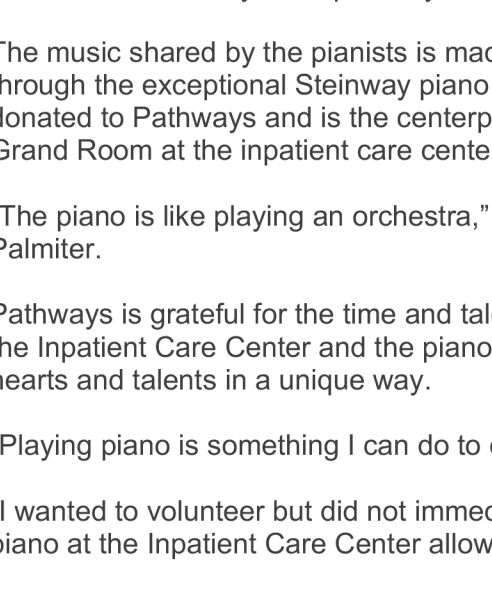
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*Volunteer Spotlight*

**Music fills the Pathways Inpatient Care Center Through the Passion of Volunteers**



Mims Harris, Pianist Volunteer

Through the skills and talents of local pianists and singers, the soothing and uplifting sound of music is common throughout the Pathways Inpatient Care Center, nearly every day of the week.

Volunteer groups of pianists and singers bring music and song to everyone, including patients, their loved ones, visitors, and Pathways staff members.

The group of pianists is organized and scheduled by Mims Harris who also volunteers her time and talents to bring music to the space.

"From the time the Inpatient Care Center was being built, I was thinking about how music could be a part of the space and volunteered to help find a piano," stated Mims. She was also able to identify donors to pay for the piano.

"It was actually not hard to find pianists to play. Each volunteer pianist has their own story and reasons for being involved," shared Mims. "Many had been involved in previous concerts that were organized as a fundraiser for both Pathways and Respite Care."

The entire group of pianists includes Nancy Bryan, Brian Frable, Christy French, Lexi Glossi, Mims Harris, Kris Lund, Ryan Marvel, Marty Palmiter, Louise Thornton and Asiye Uctuk.

Asiye Uctuk – the youngest of the volunteers – was pulled in by her music teacher, Kris Lund. "Music at the Inpatient Care Center is a way to share and play what I love. I did not know what to expect and I enjoy something new each time I volunteer," stated Asiye.

"I was surprised a bit at how much it has meant to me to play at the Inpatient Care Center," shared Nancy Bryan. "I always ask families for permission to play, if they are present in the room, and they have always been gracious and welcoming of the music."

The music shared through the piano ranges from Mozart to Schumann and Chopin to Scott Joplin and, sometimes, Broadway show tunes.

Several of the pianists do not determine what they are going to play ahead of their time at the Inpatient Care Center. Instead, they determine what they will play when they arrive and let the mood of the care center guide them. Interactions with family members and loved ones who are visiting patients often guides what is played as well.

"Music is important to know that patients are being cared for emotionally and spiritually," shared Kris Lund.

The music shared by the pianists is made possible through the exceptional Steinway piano that was donated to Pathways and is the centerpiece of the Grand Room at the inpatient care center.

"The piano is like playing an orchestra," noted Marty Palmiter.

Pathways is grateful for the time and talents shared by these accomplished musicians. Having the Inpatient Care Center and the piano has brought a new group of volunteers to share their hearts and talents in a unique way.

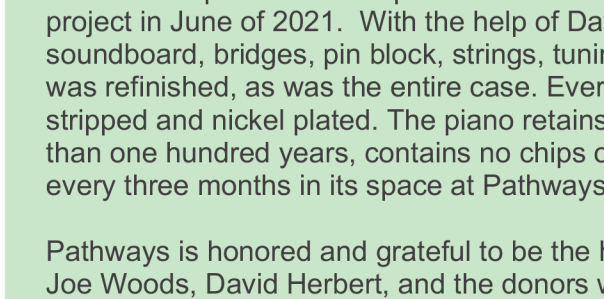
"Playing piano is something I can do to offer help," added Lexi Glossi

"I wanted to volunteer but did not immediately know how or where," stated Christy French. "The piano at the Inpatient Care Center allows me to help."

Thank you to everyone who brings music to the patients, family, visitors and team members at the Pathways Inpatient Care Center.



Ryan Marvel, Pianist Volunteer



**Threshold Choir and Fort Collins Threshold Singers**

An international organization, created nearly 25 years ago in California, the mission of the Threshold Choir is singing for those at the thresholds of life. Their vision is to support a world where all life's thresholds may be honored with compassion and shared through song ([thresholdchoir.org](http://thresholdchoir.org)).

The local chapter of the Threshold Choir, Fort Collins Threshold Singers, is made up of women who have a desire to bring compassionate support to those at the threshold of life's end with the hope of bringing peace to loved ones and caregivers.

As of 2023, there were more than 175 chapters of the Threshold Choir around the world. These chapters are rooted in their local communities while also being an important part of a shared international organization. The songs they sing are created and written as original pieces for the purpose of bringing compassionate support to those at the threshold of life.

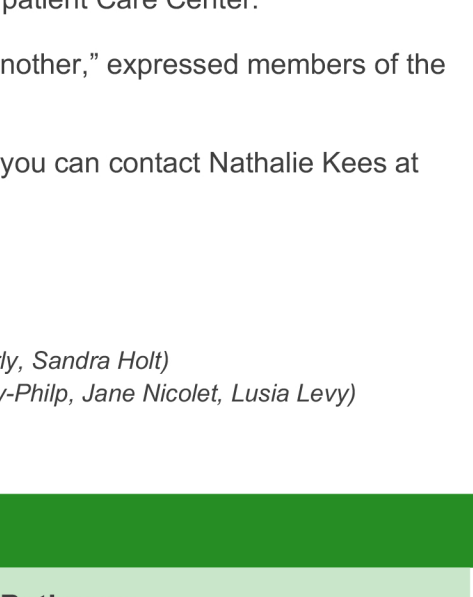
To members of the organization and its chapters, over four hundred songs are available. In addition, available to local groups are on-line classes and training materials, as well as a place to discuss end-of-life through Death Cafes and other conversations. All groups honor spiritual paths and have no religious affiliations.

In talking with members of the local Threshold Singers, you can immediately feel their passion for music, for volunteering and for helping those at end-of-life.

The group of singers have a range of backgrounds including careers in healthcare, education, music, grief and loss and end-of-life care. All were taught the value of volunteering at an early age, and bring joy and love of music, their contribution to the group.

Singing is a way to support end of life transition for patients and their loved ones. In the course of a song, the Choir often sees a change in mood of a patient, family members, and staff.

"There is something magical about music reaching people," expressed Lusie Levy. "The music we share is not meant to be entertaining. The singing has a purpose to create a space for relaxation and calm at a time of passing."



With backgrounds in music and experiences with family members and friends who have passed, each member of the Threshold Singers has the desire to do more with their musical skills to help those experiencing end-of-life.

"Song selection is somewhat intuitive and depends on the perceived needs of the patient and loved ones around them," shared Lisa Cheney-Philp. If a patient can express their desires for a particular song or type of music, the choir will try to accommodate those wishes.

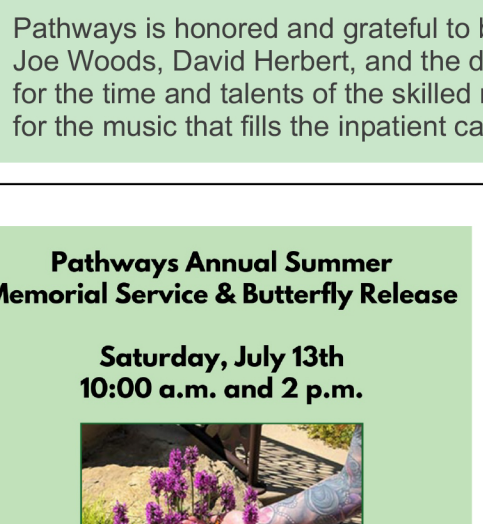
The synergy and harmony of the Fort Collins Threshold Singers adds unique and meaningful experiences for those who are cared for at the Pathways Inpatient Care Center.

"Our singing is our gift – our way of bringing a blessing to another," expressed members of the Fort Collins group.

For more information about Fort Collins Threshold Singers you can contact Nathalie Kees at [Nathalie.kees@colostate.edu](mailto:Nathalie.kees@colostate.edu).

(Group Photo)  
Fort Collins Threshold Singers  
Front Row, Left to Right – (Deb Noland, Sue Villarreal, Martha Heverly, Sandra Holt)  
Back Row, Left to Right – (Nathalie Kees, Francy Lamb, Lisa Cheney-Philp, Jane Nicolet, Lusie Levy)  
Not pictured—Sandra Joy Teske

**A Steinway's One-Hundred-Year-Old Journey to Pathways**



The piano that adorns the Great Room at the Pathways Inpatient Care Center is a Steinway and Sons – Model A III 6' 4 1/2" – grand piano built in 1920.

How did Pathways come to have such a unique and extraordinary piano?

A group of compassionate, anonymous donors found the piano and made it possible through their generosity and determination to bring this instrument to Pathways.

From the late 1800s until 1929, the Carlton Woods family owned three piano stores in northern Colorado – one each in Longmont, Loveland, and Fort Collins. The stores were unfortunately lost due to the economic downturn and Great Depression causing Carlton to move to Denver and work as a piano technician for the Steinway dealership. Carlton tuned and maintained the piano from the time it was new.

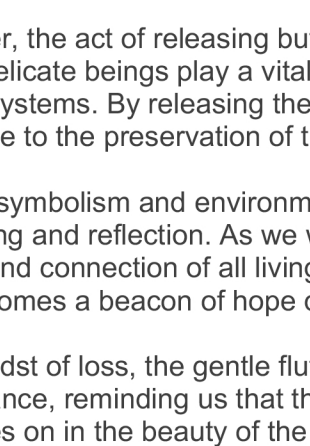
When Carlton retired, he passed this duty along to his son Charles when he returned from service in World War II. At his peak, Charles tuned pianos for more than two hundred teachers until his retirement in 1997. Picking up the family's devotion to the piano tuning craft, Charles' son Joe Woods began tuning the piano in 1992.

In 2015 Joe purchased the piano from its owners and began a one-year restoration project in June of 2021. With the help of David Herbert, the piano received a new soundboard, bridges, pin block, strings, tuning pins, action, and back action. The plate was refinished, as was the entire case. Every screw, hinge pedal and other parts were stripped and nickel plated. The piano retains the original ivory keyboard which, after more than one hundred years, contains no chips or cracks. David continues to tune the piano every three months in its space at Pathways.

Pathways is honored and grateful to be the home of this unbelievable piano. Thank you, Joe Woods, David Herbert, and the donors who made this possible. We also are grateful for the time and talents of the skilled musicians who bring life to the piano regularly and for the love that fills the inpatient care center.

**Pathways Annual Summer Memorial Service & Butterfly Release**

**Saturday, July 13th**  
**10:00 a.m. and 2 p.m.**



**Honoring Loved Ones: The Significance of Butterfly Release Memorials**

In times of loss and remembrance, finding solace in nature can offer profound comfort. This sentiment is beautifully captured in the tradition of butterfly release memorials, where the delicate flight of these winged wonders becomes a symbol of hope, renewal, and eternal connection.

At the heart of a butterfly release memorial lies a tender tribute to those we have lost, a celebration of their lives and the lasting memory they leave on our hearts. As we gather to honor their memory, the release of butterflies into the natural world becomes a touching gesture of letting go, allowing our sorrows to take flight on gentle wings.

Butterflies, with their graceful movements and transformative journey from caterpillar to butterfly, embody the essence of life's fleeting beauty. Their release symbolizes the release of grief, as we entrust our loved ones to the care of the universe, knowing that their spirit lives on in the whisper of the wind and the dance of butterflies in the sunlight.

Moreover, the act of releasing butterflies into nature holds a deeper environmental significance. These delicate beings play a vital role in pollination, contributing to the health and diversity of our ecosystems. By releasing them into the wild, we not only honor our loved ones but also contribute to the preservation of the natural world they cherished.

Beyond symbolism and environmental importance, butterfly release memorials provide a space for healing and reflection. As we watch these colorful beings take flight, we are reminded of the beauty and connection of all living things. It is a moment of unity, where grief is shared, and love becomes a beacon of hope during sorrow.

In the midst of loss, the gentle flutter of butterfly wings offers a sense of peace and reassurance, reminding us that though our loved ones may no longer be with us in body, their spirit lives on in the beauty of the world around us. And so, as we release butterflies into the sky, we release our sorrow, knowing that love transcends boundaries and time, forever guiding us along life's journey.

**Pathways 2023 Fundraising Report**

These gifts have a direct impact on the lives of those facing life-limiting illnesses.

We are particularly proud to share that Pathways continues to stand as one of the only nonprofit hospices in Northern Colorado committed to caring for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. Philanthropic contributions help us to uphold this commitment, ensuring that our services remain accessible to all individuals in need.



Pathways experienced an outstanding year regarding gifts we received from our northern Colorado communities and nationally. In 2023, Our organization received a total of 1,119 gifts including memorials in honor of those that have passed receiving hospice care from Pathways. The gift total also includes bequests and gifts from those that have remembered Pathways in their wills and estates.

Private support is crucial to Pathways as we continue our mission of providing compassionate end-of-life care to individuals and their families. Contributions enable us to uphold the highest standards of care for our patients, their families and loved ones as well as allowing us to maintain our position as a leading provider of hospice services.

**Event sponsors** play a pivotal role in elevating awareness of the Pathways' mission. By lending their name and resources to the event in addition to supporting the event. Sponsors help generate widespread awareness and create a platform for dialogue surrounding end-of-life care, grief, and loss. The support of sponsors for events like **A Vintage Affair** presented by Wilbur's Total Beverage not only enhances the event's credibility but also encourages attendees to connect with the cause on a deeper level, fostering empathy and compassion.

We are grateful for every gift and partnership that allows Pathways to provide compassionate end-of-life care to Northern Colorado communities. Please consider **giving** in 2024.

**Save the Date**  
**September 22, 2024**



The annual A Vintage Affair event, sponsored by Wilbur's Total Beverage, supports the Pathways for Grief & Loss program. This extraordinary gathering features over 200 varieties of wine, beer, and whiskey from across the globe, along with gourmet appetizers, a silent auction, and other delights. It promises to be an unforgettable evening for all!

**Pathways for Grief & Loss**

**Upcoming Events**

- April 28th, 1 p.m.**  
Mother's Day Remembrance Tea
- June 14th, 5:30 - 7 p.m.**  
Father's Day Remembrance Dinner
- July 13th, 10 a.m. & 2 p.m.**  
Butterfly Release

Registration is required for all groups. Please visit [www.pathways-care.org/grief-support-events/](http://www.pathways-care.org/grief-support-events/)

