



GRIFFITH CENTERS FOR CHILDREN

HEALING TODAY

HOPE FOR TOMORROW

July/August 2008

www.griffithcenters.org



Griffith
Centers for
Children

Healing Today, Hope for Tomorrow
Since 1927

Colorado Springs Center

17 N. Farragut Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
(719) 327-2007

CHINS UP Center

10 N. Farragut Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
(719) 327-2005

Larkspur Center

P.O. Box 95
Larkspur, CO 80118
(303) 681-2400

Administrative Offices

14142 Denver West Parkway,
Suite 225
Lakewood, CO 80401
(303) 237-6865

Chief Executive Officer
Howard Shiffman

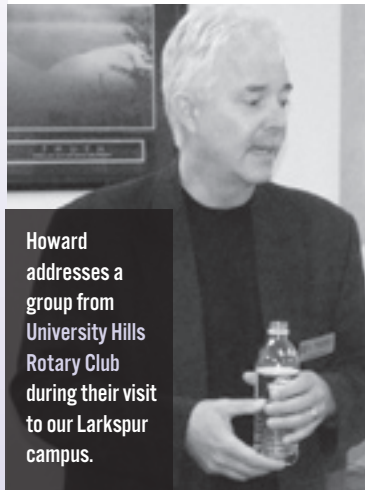
Deputy Director/Chief
Operating Officer
Beth Miller

Chief Development Officer
Barbara Ritchie

Chief Financial Officer
Anita Comisky

www.griffithcenters.org

Get Connected



Howard addresses a group from University Hills Rotary Club during their visit to our Larkspur campus.

It is a privilege to work alongside our board of directors, staff and you, our faithful donors, in our efforts to nurture and empower troubled youth of Colorado through our Griffith Centers for Children programs.

In the last issue of *Healing Today*, we reported that long-time board member Harry Vogler received Colorado's Jefferson Award for Public Service

in March. This summer, he traveled to Washington, D.C., where he was awarded the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Award for Greatest Public Service Benefiting Local Communities at the Jefferson Awards for Public Service. It was no surprise to us at Griffith Centers who have benefited from his loyal service since 1964.

The men and women who serve on our board of directors volunteer their expertise and time to assist us with operational issues, policy setting, fund raising and other weighty challenges. As they do so, the question always before them is, "What is best for the youth and families we serve?"

Our goal—and the goal of our board of directors—is to give children here at Griffith Centers the opportunity to dream of a future in which they find success in their personal and professional lives. Please join us as we continue to empower them to do amazing things.

Sincerely,

Howard Shiffman
Chief Executive Officer



Join Griffith Centers for Children for our sixth annual **Art on the Farm** fundraiser, Saturday, September 6, at **Dark Star Farm** in Franktown. Owner **Deb Strachan** hosts this yearly tradition featuring an internationally inspired dinner, dancing and entertainment. Attendees can peruse and purchase artwork by local artists and bid on auction items, while enjoying an evening under the stars. Visit www.griffithcenters.org, call (303) 237-6865, ext. 12 or e-mail barb.ritchie@griffithcenters.org to reserve your tickets.



Our dream to begin an equine program for residents at our Larkspur campus was realized in 1983. Today, **Art on the Farm** helps fund this healing and educational program.

Upcoming Events

There's still time to get your friends and coworkers involved in these exciting events. Visit www.griffithcenters.org or call (303) 237-6865, ext. 12.



**Saturday, August 2–
Sunday, August 3**

20th Anniversary Peak Challenge
Climb your favorite 14-er!



Wednesday, September 17

Music on the Roof

Visit www.griffithcenters.org to
learn about this night under the stars.



Challenging Our Youth and Their Families

When four boys staying at Griffith Centers campuses invited their parents on a camping trip, each person gained insights about themselves and each other! The families participated in activities that built trust and challenged the way they communicated.

One of the most challenging activities was "group herding." "The families had to work together to get one of three horses into a large triangle," explains Cassandra Hooper, who helped coordinate the campout. "No one could touch or talk to the horses, but they could strategize together and ask questions of the facilitators. Quickly the adults got frustrated and started breaking rules!"

Amid laughter and jokes, the children and their parents drew comparisons between their own behaviors, then talked as a group about coming up with new methods of completing the task at hand. Though the horses were never corralled, everyone walked away feeling successful—and a little more understanding!

"Overall, I think the parents were amazed at how skillful their boys were," Cassandra relates. "Each family had a chance to bond together and support one another."



More than 130 avid golfers joined Griffith Centers for our 2008 Golf Tournament at the Golf Club at Bear Dance, raising over \$40,000! Make sure to add this yearly event to your 2009 calendar.

Other News

- Griffith Centers for Children has successfully completed our capital campaign to raise \$450,000 to permanently add transitional group home care to our growing continuum of services. We will purchase two homes in Colorado Springs and remodel a lodge at our Larkspur Center to provide a new level of care for children who have completed their treatment in a highly-structured residential program such as Griffith Centers, but cannot return home to their parents or relatives, cannot successfully reside in a foster home or be emancipated. A special thank you to all who supported this effort.
- In May, Griffith Centers turned over operations of our Grand Junction campus for girls to Commonworks, an organization with the same vision to bring healing today and hope for tomorrow to Colorado children and their families.

Take Note! Each gift you contribute to Griffith Centers for Children helps us reach out to traumatized children with compassion and hope. Never underestimate the value of your support! We need you today more than ever before as we encourage boys and girls to dare to dream of a better future. Thank you so much!