

News & Updates

Jan-Feb 2009

LIFESPARK TOUCHES OVER 300 IN 2008

In 2008 LifeSpark provided 598 weekly Reiki and Healing Touch session hours for 52 individuals with cancer. 62% were considered low-income by federal standards. In addition, LifeSpark provided 260 mini-sessions to health care professionals, family members, and the general public (55 were nurses at Denver Health)

Also in 2008, LifeSpark volunteers made presentations and staffed booths at 23 health fairs, cancer events, and conferences. Events included Day of Caring, 9 Health Fair, Denver Health Nurses Week, Denver Health Employee Fair, Denver Health Spa Days, Breast Cancer Multi-Cultural Conference, Latino Wellness Fair, American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Metro Denver Oncology Nursing Society Conference, Veterans Health Fair, Healing Life/Healing Death Weekend, Good Grief Retreat, and others.

Thank you to all who participated in the above activities, whether matched for weekly sessions, or providing education at public events. You have made a difference!



TOM HOOVER: MY STORY

Just three months after moving to Colorado to start a new job, I was diagnosed with a tumor on my tongue. After two surgeries, I started chemotherapy followed by 35 treatments of radiation.

My LifeSpark partner really helped pull me through. As I received more radiation, the pain in my neck and throat area became unbearable. I needed to have a food tube put in and it was very uncomfortable to wear a shirt. The Reiki treatments allowed me to relax and find some peace from the pain in my throat and neck and from my loss of weight and strength.

As a result of my LifeSpark sessions I was able to relax and let go of the anger I had towards my cancer and the treatment effects. I believe this also helped my body to recover faster.

I am grateful every day for my LifeSpark experience and my LifeSpark partner. Her Reiki therapy, prayers, and words of encouragement helped to ease my journey through this difficult period. As of January 20, I am cancer free.



MUHR IS NEW PRESIDENT

At LifeSpark's December 19th Annual Meeting, new officers were elected. Ruth Muhr will take the reins as President after serving on the board since 2005.

Other officers include Carrie Niewenhaus, Vice President, John Anderson, Secretary, and Chris Wilson, Treasurer.



THANKYOU LISA ANSELME

After seven years of service to LifeSpark, including helping set up the original Healing Buddies program at QuaLife, and creation of LifeSpark, Lisa Anselme is retiring from the board. As Executive Director of Healing Touch International, and as an expert in healthcare integration, Lisa brought much insight and wisdom to LifeSpark, helping us develop collaborations with Denver Health Medical Center, Swedish Oncology Radiation, and Boulder's Foothills Hospital. She will continue in her role as trainer at LifeSpark's bi-annual New Providers Seminar and has agreed to continue to serve in an advisory capacity. Thank you Lisa.

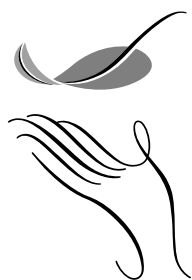


SPOTLIGHT ON THE BOARD

Sandi Vannice, MS, RN, AOCN, joined the LifeSpark board in July and brings expertise in cancer care and knowledge of the health care system.

Sandi is the Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist at Denver Health Medical Center with a broad range of responsibilities impacting patient care, nursing practice and the health care system. She is a 2007 nominee for a Colorado Nightingale Award in recognition of excellence in human caring.

Sandi is an active member of the Oncology Nursing Society and locally is past president of the Metro Denver chapter. She is also a member of the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists. Sandi has given numerous presentations related to care of the oncology patient at both the local and national level and has been published in several oncology publications, including the Oncology Nursing Forum, Oncology Nursing Secrets, and Journal of Clinical Oncology.



LIFESPARK
cancer resources

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LifeSpark Cancer Resources is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-exempt to the extent provided by law.

TOUCHING TOMORROW HOSTS A FULL HOUSE

Nearly 180 people attended LifeSpark's second annual Touching Tomorrow event, Nov 20, at the Denver West Marriott, in Golden. This breakfast event raises money for LifeSpark while showcasing testimonial stories and the need for our work. The event raised \$14,000 in cash and another \$14,000 in long-term pledges. We wish to thank everyone who helped with the event and who attended, and especially the following sponsors: Rocky Mountain PBS, The Orchard Town Center, Lightening Kwik Print, John Casablancas, and Ruxandra Photography.



LIFESPARK FEATURED IN HTI PUBLICATION

LifeSpark was featured in the December issue of Perspectives in Healing, a quarterly publication of Healing Touch International.

The two page article titled Service Partnership, Professionalism, LifeSpark Cancer Resources focused on LifeSpark's unique model that works successfully with several different medical facilities.



REIKI AND HEALING TOUCH VOLUNTEERS WELCOMED NEW PROVIDERS SEMINAR IS FEBRUARY 13-15

Twice a year, LifeSpark brings new Reiki and Healing Touch volunteers into the program. Our 18 hour New Provider Seminar includes training in professionalism, ethics, boundaries, self care, and energetic issues of cancer. It includes didactic and interactive portions as well as hands-on practice.

The \$185 fee is fully refundable in the form of a scholarship for further training after the provider has completed 20 sessions in the LifeSpark program (must be completed within the first year). Repeaters can attend at no charge. For more information, or to register, visit www.LifeSparkNow.org and click on Volunteer.

"As a bodyworker this weekend was so valuable and will greatly strengthen and enrich my practice. I feel very prepared for my service in LifeSpark."

LIFESPARK RECEIVES \$20,000 CHALLENGE

An anonymous donor will match donations made to LifeSpark within the next 4 months, up to and including a cumulative total of \$20,000. Help us match this extraordinary gift with your donation. Think outside of the box by making a birthday, anniversary, or other occasion gift in someone's honor. Consider a monthly gift set up automatically on our website. Or make a memorial gift to remember someone who made a difference in your life.

This is an unprecedented opportunity for LifeSpark and we want to include you. Visit www.LifeSparkNow.org.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
HELP SUPPORT LIFESPARK CANCER RESOURCES
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