

## one in a million

Three things I say about my wonderful boys: Christopher (4) keeps us laughing, Dylan (12) keeps us strong and Donovan (13) keeps us open and honest.

It was in November 2008, the boys were in Texas [visiting their dad] when Donovan got a cold. They discovered a lump on his throat; so naturally, his dad took him to the doctor. Several days later, we were told that he had a rare blood disorder called hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH). The doctor also said that at 11 years old, the odds of getting that disease was one in a million and a bone marrow transplant (BMT) was required to cure him.



— one of the four major types of cancer — before he could get the bone marrow transplant for the HLH and there was a mass

After 10 hours in a van, Donovan made it back home to Denver and we brought him to the hospital. He developed lymphoma



Donovan (center) with mom Courtney and brothers Dylan (left) and Christopher (top)

as though there wasn't a support community, until we found There With Care. Donovan and another patient in the BMT unit, Amanda, started exchanging pictures and became friends through the glass. It was Amanda's mom Michelle who told me about There With Care – that's when the isolation ended and we were reintroduced to stability. They started providing meals for my son Dylan, who was home while I was in the hospital.

Also, thanks to them, we got out into our community and met other patients and their families. All of the meals There With Care brought and the activities we were doing together suddenly lit up our worlds. With Donovan being immune suppressed, he can get sick from anything anytime. Our There With Care family gets it, so around them, Donovan doesn't mind wearing his mask and he doesn't feel different. There With Care IS family.

After chemo, the body goes through so much that there is always a risk of something bigger looming because of the chemicals we put into their bodies to save them. Now we have the possibility of a new cancer diagnosis hanging over our head. While waiting for results There With Care said, "Let's get you some counseling." Whether the tests come back clear, this is a traumatic experience, but There With Care lets us know that we are never alone. I can call up anytime, day or night, and talk to someone in the office. We don't know where we would be without them.

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on his lung that took away 70% of his breathing capacity. After many, many rounds of chemo (too many to even count) and removing a third of his bowel, we were able to get rid of the lymphoma.

Finally, in January of 2010, he went in for his transplant, and throughout this process I became a single mom. At first it felt

To become a volunteer contact Beanie at 303.447.2273 or [beanie@therewithcare.org](mailto:beanie@therewithcare.org).

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*There With Care's mission is to provide a wide range of thoughtful and fundamental services to families and children during the critical phase of a medical crisis. We serve families, referred by medical agencies, by building a network of services and people who ease the burden of life's day-to-day obligations with compassion and care.*

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from our executive director

WE'VE NOW TOUCHED THE LIVES of more than 2,600 people since we founded There With Care five years ago, and each day we are so fortunate to see the good in people. We see it in our volunteers who bring in hundreds of pounds of food each week so that others can "shop our shelves" and deliver to the families they work with. We see it in the generous donors who support us through financial contributions and in-kind gifts which include daily donations of infant clothing, cribs, diapers and more that make our work possible. We see it in the annual fundraiser party hosts and volunteers who work tirelessly to create magical fundraising events to bring awareness and support to our work with the help of thousands of loyal guests; and finally, in the hundreds of thoughtful volunteers and dozens of businesses who deliver groceries, drive patients to treatments, mentor patients and siblings, clean homes, babysit, fix cars, counsel, build wheelchair ramps and so much more. And...we feel it deeply by the families we serve who appreciate the support provided to them in all of these ways who tearfully share that they "can't believe strangers care about them."



It is an honor to work with all of these people in our community who truly care about others, especially during a fragile time in the lives of these families. This year, we will continue our growth to serve more families in Colorado and begin our reach to open our second chapter of There With Care in Northern California. There are so many people who can use this kind of support during a family medical crisis, and so many who want to help. We are privileged to close the gap between the two and provide care to many more families in the future.

If you haven't seen our new home in Boulder and are nearby, please stop in as we'd love to give you a tour. Thank you for your part in being There With Care.

With gratitude,

Paula DuPre' Pesmen  
Executive Director



## deeper connections = more meaningful care

Just this week, a frightened mother arrived at the hospital with her critically ill newborn with nothing else but the clothes she was wearing. The social worker referred her family to There With Care and immediately we began gathering clothing and food, and providing meaningful support — all delivered to mom with love and care. Our ability to say YES to this family and all of the families we serve during a fragile time is a priceless gift.

Last month, while delivering groceries, one of our volunteers noticed that the family of five had no beds, and were on the floor in sleeping bags and blankets. Within days, the program coordinators at There With Care contacted local mattress companies, who thoughtfully donated mattresses. They purchased sheets and pillows and, by the weekend, with the help of volunteers, the family was sleeping in their new beds.

This year, we are increasing our daily caseload from 80 to 100 families. Helping a family lighten their already heavy load is a privilege, and to do it with a deeper level of care is because of your help. With your donations, we will be able to continue to look at ways we can reach these families with crucial services. Thank you for letting us be there to say YES to the families who need care. It is real and it is meaningful.

In gratitude for your continued support,

Dana Bacardi  
Development Director



## Honoring Our Volunteers

Susie Regnier and Christina Cook

Christina Cook and Susie Regnier have managed the Baby Essentials Program at There With Care for several years. With the help of many volunteers who sort through donated gently used baby items, Christina and Susie create beautiful and needed Baby Care Bags that are delivered to the parents of babies in the NICU (neo-natal ICU) at several hospitals, including Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children at P/SL and The Children’s Hospital in Aurora. These bags include the essentials for parents, including gently used infant clothing, blankets, baby carriers, board books, infant toys, bottles and more. Through this wonderful recycling program donors are able to pass on their baby items to families who need them most. The care is full circle and it’s not unusual for a parent to cry upon receiving them. It’s a lovely way for the community to extend kindness to a family during a financially challenging and emotionally fragile time with their baby. This is just one of the many ways that volunteers and donors make a difference every day in the lives of a family going through a medical crisis.

## There With Care programs— support where it’s needed

**28%—Transportation**  
(Gas assistance, auto repairs, taxi rides)

**24%—Meal Program**  
(Groceries, frozen and hot prepared meals)

**18%—Patient/Sibling Support** (Special items needed for patients and siblings)

**15%—Home Maintenance**  
(Handicap access, housecleaning for Immune Compromised)

**10%—Baby Essential Programs** (Car seats, cribs, infant clothing, diapers and more)

**3%—Professional Services**  
(Therapy, legal assistance)

**2%—Soup Station** (Soup Served each week at the Neo-natal ICU)

10% of our expenses go towards organization operation costs.



**W**e express our sincere appreciation to the donors who make this work possible for children and families facing critical illness. Because of our generous donors, we are able to answer the needs of our community during a difficult time. We thank the following donors who gave their help through financial and in-kind gifts between July 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011.

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- Baby Wipes
- PJ's and Onesies: newborn-18 months
- Toiletries-Adult & Infant
- Gas and Target Gift Cards
- Laundry Detergent
- Home Cleaning Supplies



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Kia  
Kimbelina  
King Soopers  
LaBelle Nail Salon  
Lake Valley Golf Club  
Larkburger  
L'Atlier  
Le Peep  
Limitless Cleaning  
Logan's Coffee  
Lucky's Market  
Macfund  
Madison House  
Martin Auctioneering  
Mary Owens Salon at Studio 1920  
Mary Wells Salon  
MAX  
MC Real Estate  
McGuckin Hardware  
Moda Beauty and Wellness  
Mountain Sales  
Murial Spitz  
National Cinemedia  
NBC - The Tonight Show  
Nite Ize  
North Boulder Liquor  
Novella Clinical  
Nutri-Physique

## family support by the numbers

85% – families we serve who live below poverty guidelines  
110 – average number of days a family receives support  
\$1,416 – average cost to serve a family through crisis  
224 – total families served in 2010

Taylor Moving Company  
The Bar Method  
The Boulder Cork  
The Brewing Company  
The Cheesecake Factory  
The Cleaning Fairies  
The Enchanted Room  
The Kitchen  
The Med Restaurant  
The Organic Dish  
The ParLOUR  
The Pros Closet  
The Ritz  
Trident Telephone and Electronics, Inc.  
True Skin Care  
Tundra Specialties  
Twist  
Two Moms in the Raw  
Upslope Brewery  
Uptown Tavern  
Urban Mattress

## EVENTS

We would like to thank our sponsors, supporters and attendees who made our events a big success. To see our sponsors go to [therewithcare.org](http://therewithcare.org)

If you have made a contribution and do not see your name listed, please contact us at [admin@therewithcare.org](mailto:admin@therewithcare.org) so we can make sure you are acknowledged in our next newsletter.

# kids care too!



*Connor, Colt, James and Miles at St. Baldricks shaving their heads to raise money on team There With Care to help families and fund cancer research*



*CU Students Jessika and Anthony from Flatirons Community Church spearheaded major food drive*



*Rocky Mountain Tennis Club delivering donation for hitting 1 million tennis balls*



*Boulder Performing Arts donated all production and teaching fees to There With Care for their recent productions of "Jungle Book" and "Cinderella"*



*Jack has adopted There With Care as his charity, donating his chore money, birthday gifts, shaving his head, and more*



*Madison delivers her 10th birthday donations with mom Katie, friend Zoe and Dana Bacardi at There With Care*



*"Denver's West High Futures Program" – Coach Leon Garcia and his Middle School Football Club spent their day doing yard clean-up and making a safe play area for an ill child and his sibling*



*Hayley, Merrick and Ella organized the 8th Grade Casey Middle-School Student Leadership fundraiser and sold flowers to benefit There With Care*



*Superior Elementary Student Government tour There With Care and deliver their donation*

## shop with care – coming soon!

There With Care will be launching a new virtual expansion of our programs on our website May 15, 2011. Sharing what we've learned providing care, people will soon be able to support their loved ones going through a crisis from afar. While sending helpful products to ease the way, the proceeds from each purchase will go towards helping others through There With Care programs. Please visit us on May 15th at [therewithcare.org](http://therewithcare.org) and check out the many thoughtful gifts.



“There With Care understands the importance of ensuring these kids are receiving the treatment they require, and do so by graciously, consistently, and seamlessly providing essential services to the children and families in need.”  
*Social Worker, Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children at P/SL*

## Save the Dates!

# Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows – Part 2

### Pre-Release Screenings and Parties

Wednesday, July 13, 2011  
Screenings in Boulder and Denver

Saturday, July 16, 2011— Denver Party

Sunday, July 17, 2011— Boulder Party

*Tickets on sale May 15 at [therewithcare.org](http://therewithcare.org)*

For group tickets and sponsorship opportunities contact:  
[dana@therewithcare.org](mailto:dana@therewithcare.org)

Thank you to our sponsors for  
support in printing this newsletter  
and bringing you  
There With Care News.



“There With Care is a huge help to our families to ensure the treatment plan is followed—giving patients the best chance to cure their disease.”  
*Social Worker, The Children's Hospital*