

# The Highlander



September 2023

## MESSAGE FROM CHIEF BOB FAGER

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits. We are excited to share some developments that reflect our ongoing commitment to enhancing emergency medical services for our community.

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new Community Paramedic Program. This program is a testament to our unwavering dedication to providing holistic care that extends beyond traditional emergency responses. Our highly trained staff will work closely with local healthcare providers to offer personalized preventive services, health education, and follow-up care. By bridging the gap between emergency response and long-term wellness, we aim to create a healthier and more resilient community.

Moreover, we are excited to be at the forefront of an initiative to bring whole blood to the field. This program is still in its infancy, and we expect we'll hit several obstacles along the way. With much hard work by our medical director, we were the first ground ambulance service in the state to apply for permission to administer whole blood to patients in our ambulances. When a patient is seriously bleeding, rapid access to whole blood has been proven to remarkably improve patient outcomes. This program will undoubtedly make a significant advancement in pre-hospital care and reinforce our mission to serve you with the highest level of emergency medical services.

These new endeavors stand as a testament to our unyielding dedication to your safety and well-being. The tireless efforts of our members, combined with your unwavering support, continue to drive our mission forward. As we embark on these transformative journeys, we remain ever grateful for the privilege to serve you, our community.

Thank you for entrusting us with your care. Together, we are building a stronger, healthier future.

Warm regards,  
*Bob Fager, Chief*



## OPEN HOUSE

**September 23rd,  
11am-2pm**

come tour the station,  
practice hands-on medical  
skills, meet the team and  
other area responders - and  
LUNCH ON US!



## MESSAGE FROM COMMUNITY PARAMEDIC DAN VINNOLA

Highland Rescue Team has launched our Community Assistance Referral & Education Services (CARES) program. This community program is supported with Community Paramedics along with our current Paramedic and EMT staff. As part of our CARES initiative, HRT has recently started the process to be licensed with the State of Colorado as a Community Integrated Health Care Service (CIHCS) agency.

The CARES team, in conjunction with our Fire partners, is working to identify the needs of our district residents in order to develop a comprehensive community health, wellness, and prevention program. The intent of CARES is to fill

community and consumer-related gaps in our local health care system. We aim to provide education to our residents in how to stay healthy, prevent falls, avoid unnecessary 911 phone calls, unnecessary emergency room visits, and re-admissions to the hospital.

With the CARES initiative we plan to launch free services to residents of our District including:

- In-home safety assessments
- "File of Life" form preparation (a document to support acute care EMS response)
- Fall prevention education
- Health care coordination
- Help with medication inventory and tracking
- Resource navigation
- CPR, Stop the Bleed, and other life-saving education

Through our Community Integrated Health Care Service (CIHCS) program if you or a loved one is coming home from the hospital or a nursing facility, CARES can help. Our team can assist with the following:

- A home risk assessment to help you stay in your home and to ensure a safe home environment.
- Help you understand and apply Discharge Instructions now that you are home.
- Assist in scheduling follow-up appointments.
- Increase awareness of other community resources that can assist during your recuperation.

We are excited to be able to provide these services to our community.

Stay well,  
Dan Vinnola, Community Paramedic

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

### HIGHLAND RESCUE YOUR 911 MEDICAL RESPONSE TEAM

Once a year, your Highland Rescue Team sends this newsletter to all residents of our service area to keep you up-to-date with our organization. We realize that many of you don't know who/what Highland Rescue is or how we operate so we are taking this opportunity to tell you about our wonderful organization!

#### WHO ARE WE?

Highland Rescue is your 911 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Special District, serving the Foothills, Genesee, and Idlewild communities. Our team of EMTs and Paramedics also respond to 911 emergencies that occur on Interstate 70, between the Morrison Rd and El Rancho exits.

We proudly have a large volunteer workforce – 83% of our team (43 people) are volunteers. We also have a paid staff – 4 full-time and 1 part-time paramedic. The station is staffed 24/7 in order to provide advanced life support around the clock. Our cache of volunteers saves the District \$295,000 per year since we rely on their volunteer hours rather than paying for additional staff.

#### WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUR MEDICAL AND FIRE RESPONSE?

Our area has separate organizations responding to fire emergencies and medical emergencies. Highland Rescue is the team that responds to medical calls – we are the only team with ambulances and the responsibility to care for you during your medical crisis. Our fire partners (Genesee Fire and Foothills Fire) often respond to your 911 medical calls with us – to assist us, if necessary. Similarly, if our fire partners are responding to your fire-related 911 calls, we also arrive on scene in case medical help is needed.

#### HOW DOES YOUR 911 CALL WORK?

Your 911 call reaches Jefferson County Dispatch and they contact Highland Rescue to respond to your call. This process takes only moments. The average response time is 7:46 minutes from the time the dispatcher tones the call to when Highland arrives on scene, with medics generally arriving on scene in under 5 minutes.

#### WHAT KEEPS US BUSY?

When we respond to your call, our experienced medical staff provides care to stabilize your health, and, if needed, we transport you to one of the nearby hospitals. During the first 6 months of 2023, we've been dispatched over 340 times.

#### HOW ARE WE FUNDED?

We receive approximately 60% of our annual budget from property taxes and 40% from patient billing.

#### HOW DO OUR BOARDS FUNCTION?

There are two separate Board of Directors for Highland Rescue – our *Highland Rescue Special District Board* includes 5 volunteer members that live within our service community. This Board works with our team to stay connected to our community and for assistance in overall management of the organization.

Our *Highland Rescue Foundation Board* was established to manage any donations made to Highland Rescue. From time to time, we receive donations – often from residents who are grateful for the service the Team provided during a response/call.

Because Highland Rescue is a government entity, we are not able to directly accept charitable contributions or mingle any charitable donations with our tax revenue that funds the organization. For that reason, the Highland Rescue Foundation was formed to hold, manage and distribute all contributions made to the Special District. These donations are used to help enhance staff expertise via provision of necessary equipment, education/training and positive working conditions.

#### LASTLY...

**If you need medical help, call 911, not our station.** Having a list of the medications available and providing your medical history really helps when we arrive.

Feel free to stop by our OPEN HOUSE on SEPTEMBER 23 to learn more about this terrific organization and to meet your first responders as well as our Board members.

Terry McCarthy, President  
Highland Rescue Special District Board

Roxanne Lenny, President  
Highland Rescue Foundation Board





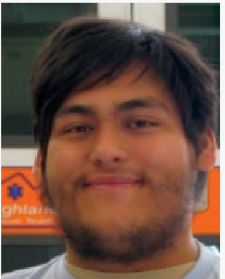
# GO TEAM!

## HIGHLAND RESCUE 2022 AWARDS



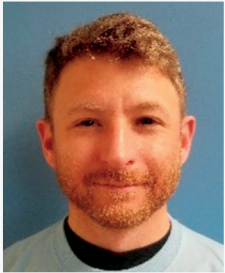
### STEVE TELGENER

This award is Highland's TOP AWARD and is given to the member the team feels contributed most to team morale, team spirit, and camaraderie. Our **2022 MEMBER OF THE YEAR** was Steve Telgener. Well deserved, Steve!



### MARIO ACOSTA

Every year Highland's officer corps recognizes the member who they feel went above and beyond as a member with the MVP award. Mario Acosta was our **2022 MVP**. Mario, thank you for all you give to Highland Rescue!



### COREY OCHSMAN

was our **2022 ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**. In 2022, he gave the District on average a whopping 17 hrs a week as a volunteer EMT. He excelled as a new member and already became a mentor to the next incoming class of rookies. We are fortunate to have Corey part of the team!



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**  
CONTACT US TODAY TO LEARN MORE

PH: 303-526-9571

[WWW.HIGHLANDRESCUE.COLORADO.GOV/JOIN-THE-TEAM](http://WWW.HIGHLANDRESCUE.COLORADO.GOV/JOIN-THE-TEAM)







**HIGHLAND RESCUE TEAM  
AMBULANCE DISTRICT**  
317 S. Lookout Mountain Rd  
Golden, CO 80401

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
GOLDEN, CO  
PERMIT No. 44

**ECRWSS  
POSTAL PATRON**



**THANK YOU** to our **District Residents**; as always your generosity is deeply appreciated. The residents of the District continue to open their hearts and wallets to provide support to the Highland Rescue Team Foundation. From all of us, a heart-felt **THANK YOU!**

**Highland Rescue Team Foundation Donations**

Please make check payable to "Highland Rescue Team Foundation". All donations are tax deductible.

Contributions:     \$25       \$50       \$100       \$250       \$500       \$1,000       Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Highland Rescue Team Ambulance District  
317 South Lookout Mountain Road  
Golden, CO 80401**