

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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### **Co-founder of Otter Products, LLC and founder of OtterCares Foundation, Nancy Richardson honored as the recipient of El Pomar Foundation's Julie Penrose Award 2022**

**Colorado Springs, CO – August 11, 2022** – On August 9, 2022, El Pomar Foundation honored Nancy Richardson as the 2022 recipient of the Julie Penrose Award in a private ceremony at Penrose House Conference Center in Colorado Springs, CO. El Pomar established the Julie Penrose Award in honor of co-founder Julie Penrose. The annual award recognizes an outstanding woman from the state of Colorado who has made or is making significant contributions to community through dedicated leadership, engagement and service. In conjunction with the award and acknowledgment of Julie Penrose's legacy, Colorado Springs City Council once again made and presented a proclamation at the August 9 City Council meeting declaring it Julie Penrose Day.

Born in Detroit in 1870, Julie Villiers Lewis McMillan Penrose moved to Colorado Springs in 1901 to support her ailing husband's fight against tuberculosis. After his passing in 1902, Julie married Spencer Penrose in 1906, and the duo worked together to establish and/or support many entrepreneurial and philanthropic ventures in the city and state which continue to influence the communities of Colorado today. These include destinations and events such as The Broadmoor hotel, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Pikes Peak Highway and International Hill Climb auto race, Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo, Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, Central City Opera and Will Rogers Shrine of the Sun. Julie Penrose spent her life supporting the arts, education, health and civic ventures across the state with the fortune that she shared with Spencer.

Two years before Spencer's passing in 1939, the pair founded El Pomar Foundation with the mission to enhance, encourage and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado—a mission the Trustees continue to pursue today. The Trustees of El Pomar established the Julie Penrose Award in 2020 to honor what would have been Mrs. Penrose's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday and to connect her legacy of philanthropy and service to other women throughout Colorado committed to the betterment of their communities.

The Julie Penrose Award committee, comprised of the Foundation's female Trustees, selected Nancy Richardson as the 2022 honoree. Born in Denver, Colorado, Nancy and her husband Curt created Otter Products, LLC in 1998, which is now a leading provider of protective cases for handheld devices in four countries. Nancy also serves as co-founder and board member of Blue Ocean Enterprises, Inc. and Blue Ocean Holdings, LLC—firms dedicated to strategic investments in new businesses and real estate. The mission for all the companies is "We Grow to Give."

In 2010, Nancy founded OtterCares Foundation with the mission of inspiring youth to change the world through philanthropic and entrepreneurial education. Nancy also supports the community through the Richardson Foundation, the family's private philanthropic organization. Additionally, she serves on the board of Rescue Freedom International, a nonprofit organization that empowers the rescue and restoration of women and children suffering in sexual slavery. Nancy previously served on El Pomar Foundation's North Regional Council.

On August 9, 2022, Nancy, her friends and family, El Pomar Trustees and staff, and guests from the community gathered at El Pomar's Penrose House Conference Center in Colorado Springs to celebrate Nancy Richardson and her many philanthropic contributions to the state of Colorado.

**About the Julie Penrose Award**

*The Trustees of El Pomar Foundation established the Julie Penrose Award in 2020 in honor of what would have been Mrs. Penrose's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Award is presented yearly to outstanding women who, like Julie Penrose, have made significant contributions to their communities through their leadership and dedication. [www.elpomar.org/programs/julie-penrose-award/](http://www.elpomar.org/programs/julie-penrose-award/)*

**About El Pomar Foundation**

*El Pomar Foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado. El Pomar contributes approximately \$25 million annually through grants in the areas of health, human services, education, arts and humanities and civic and community initiatives, as well as community stewardship and leadership development programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations. Spencer and Julie Penrose founded El Pomar in 1937 with the mission to enhance, encourage and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado.*

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