

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **El Pomar Foundation Partners with Local Hospital Systems to Underwrite Hospital Employee Appreciation Weeks at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum**

**Colorado Springs, CO – May 11, 2021** -- As an expression of gratitude to hospital healthcare employees in the Pikes Peak Region, El Pomar Foundation’s Trustees approved a special grant to underwrite this laudable group’s admission to Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum (USOPM), over one week at each destination in April and May, respectively.

The program was created as a way to thank these community members who are among those most profoundly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and who have sacrificed the most to ensure that our loved ones have the care, support system and medical attention they need at a uniquely vulnerable time.

“All of us at El Pomar Foundation are grateful for the work done by hospital healthcare workers over the last year. This is one way in which we are able to share our heartfelt thanks,” said CEO and President, Kyle Hybl. “Our founders, Julie and Spencer Penrose, established El Pomar Foundation to enhance, encourage and promote the current and future well-being of the people of Colorado, and with El Pomar’s Trustees’ approval of this gift of thanks, I can imagine our founders would be well pleased.”

The program provided more than 4,500 hospital healthcare workers and their guests with admission at the Zoo and Museum across the two weeks designated as “Hospital Employee Appreciation Week.” Participating institutions were **UC Health’s Memorial, Pikes Peak Regional and Grandview Hospitals; Penrose St. Francis Hospitals; Children’s Hospital Southern Colorado** and **Peak Vista Community Health Centers**.

Lisa Ramey, DO, Peak Vista Interim President and CEO, Chief Medical and Dental Officer, said, “Peak Vista’s doors never closed during the pandemic. Our employees worked hard to be able to provide the care that our patients need where they need it, whether that was COVID-19 testing, telehealth appointments or regularly scheduled check-ups. Throughout it all, our staff never faltered. Peak Vista employees are truly some of the most resilient people that I have ever had the pleasure of working with. To be able to provide this opportunity through El Pomar’s and the Olympic Museum’s generosity is such a wonderful gift.

The grant has underwritten the total cost of admission for hospital healthcare employees, and almost all of the cost for their guests, at both of these iconic Colorado Springs destinations.

“The U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum is thankful for the courageous healthcare workers who work tirelessly to keep our communities safe during these unprecedented times,” added Michelle Dusserre Farrell, OLY 1984 Gymnastics and USOPM Vice President of Athlete Engagement. “We’re honored to host healthcare workers at the Museum during Hospital Employee Appreciation Week.”

In recognition of **National Hospital Week** and **National Nurse’s Week**, the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Museum Hospital Healthcare Employee Appreciation Week is going on now from May 10-16. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo’s Hospital Employee Appreciation Week took place April 12-18.

**About El Pomar Foundation**

*El Pomar Foundation is one of the largest and oldest private foundations in Colorado. El Pomar contributes approximately \$22 million annually through grants and Community Stewardship programs to support Colorado nonprofit organizations involved in health, human services, education, arts and humanities and civic and community initiatives. 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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**USOPM and Hospital/Healthcare System Contacts:**

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