

## YOUTHWORKS *by Anabelle Kollman*

Hi! I'm Anabelle, YouthWorks Council Marketing Coordinator and Mr. Ike Pageant Coordinator. The YouthWorks Council meets once a month and has 30 students representing ten schools. During our meetings we learn from guest speakers about health care and philanthropy in our community. This year the YouthWorks Council will focus our fundraising efforts on Compass Care.

On the pageant side of things, Eisenhower High School is celebrating 25 years of partnering with Children's

Miracle Network and The Memorial Foundation. We have staged multiple fundraisers, including a restaurant takeover at Zesta Cucina. The Mr. Ike pageant is on March 31! Planning and practice are underway for this fun event. This year, nine schools are undertaking pageants to benefit children's health care in our valley. Some of these schools are putting on a pageant for the first time this year. On behalf of the YouthWorks council, I invite you to attend as many pageants as possible. You will be amazed at what the teens of our valley can accomplish!



Find pageant dates and learn more at: [memfound.org/events/youthworks](https://memfound.org/events/youthworks)

## COMPASS CARE

### Dogs and Dignity at End of Life

In mid-2021 a patient at Cottage in the Meadow made a remarkable impression on the Compass Care staff. The patient was in his early 50s.

Death is never easy, but at his age, it was more unexpected than usual. Emily Mobley, Nurse Manager at Cottage in the Meadow says, "Our whole team knew we had a big challenge to meet him where he was and help him work through the progression of his illness." He battled his decline for six months, and slowly he came to terms with the severity of his illness and not going back home, but he was still very anxious. When asked what would help his anxiety, he answered, "I want my dog". He was



surprised when the staff agreed. There was a noticeable difference when his dog, Bella, arrived. He became very content; she gave him a purpose, brought him comfort, and created a point of connection with others that had been missing. He was peaceful at the end of his life, finally free from anxiety about what tomorrow would bring. Dr. Lauer, Compass Care Medical Director,

remembers him saying, "this is the first time in my life that I've ever been treated with dignity by the medical system."

His care team at Cottage in the Meadow was so honored to be the group of people who brought him peace, comfort, trust, and friendship at the end of his life. And Bella has found a loving new home with her human's favorite hospice nurse!

## SAVE THE DATES!

### MAY 20

#### Passion for the Village

Annual dinner and auction fundraiser to support programs and services at Children's Village.

Tickets available at: [passionforthevillage.org](https://passionforthevillage.org)



### SEPTEMBER 16

#### Children's Miracle Network Golf Tournament

Registration opens in mid-March at: [memfound.org/golf](https://memfound.org/golf)





*Pictured: Art, Megan, and Karina, North Star patient advocates*

## CANCER CARE

### Make a Difference, One Car Ride at a Time

Patients undergoing life-changing treatments for cancer and other chronic conditions should be solely focused on healing. For patients with barriers to treatment that may seem trivial to some, that’s where the Patient Assistance Fund comes in. Since joining the team, Arthur Garza, Patient Financial Advocate and Spanish Medical Interpreter at North Star, has connected with and assisted many patients. “The Patient Assistance Fund has been a tremendous help in providing people the assistance they need and quickly,” Garza raves.

One patient who received assistance lives a fair distance away in Ellensburg, Washington. Early in his diagnosis and treatment, this patient was dependent on a friend to drive him to his appointments. Unfortunately, the friend moved to Alaska not long after, leaving him with no way to commute to his appointments.

Through the Patient Assistance Fund, Garza and his team facilitated transportation for this patient to and from North Star Lodge, allowing him to continue treatment without missing a beat. While the patient focused on healing, Garza and his team also navigated the Medicaid system, which covers not just treatment, but also transportation costs.

People like Garza and his team help fuel our passion for ensuring patients have access to the necessary funds so they can focus on what matters most – getting healthy. It’s only thanks to the gracious donors and supporters in our community that these stories are even possible and that those in need can receive treatment without additional worries. Without access to this fund, many people face disruptions or delays to their treatment. You can make a difference and support the patients at North Star Lodge by donating today.

## HEALTHY YAKIMA

### ACT! Get Up Get Moving

Because of COVID, kids in our childhood obesity program, ACT!, were not able to attend in-person classes. So our community education team got creative and had some amazing volunteers make cooking videos. This way we had kids teaching other kids easy ways to incorporate vegetables and fruits into daily meals. Classes are being taught via Zoom and the cooking



videos were made available on Yakima Valley Memorial’s website. Thanks to your gifts, Yakima Valley Memorial was able to provide four cohorts a 12-week session via Zoom focused on nutrition, and a YMCA membership at no cost to all the families enrolled.

## CHILDREN’S HEALTH

The Yakima County Sheriff Department employees and Gesa Credit Union, the Memorial Foundation’s Mission Partner, helped Santa out this Christmas by collecting toys for the kids at Children’s Village and the Yakima Valley Memorial Emergency and Pediatric Units. “We have seen an increase in pediatric patients over the last few weeks,” a nurse from the Emergency Department shared when the toys were delivered, “What a gift to bring Christmas to these kids in the hospital.” One mother shared that she and her husband witnessed their daughter, who was diagnosed with autism, show interest in toys for the first time. This interaction brought great joy and hope to their family, just in time for Christmas.

Thank you Gesa and Yakima County Sheriffs, for going out of your way to help bring joy for this family and for all the other families who made it to the toy giveaway.



### A Gift that Echoes Across the Valley

Your gift to The Memorial Foundation affects countless lives and future generations. A healthier today is a happier tomorrow. Please consider The Memorial Foundation as part of your legacy. For information on including The Memorial Foundation in your will, visit our website:

[memfound.org/get-involved/ways-to-give](https://memfound.org/get-involved/ways-to-give)