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### **Life Quality Institute Becomes Independent Non-Profit Organization to Advance Palliative & End-of-Life Care in Colorado**

The Denver Hospice -- Colorado's largest hospice -- has spun off The Life Quality Institute (LQI), as an affiliated non-profit organization providing education in palliative and end-of-life care to physicians, residents, students, healthcare professionals and caregivers throughout Colorado.

"Incorporating LQI as an affiliated 501(c)3 allows us to expand our education programs targeting our many constituents throughout the Rocky Mountain region who provide palliative and end of life care," said Dan Johnson, M.D., director of LQI and a nationally-renowned palliative care physician-educator. "The Denver Hospice then can continue to focus on the delivery of exceptional end-of-life care as it has done for three decades."

Since its founding five years ago, LQI has provided more than 87,000 hours of education to advance the understanding and administration of palliative care, a team-based approach aimed at relieving physical suffering and maintaining the highest possible quality of life for those with incurable or life-limiting illnesses.

"The Denver Hospice created LQI on the belief that comprehensive education targeting the full spectrum of healthcare professionals, caregivers and the public was the key to advancing clinically, ethically, and culturally appropriate palliative and end-of-life care both in clinical and home-based settings," said Bev Sloan, CEO of The Denver Hospice, whose vision was behind the creation of LQI.

"Studies demonstrate that palliative care results in the improved quality of end-of-life care, increased patient and family satisfaction and decreased medical care costs," said Sloan.

LQI has been instrumental in integrating more than 40 hours of required palliative care education into the University of Colorado School of Medicine curriculum. LQI also provides more than 6,000 hours of palliative care education annually to family and internal medicine physicians and other clinical-based health care professionals.

Additionally, LQI has developed educational programs for nurses, social workers, certified nursing assistants, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, chaplains, dietitians, pharmacists and healthcare professionals in an effort to improve the delivery of palliative care by addressing a range of topics including effective pain and symptom management, ethical and legal issues and communication around end-of-life care communication.

LQI's Share The Care™ and Share the Wisdom initiatives prepare and support Colorado caregivers assisting family members, friends and co-workers to master the caregiving challenges of incurable or progressive diseases.

Share The Care encourages the development of personal networks to advance home-based palliative care and provides tools such as [www.teamcaring.org](http://www.teamcaring.org) to ensure the success of caregiving groups. Share the Wisdom offers education to pastoral caregivers and community liaisons who may be called upon to provide patient and family support and guidance.