

Circle of Care

Our Mission: Circle of Care is dedicated to ending social isolation, hopelessness, and boredom for older adults who often lack financial resources or have limited access and mobility. Circle of Care is an intergenerational elder life-enrichment program, which connects volunteers with senior citizens, to share arts and culture, lifelong learning and social and civic opportunities. We offer complimentary concert/event tickets, transportation and academic scholarships to both the elder and the volunteer, who provides transportation and serves as a “cultural companion.” We are an award-winning program and are deeply grateful to more than 25 community partners who generously donate concert tickets, classes and transportation to serve our most vulnerable citizens. Together we are creating an innovative model to grow and age well in community.

We Serve: Circle of Care serves more than 1,200 Boulder County senior citizens and more than 400 volunteers of all ages. We connect an average of 500 senior citizens a month to dynamic, life enriching resources. Our community partners include The Colorado Music Festival, Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra, Boulder Chamber Orchestra, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Boulder International Film Festival, Boulder Ballet, Sound Circle, Chautauqua Silent Film Series, Boulder Public Library Concert Series, Dairy Center for Arts, Frequent Flyer Productions, Boulder Theater, Parlando’s Broadway in Boulder, Boulder Super Shuttle, Special Transit, CU and Naropa’s Senior Audit program. We provide tickets, companions, transportation and social connections, to community-based senior service programs and organizations, subsidized senior living community residents, homebound elders and their families, Boulder Housing Partners, Section 8 housing residents, Meals on Wheel clients, faith communities, caregivers, senior resource specialists and case managers and home health care agencies. Many baby boomer volunteers participate for free concert tickets and a chance to know their elders. They also hope to ensure such services are available when they are older.

Brief History: Circle of Care was



Circle of Care Founder Joan Raderman, center, poses with Elizabeth Palke, left, and Margaret Leone at the Colorado Music Festival.

founded in June 2004 by Joan Raderman, who was working as an administrator of a senior living community.

“No matter what I did to make it better on the inside, no matter how many plants, guests, activities, good food or pets I brought in, (the seniors) still rarely got to go experience

the sights, sounds, tastes and smell of the outside world, or witness life as it happens, and something slowly changed in them. They shut down,” she says.

The Colorado Music Festival was Circle of Care’s charter partner. More than 400 seniors participated in

the first year. CMF’s participation inspired other organizations to come on board.

Proudest Accomplishment: Circle of Care is the first program of its kind in the country. We have successfully created a thriving partnership between Boulder County’s cultural, academic and civic community and its aging population. The results have been profound in cultivating the strengths and improving the well-being of our older adults. Together, in partnership we are creating a new model for aging well in community.

Greatest Need: We need wisdom, funds and smart growth to move to the next level.

Future Plans: We look forward to building our corporate and community partnerships in Boulder County and beyond. We hope to teach others how to duplicate our model.

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