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Dr. James B. Rector



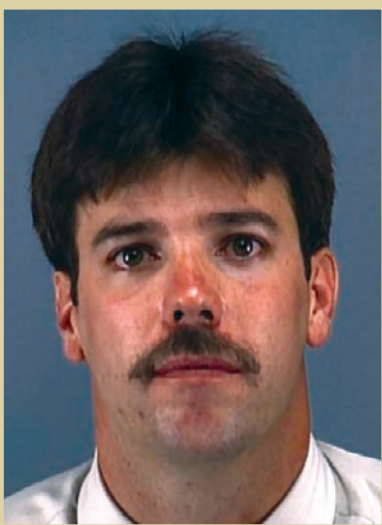
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David Gehant



Richard Cross



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Section B Oct. 31 - Nov. 13, 2008



MICHAEL MYERS

Don Fitzgerald, president of Roche Colorado Corp. in Boulder, encourages employees to partake in the company's wellness program, which each employee can design to fit their personal needs.

Roche Colorado in Boulder sets tone for healthy workers

Wellness program boosts morale, reduces sick days

BY DAVID CLUCAS
Staff Writer

BOULDER – At Roche Colorado Corp. in Boulder, the biopharmaceutical firm looks out for the health of its customers through its medicines. But it also places a high importance on the everyday health of its employees.



“One of the advantages of being a global health-care company is that health is inherently part of our culture,” said Don Fitzgerald, president of Roche Colorado.

For more than a decade – first as Roche's director of human resources and now as its president – Fitzgerald has been improving the company's health and wellness program beyond just insurance.

Due to his efforts, Fitzgerald has won the Boulder County Business Report's 2008 Health-Care Heroes Business Award.

The health insurance at Roche Colo-

rado is comprehensive – complete medical, dental, prescription drug and vision coverage is available to all employees and family members at a low rate. In addition, the company offers free annual physicals, mammograms and other standard health examinations.

“Then we asked ourselves, ‘What else could we do to augment those benefits?’” Fitzgerald said.

The company reimburses health club initiation fees and a portion of monthly membership fees. It promotes bicycle commuting through covered bike parking units and shower facilities. The company has shared bikes on its Boulder campus for employee use.

Even outside the office, Roche Colorado supports its employees' athletic endeavors. The company reimburses employee costs to participate in running and biking races, or sports teams.

More recently, Roche Colorado has increased its efforts to support healthy diets, offering healthy snacks at company events and providing free fruit and vegetables to employees.

It started an employee wellness campaign, which includes weight-loss and smoking-cessation programs, centered on the company's bi-annual wellness fairs.

Fitzgerald said the key for Roche Colo-

► See **Roche, 5B**

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Schueth, HospiceCare help people cope with death

Nonprofit makes end of life more comfortable for those facing terminal illnesses

BY REBECCA COLE
Business Report Correspondent

BOULDER – Most people don't like to talk or think about death — let alone face it on a daily basis.



Started in 1976 as a progressive, grassroots effort to provide a better way for people to die, HospiceCare of Boulder and Broomfield Counties was one of the first hospice-care programs in the country and the first in Colorado.

Darla Schueth, HospiceCare's executive director, is this year's winner of the Boulder County Business Report's Health-Care Heroes Community Service Award.

In 2007 alone the program served 1,200 patients facing the end of life.

Schueth said the nonprofit health-care organization takes care of the basics of dying, including managing the pain and



PETER WAYNE

Darla Schueth, foreground at right, executive director of HospiceCare of Boulder and Broomfield Counties, stands with her team. HospiceCare, a nonprofit health-care organization, helps people and their families cope with dying.

symptoms of terminal illness. Once those are handled, the real work of hospice care begins, including helping people take care of life's business, find spiritual

comfort and peace, and help celebrate and complete their lives.

"This isn't hard work; it's very life-affirming," Schueth said. "The hardest

part of our work is people coming to us with such short lengths of stay as opposed to the opportunity to get to

► See **Schueth, 4B**

it's time *to make it better for them.*



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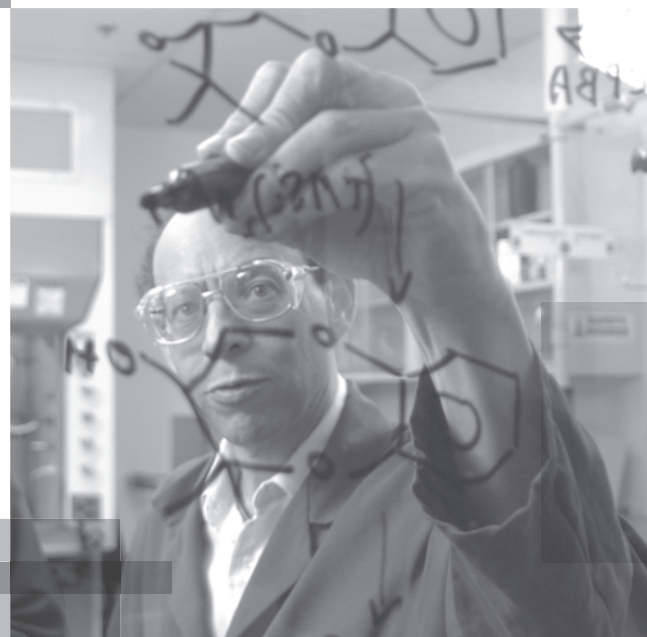
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know people.”

Schueth said about 45 percent of patients treated through HospiceCare are with the program less than seven days, making it difficult to support patients in a meaningful way through hospice rather in a “death-ICU” environment.

“When you’re working with people who are in the end stages of life, all the game faces come off,” Schueth said. “And they get real. They know what’s really meaningful in life. They’re not worried about the stuff you and I are worried about. That’s the juice that drives us.”

David Gehant, chief executive officer of Boulder Community Hospital, nominated Schueth for her work providing compassionate end-of-life care and efforts to educate the community. As a board member, Gehant said he is privy to the outstanding results the program has produced and the high level of confidence it inspires in area physicians.

After taking care of patients, sometimes for years, physicians need to trust the quality of care and communication offered by a hospice program, Gehant said. “That level of assurance is earned with consistently

high performance. It’s something that physicians see and is reinforced each time they refer a patient.”

Gehant said the patient-centered staff at HospiceCare “really stand out not only as highly qualified but very compassionate” and that their integrity and dedication stem from Schueth’s leadership role.

“Darla is both altruistic and realistic,” Gehant said. “Her ability shines through because she’s able to assemble those necessary resources and deliver them at patients’ bedsides in their home.”

In the home is primarily where the

bulk of patient care takes place. Last year, out of 60,000 total days of care, only 2,700 were in the hospital, Schueth said. The interdisciplinary team of clinical professionals — physicians, registered nurses, social workers and faith leaders — ensure a shared dedication to the patient.

“Most people want to die at home surrounded by the things and people they love — where they’re calling the shots,” Schueth said. “We help them come to a natural end rather than making death a medical event.”

Hospice care is covered by insurance, primarily by Medicare. Unlike other health-care entities, hospice programs are responsible for paying for everything related to the terminal illness — equipment, medication and professional visits — without any out-of-pocket charge to the patient.

And no patient is turned away for lack

“They know what’s really meaningful in life. They’re not worried about the stuff you and I are worried about. That’s the juice that drives us.”

Darla Schueth

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
HOSPICECARE OF BOULDER AND BROOM-
FIELD COUNTIES

of insurance, Schueth said.

“We provide the same level of care to everyone. The philanthropic support we get from this very generous community helps us cover the gap between what insurance pays and what it costs us to provide the service and for anybody who doesn’t have insurance.”

Schueth said out of the organization’s annual \$13 million budget, \$1 million comes from philanthropic support. It has offices in Boulder, Longmont, Lafayette and Louisville.

Last January, a few members of the team joined Schueth on a trip to Tanzania to visit Bumbuli Lutheran Hospital Hospice and Palliative Care Program. Partnered with the program since 2006, HospiceCare of Boulder and Broomfield Counties shares friendship, affirmation and best practices with the small African hospice organization.

“While they don’t have the same standard of living that we do, there’s a lot to be said about community spirit,” she said. “I was just amazed at how supportive they are with so few resources.”

Schueth said there’s so much that can be done for people at the end of life to help people celebrate and complete their lives in a meaningful way. “When you think about it, we only get one chance at dying well.”

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ROCHE from **2B**

rado is to offer a wide variety of options for employees to improve their everyday health.

“Everyone has the opportunity to design their own wellness program,” he said.

Shawn Bleam, Roche Colorado’s manager of information technology, said the company’s wellness program is a big incentive.

“One of the advantages of being a global health-care company is that health is inherently part of our culture.”

Don Fitzgerald

PRESIDENT,
ROCHE COLORADO CORP.

“Health and wellness is why I moved to Boulder,” Bleam said. “My family only owns one car – my wife uses it for the kids – so it was important to me to be able to bike to work most days. The other days, I take the bus.”

Bleam also takes advantage of the company’s health club membership reimbursements, going two to three times a week to the East Boulder Recreation Center in the middle of his workday.

“I think a program like this is criti-



COURTESY ROCHE COLORADO

Roche Colorado reimburses employee costs to participate in running and biking races, or sports teams.

cal to a healthy working environment,” Bleam said. “It’s very consistent with the life I want to live.”

Fitzgerald said most companies can easily institute wellness programs at

little cost.

“A lot of it is in distributing information, which is usually free, or just encouraging a more healthy lifestyle with some incentives,” Fitzgerald said. “In the long

run, it makes for a more positive working environment and fewer sick days.”

Contact writer David Clucas at 303-440-4950 or e-mail dclucas@bcbr.com.

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Rector one of hippest surgeons in Boulder Valley

Expert in new surgical procedure also serves as team doctor, mentor

BY LYLA D. HAMILTON
Business Report Correspondent

BOULDER – “He’s a top-notch physician and a top-notch human being,” said David Gehant, chief executive officer of Boulder Community Hospital, who nominated orthopedic surgeon Dr. James B. Rector for the Boulder County Business Report’s 2008 Health-Care Heroes Distinguished Service Award. “It was an easy nomination to make,” he added.

“I’ve known Jim for almost 21 years. He’s smart, energetic, committed to his profession and committed to serving his fellow human beings,” Gehant said.

Rector, of Boulder Orthopedics, has practiced in Boulder since 1979. In nomi-



JONATHAN CASTNER

Dr. James B. Rector has completed more than 200 hip resurfacing procedures for patients from across Colorado as well as New Mexico, Wyoming and Nebraska. Not only is he a pioneering expert in the new procedure, he also serves the community as a team doctor and mentor to students.



nating him, Gehant wrote that the surgeon has “relieved the terrible pain of thousands of local people who needed hip or knee replacement.”

In 2006, when U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the Birmingham Hip Resurfacing System, Rector was the first Colorado surgeon to use this innovative alter-

native to hip replacement. He was already trained in the procedure because he had anticipated that the FDA would follow the lead of the European medical community,

which began using the approach in 1997.

Rector has completed more than 200 hip resurfacing procedures for patients from across Colorado as well as New

Mexico, Wyoming and Nebraska.

Hip resurfacing, which is generally appropriate for younger, healthy and

► See **Rector, 11B**



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Crist, Weil responded to crisis in nick of time

Off-duty deputy, ranger helped save woman freezing in mountains

BY RYAN DIONNE
Staff Writer

BOULDER – Neither Bill Crist nor Mike Weil set out to be heroes on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2007.

Then again, a hero doesn't try to become one. It just happens.

Crist, a Boulder County Sheriff's Office deputy was leaving the Boulder County Justice Center at about 4:30 p.m. when he heard an emergency dispatch in regard to a woman needing help in the Mount Sanitas area.



Weil, a now-retired Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks ranger naturalist, heard the same call.

He was about to leave work to help celebrate his son's 19th birthday, but since he was relatively close to the emergency, he headed the same direction as Crist.

"It was treacherous driving," Weil said.



JONATHAN CASTNER

Bill Crist, left, a deputy with the Boulder County Sheriff's Office, and Mike Weil, a now-retired Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks ranger naturalist, helped save a woman's life in 2007. They responded to an emergency while off duty and made sure the 25-year-old woman, who was wandering around a mountain naked during the winter, made it down safely.

"It was a nasty storm, and the roads were actually snow packed and slippery."

It was their fast response while off

duty that earned Crist and Weil the Boulder County Business Report's 2008 Health-Care Heroes Emergency Services

Award. They were nominated by Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle.

As both men vividly recall, there were

► See **Crisis, 11B**

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Gehant led BCH through series of expansions

Hospital CEO helped add new facilities, programs during two-decade tenure

BY BOB McGOVERN
Managing Editor

BOULDER – For more than two decades, David Gehant has worked to make Boulder a healthier place to live.

Gehant, chief executive officer of Boulder Community Hospital, came to Boulder from South Dakota in 1987 and has since led the hospital through several major expansions. His “vision and financial savvy” have made the transitions seamless and successful, said Ron Secrist, president of the Boulder Community Hospital Foundation.

“He has the ability to size up the environment and to take advantage of opportunities when they are most beneficial for the organization he leads,”



Secrist said. “This community hospital has really benefitted under his 20 years of leadership.”

Due to his success as chief executive of Boulder Community Hospital, Gehant has won the Boulder County Business Report’s 2008 Health-Care Heroes Professional Award. He was nominated by Secrist.

“I feel very humbled and very happy. I’m glad I got (the award), and I hope I can always live up to the community’s expectations serving as the chief executive for their community hospital,” Gehant said.

When Gehant first came to Boulder, there were two hospitals in the city – Boulder Community and the Memorial Hospital. In 1989 he helped Boulder Community purchase Memorial Hospital – now Mapleton Memorial – and incorporate all the employees, Secrist said.

“Sometimes takeovers and acquisitions can be very divisive, and I think he worked hard at welcoming and making the people in that facility feel comfortable,” Secrist said.

In the late 1990s, Gehant worked to build the Community Medical Center in Lafayette, which officially opened its



MICHAEL MYERS

David Gehant, chief executive officer of Boulder Community Hospital, has received the 2008 Health-Care Heroes award in the Professional category for his 20 years of service in guiding the community hospital through several expansions.

doors in 2001. At the time the facility was the only hospital in the area, but it now operates near Exempla Good Samaritan Hospital and “still sees growth in a new and competitive field,” Secrist said.

“That’s a tribute to the people who are out there and Dave’s vision.”

The 50,000-square-foot center was built to provide medical care to the residents of Lafayette, Louisville, Superior, Broomfield and Erie.

After the construction of the Community Medical Center, Gehant saw there was a need for a hospital in east Boulder and began to work toward building Boul-

der Community Foothills Hospital – a 60-bed hospital that opened in 2003.

“That is another one where Dave, through his vision, saw that Boulder was growing to the east and knew we needed to provide more services in the area,” Secrist said. “It has been exceptionally well received and financially successful.”

Most recently, Gehant worked with community members to construct the Tebo Family Medical Pavilion. The pavilion, an outpatient cancer-care center at Boulder Community Hospital’s Foothills campus, largely was funded by the community.

“He didn’t want people to have to leave to community to get better cancer care. He wanted to have it right here,” Secrist said. “He saw a wonderful opportunity to have the community participate in this endeavor. Half of the costs were raised through community giving, and that allowed us to put together the building in a very financially positive way.”

Aside from the major facility additions, Gehant is proud of adding an expanded autism program and achieving Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, certification for the Foothills Hospital. He said it was the first “green” hospital in the

“I think Boulder is an outstanding community where citizens really care for each other.”

David Gehant

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
BOULDER COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

country.

He said having a nonprofit hospital is also rewarding.

“I really believe in having a nonprofit hospital, and we’ve been able to maintain that status for our community, and it’s locally governed,” he said. “It’s not like one of those big chains where all of the decisions are made remotely. All the decisions are made here by community representatives who comprise our board. They all serve on the board without compensation.

“I think Boulder is an outstanding community where citizens really care for each other. People are compassionate and so is our care here.”

Gehant recently went back to school to get his doctorate in health-care administration from the Medical University of South Carolina. He went back to “make sure I was on the top of my game.”

“Here’s a gentleman who has been at this location for 20 years and has been in the field for about 30 to 35 years,” Secrist said. “He decided he wasn’t going to just stand still – he wanted to commit to increase his education and abilities.”

Contact writer Bob McGovern at 303-440-4950 or email bmcgovern@bcbr.com.

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Lehnhoff works her magic behind scenes in lab

Microbiology technician finds providing doctors with best choice of antibiotics rewarding

BY DOUG STORUM
Editor

LONGMONT – The next time your doctor pulls out his Rx pad and scribbles a prescription that brings you back to health, think about the technician who had a hand in coming up the drug of choice.

Hidden from the patient's sight is a team of people at clinics and hospitals that runs the tests on tissue and blood cultures and provides a list to your doctor of what antibiotics have the best chance of beating the problem.

The information is only as good as the people who provide it, and June Lehnhoff plays a big part as the lead technologist in the Microbiology Department at Longmont United Hospital.



Jean Pazour, a laboratory safety specialist at the hospital, has witnessed first hand the attention to detail Lehnhoff applies to each test situation and how she inspires her team to provide the best information possible to doctors.

For her dedication, Lehnhoff is the recipient of the Boulder County Business Report's 2008 Health-Care Heroes Support Services Award.

Lehnhoff's team of four technologists receives anywhere from 50 to 100 cultures per day. While time is of the essence, getting it right is most important.

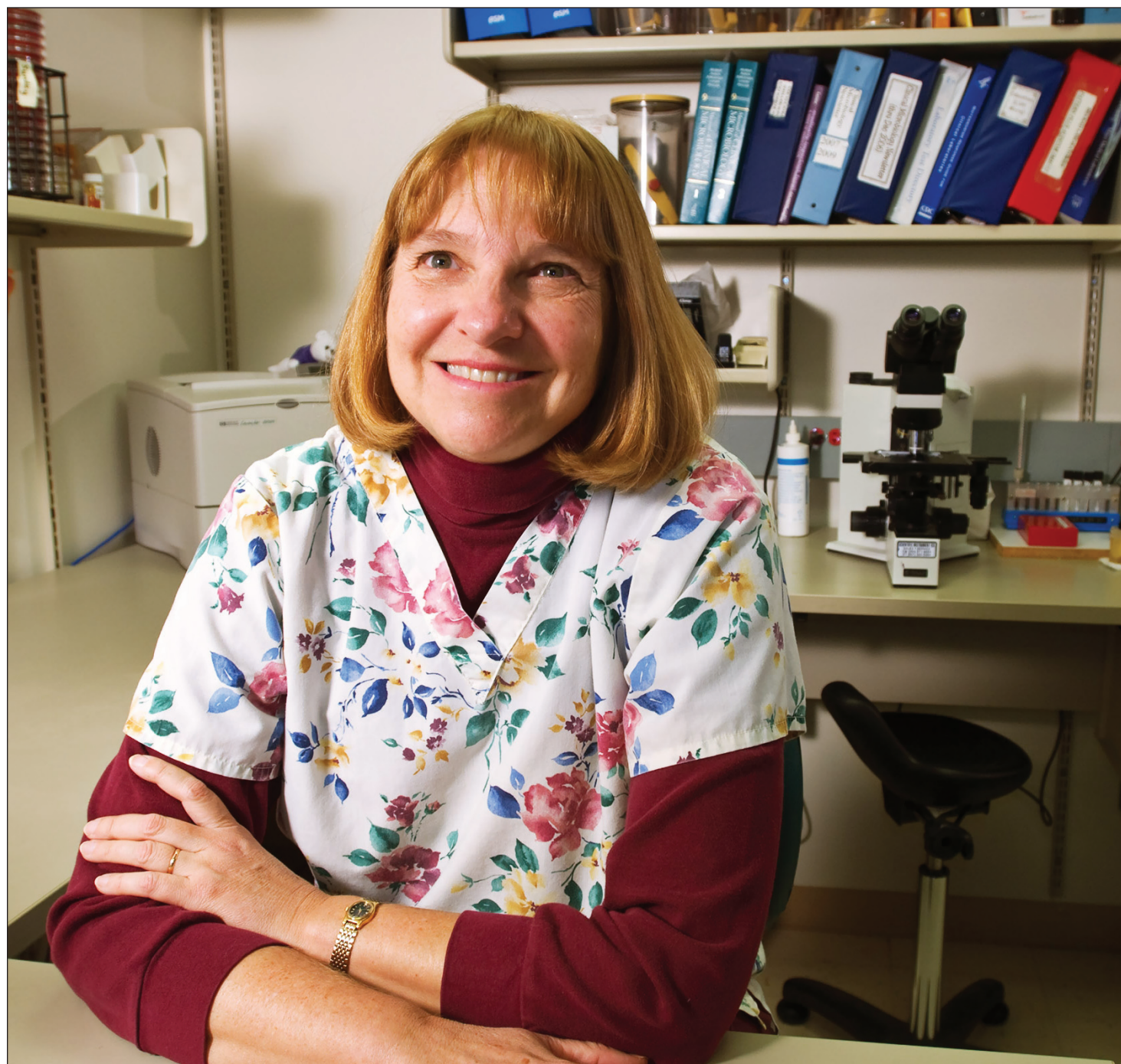
"When we make our reports to doctors we have to make sure to advise them if a culture has been compromised for whatever reason, and may have to request a second culture," she said. Lehnhoff said that doesn't always sit well with doctors, but maintaining the integrity of the process is critical to a patient safety. "Some tests take time, and we can't rush that," she said.

Lehnhoff has been a laboratory microbiologist for 20 years, the last five and one-half at Longmont United and the last four as a lead technologist.

"June has made numerous important changes in the microbiology laboratory to assure that patients are given the proper treatment for resistant organisms," Pazour said. "Because she always thinks of patient welfare first and foremost, she keeps abreast of the latest information in the battle against bugs. She is eager to work with and sometimes to stand up to medical-care professionals and others who are unhappy with or don't understand such changes."

Her willingness to try to make changes in the face of adversity makes Lehnhoff a real hero, Pazour said.

Lehnhoff said having supportive



JONATHAN CASTNER

June Lehnhoff, the lead technologist in the Microbiology Department at Longmont United Hospital, runs tests on tissue and blood cultures and provides a list of appropriate antibiotics to doctors. Lehnhoff is the recipient of the Boulder County Business Report's 2008 Health-Care Heroes Support Services Award.

“In my book, June is a real hero who has helped many patients as back up for the front line of physicians and nurses and other professionals. Even though June doesn't deal directly with patients, she helps them every day.”

Jean Pazour

LABORATORY SAFETY SPECIALIST,
LONGMONT UNITED HOSPITAL

supervisors has allowed her to improve the testing and recommendation process. "My supervisors and the hospital are very proactive in providing me with the resources that are needed to affect change," she said. "This wouldn't be possible without great cooperation. The hospital provides us with new equipment and places a high priority on education."

Lehnhoff often sends her co-workers to conferences given by world-renowned doctors and other professionals in the field. These are the doctors who write

the books, the FDA powers-that-be who make the decisions and Centers for Disease Control heads who see the latest trends in infectious disease. She accepts information brought back from such meetings and uses this education to improve the lab at the hospital.

"We spend a lot of time updating our databases with the most current information on changes," Lehnhoff said.

"June is willing and able to work with others to affect these changes," Pazour said.

Lehnhoff started her career in microbiology in Colorado at The Children's Hospital in Denver in the late 1980s and has also worked at Avista Adventist Hospital and North Suburban Hospital.

The biggest challenges in the microbiology field, she said, are that many microorganisms have developed resistant to various antibiotics, a serious problem in the medical field. The organism/antibiotic war is ongoing and dangerous for hospitalized patients.

"After we do a panel, we recommend to doctors what the best antibiotic would be. We limit the number of antibiotics. Overusing one runs the risk of the organism developing a resistance to it."

Lehnhoff also has volunteered with Meals on Wheels for many years. She also served in the Peace Corps in Ghana during the 1970s.

"In my book, June is a real hero who has helped many patients as backup for the front line of physicians and nurses and other professionals," Pazour said. "Even though June doesn't deal directly with patients, she helps them every day."

Contact writer Doug Storum at 303-440-4950 or e-mail dstorum@bcbr.com.

Cross volunteers to help Jamaicans see clearly

Optometrist donates time, energy to those needing eye exams, education

BY HEATHER MCWILLIAMS
Business Report Correspondent

LONGMONT – Richard Cross, a Longmont resident, changes the way people see the world, and for hundreds of Jamaicans, he does it for free.

Recipient of the Boulder County Business Report's 2008 Health-Care Heroes Volunteer Award, Cross, an optometrist, began treating patients in Jamaica as a part of a larger medical mission in 1996.

He was overwhelmed by the need he encountered.



"We could only physically get through about 100 patients a day so we agreed to come back the next year and get to see some of the people we had to turn away," Cross said of his first medical mission to Jamaica.

The power of the experience moved Cross to cofound the Eye Health Institute Inc. with a colleague and college friend, Joseph Myers of Michigan. The institute, founded in 2001, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing vision relief for Jamaicans in need.

Cross, whose mother is Jamaican, and other volunteers with the Eye Health Institute have since returned to Jamaica yearly, bringing with them donated eye glasses, equipment and an experienced team who spend long hours in sometimes difficult conditions helping people see better.

Lisa McAlister, a former neighbor of Cross', traveled to Jamaica as a volunteer with the Eye Health Institute in 2004. Her experience watching Cross with the patients, coupled with what she saw of his work back home, prompted her to nominate Cross for the Health-Care Heroes award.

"He's amazing. He's such a good listener, and he's so patient," said McAlister, a Boulder resident and owner of a private publishing company. "And he's so modest about what he does."

McAlister knew Cross for a while before he mentioned his work in Jamaica; something McAlister admires in him.

"I have a lot of respect for people who don't help in the way that's trendy or easy or usual," McAlister said. Volunteers donate their time and travel expenses, and the Eye Health Institute raises money with events such as the Reggae on the Creek music festival or through donations at www.eyehalthinstitute.org.

Cross kept his patient, helpful, humble demeanor despite sometimes difficult conditions during the Jamaican medi-



COURTESY EYE HEALTH INSTITUTE

Optometrist Richard Cross volunteers his time to give eye exams to people in Jamaica. The Longmont resident co-founded the Eye Health Institute, the nonprofit through which he volunteers his time.

cal mission for which McAlister volunteered.

"We would travel up to some of the more rural areas. It's very bad road conditions, and the housing is like what you would imagine in a Third World

Many don't realize how bad their vision has gotten.

Vision screening isn't routine at schools in Jamaica, either, and some children miss out on their education as a result.

"We've had kids that were thought to

needed surgeries. Lack of eye-health education leaves some older patients wondering why they can't see. Cataract surgeries, which can restore vision in a day, seem like a miracle. Some see their children's faces again for the first time in years.

Cross finds the immediacy of treating his Jamaican patients rewarding and almost "addictive." It also gives him the chance to give back to others and connect with the "global community."

Cross feels fortunate to practice optometry in his Gun barrel-based Boulder Vision Associates practice but likes the break the missions to Jamaica offer him. His time in Jamaica teaches him important truths about life.

"I like working with people in Jamaica. They remind me that I need a whole lot less to be happy," Cross said, and the Jamaicans appreciate people from the U.S. coming to help.

He traveled in July for a short mission, and the Eye Health Institute's annual trip is scheduled for November. Trips made possible by generous people, Cross said.

"I guess the main thing I want to say is I'm extremely surprised and pleased and so proud of the generosity of the people who have volunteered from Boulder and Michigan ... It's great to see how selfless and compassionate my fellow citizens are."

“I like working with people in Jamaica. They remind me that I need a whole lot less to be happy.”

Richard Cross

CO-FOUNDER,
EYE HEALTH INSTITUTE INC.

country. One time we had no electricity, and it's stifling hot," McAlister said. Regardless of the conditions, Cross sees close to 500 patients in a week on the trips.

The Eye Health Institute coordinates with the Jamaican Health Department, local churches and rotary clubs to set up clinic locations in advance and to let people know they are coming.

Word spreads, and people travel long distances to see Cross and his team.

be mentally impaired, and the only thing that was holding them back was the poor vision," Cross said.

In one instance, a boy whose teachers and family thought him mentally handicapped turned out to be nearsighted. When given glasses – a donated, used pair Cross almost didn't bring – the boy began reading from the board.

Cross also identifies patients with cataracts and arranges for some of them to get

Experts offer insights at 'Pulse – the State of Health Care'

Panel discussion precedes
'Health-Care Heroes' program

BY BUSINESS REPORT STAFF

BOULDER – Some of the region's top medical executives will highlight "Pulse – the State of Health Care," a luncheon event presented by the Boulder County Business Report on Nov. 6.

The panel will discuss trends in health care in Boulder and Broomfield counties, with an outlook for 2009.

"Pulse – the State of Health Care" will precede the fourth annual Health-Care Heroes program, which will present awards in seven categories. The event will occur from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Boulder Country Club, 7350 Clubhouse Road in Boulder.

"Health care is one of the most important issues of our day," said Christopher Wood, publisher of the Boulder County Business Report. "We look forward to hearing from our panel about expansions and new offerings at their own medical facilities, as well as their thoughts on



Edmonds



Ehrenberger



Hamm



Harrington



Moran

where the industry is headed in 2009.

Panelists include:

- Daryl Edmonds, general manager, CIGNA HealthCare.
- David Ehrenberger, chief medical officer, Avista Adventist Hospital, Louisville.
- David Hamm, president & CEO, Exempla Good Samaritan Medical Center, Lafayette.
- Jeff Harrington, vice president of finance and network of care, The Children's Hospital.
- Mike Moran, chief quality officer,

Boulder Community Hospital.

After the panel discussion, Health-Care Heroes awards will be presented in the following categories:

Business Award: Honors a business or company wellness program, healthy work environment, ergonomics program or other health-related activities.

Community Service: Honors an individual or organization for leadership in focusing on a particular health-care issue.

Distinguished Service: Honors a health-care professional for at least 20

years of service in the health-care industry.

Emergency Service: Any organization or person who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in a lifesaving endeavor.

Professional Award: Honors a health-care administrator who has displayed excellence within their organization.

Support Services: Honors an individual in medical support services, such as pharmacists, physician assistants, nurses, researchers, technicians, etc. for outstanding contributions to health-care profession.

Volunteer Award: Honors an individual or organization for leadership in focusing on a particular health-care issue in a volunteer capacity.

Sponsors of "Pulse – the State of Health Care" and "Health-Care Heroes" include Toyota, Boulder Community Hospital, Caplan and Earnest LLC, CIGNA HealthCare, Roche Colorado, Insight Lasik and The Mental Health Center Serving Boulder and Broomfield Counties.

Individual tickets are available for \$40, with corporate tables available for \$350. Registration is available online at www.bcbcr.com, or by calling 303-440-4950.

RECTOR from 6B

more active patients with hip arthritis, recaps the ball of the hip joint and puts a new metal lining in the socket.

This involves removing less bone than conventional hip replacement and offers enhanced stability and range of motion. In time, some patients can resume high-impact sports including jogging and skiing, activities not recommended for hip replacement patients.

According to Gehant, Rector has performed the procedure more than any other surgeon in Colorado and ranks among the top 10 nationally.

Gehant has personal experience with Rector's orthopedic expertise.

"When my daughter broke her finger playing soccer, he treated her in the emergency room," he said. Rector treated another one of Gehant's daughters who injured her shoulder while playing volleyball.

Rector, who describes orthopedics as "a fabulous field," likes the variety it offers. "I get to deal with all age groups," he pointed out. His patients range from youngsters with fractures to adult athletes with sports injuries to the elderly who need total joint replacement to regain their mobility.

"I get to help people get through one problem at a time — solve it and go on with their healthy active lives. I get to see the results of my efforts," he said.

He also has patients he's seen at various times for different problems. "It's one fixable problem after another, not something chronic," he said.

He also relishes the opportunity to become well versed and experienced in new approaches to medicine.

Rector praises Boulder Community Hospital for its embrace of innovation.

"There are only two places in Colorado that do hip resurfacing surgery in any volume, and Boulder Community is one of them. That's very impressive for a small community hospital," he said.

Rector shares his enthusiasm for orthopedics with University of Colorado students interested in medical school, inviting them to his office and even into the operating room. New professionals in family practice or internal medicine sometimes spend a month with him. "It's fun to expose other people to orthopedics," he said.

Sandy Bracken, chairman of the board at Boulder Community Hospital, is impressed by Rector's skill and experience as well as his personal approach. Bracken, who underwent hip resurfacing in early October, said he had known Rector only by reputation before that.

"I found his manner engaging, warm, personable and extremely professional," Bracken said. "He's a pretty understated person with a quiet demeanor, but at the same time he creates confidence in the outcome, in the quality of life that will result."

On the eve of his first office visit following the surgery, Bracken said he was making steady progress, walking daily and experiencing increased movement and flexibility.

For 29 years, Rector has been team doctor for the Boulder High School football squad. His practice, Boulder Orthopedics, sponsors the annual Buffalo Bicycle Classic, which raises funds for CU-Boulder's College of Arts and Sciences.

An avid bicyclist, Rector has participated several times in Ride the Rockies. He also enjoys fly-fishing and competes nationally in trap shooting.

Born and raised in Ohio, he met his wife, Susan, now a retired radiologist, when they were undergraduates at Ohio Wesleyan University. Their daughter, Jessica, 22, graduated from Boulder High School and Whitworth University in Spokane, Wash.

Rector completed medical school at Ohio State University College of Medicine and his internship at Ohio State University Hospital. He did his orthopedic surgery residency at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

CRISIS from 7B

about 6 inches of snow on the ground and the strong wind made the 14-degree weather worse.

When the two men arrived at the trailhead, they knew the situation required them to begin searching for the 25-year-old woman who was wandering around the mountain naked.

"Given the conditions and the fact that I knew we had additional emergency personnel coming, I felt we needed to make a quick initial search," Weil said, and Crist agreed.

They grabbed some gear, most of which Weil had in an emergency backpack in his vehicle, and started up the mountain.

"We couldn't see the trail," Crist said.

On their way up, a man, who first called 911 reporting the situation, was coming down and advised Weil and Crist about the woman's general location.

By the time the two men found her, she was with another hiker who had given her a jacket. But she wasn't doing too well.

She was shivering and could barely speak.

"She was semi-coherent," Weil said. "She couldn't really tell us who she was." And her feet were turning black.

"I just had a sick feeling," Crist said. "Mostly because of her bare feet. I'll never forget her feet. They were black black as night."

After Weil gave her some rain pants, a hat and put some blankets around her, the two men tried to get her down the mountain. But she could barely walk.

"When we would stop I took one look at her feet, and they were cut up and bloody," Crist said.

They tried carrying her, but the trail was too steep and slippery to do so safely. Instead they methodically walked her down the mountain until they met more rescuers.

The rescue teams put her in a litter (a type of stretcher sans wheels designed for

rugged terrain) and transported her down the mountain to an awaiting ambulance.

Crist, who developed a bond with the woman, stayed with her for a few hours at the hospital trying to find out who she was, where she lived and to act as a liaison between the woman, doctors and other emergency personnel.

"She didn't want me to leave her," Crist said.

That Saturday was the first episode the woman experienced of a mental disorder she didn't know she had, Crist later discovered.

"It kind of didn't hit until later on: Wow! That was kind of intense," Crist said.

Pelle said it was a great example of two emergency personnel coming together to save a life.

While many more people helped rescue the woman, including the man who called 911 and the hiker who first wrapped her in a jacket, Crist and Weil assessed the situation and acted quickly after putting in a full day at work.

"We didn't delay. We arrived, and we went," Weil said. "That's our job."

Weil, who retired in May after four years as a ranger and about 30 in the city's environmental affairs and enforcement division, said he's helped with many search and rescue missions, but this incident is one that he'll always remember.

"This is probably the best example of my career of helping somebody," he said.

Crist won't forget it either. "It was just one of those calls for me I just couldn't shake," Crist said.

Neither of them wanted to be a hero. They were simply doing their job, and the outcome was saving a woman's life.

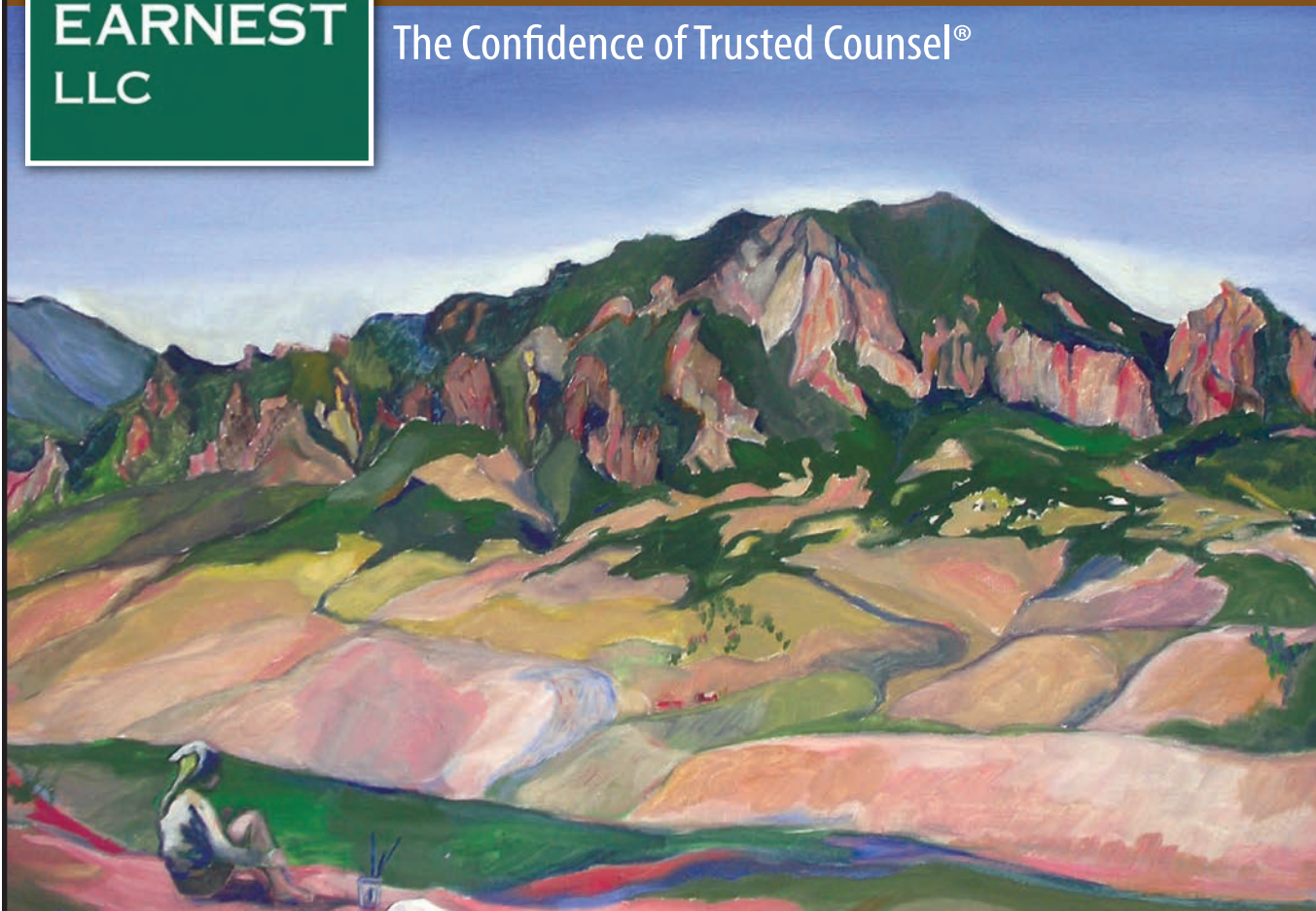
"It's my job, and I'm out here to help people," Crist said. "And sometimes you don't know what you're going to get into."

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