

**For Immediate Release**

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**Healing Waters Foundation Elects New Officers**

A new slate of officers was elected by the Healing Waters Foundation Board of Directors at its September meeting. Officers include Gerald C. McIntosh, MD of Fort Collins – Board Chairman, Richard E. Desko of Estes Park – Vice Chairman, Heidi Rothberg of Allenspark – Secretary, and Sanford Lerner, CPA of Estes Park – Treasurer; they will serve the Foundation during its 2007 fiscal year. Other members of the Board of Directors include Rosemary Donahue of Allenspark, Helen Pratkelis of Estes Park and ex-officio member Nancy Follender of Loveland.

Healing Waters Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 2005 by Anne Slack, PT, owner of Mountaintop Physical Therapy, to provide physical rehabilitation services through state-of-the-art hydrotherapy. Anne also serves as Executive Director of Healing Waters. The Foundation's mission is to promote the rehabilitation of people to their maximum functional level of independence.

Fulfilling this mission will involve the eventual purchase of a hydrotherapeutic pool which, in addition to traditional warm water jet massages, includes a floor that can be raised and lowered to accommodate even patients in wheel chairs, adjustable water level, a treadmill and heart rate monitors. It also includes underwater cameras and monitors that are especially beneficial to brain injury patients who can often learn to walk again as this visual feedback helps the brain regain control of the body. This advanced hydrotherapy has been demonstrated to benefit patients with other injuries and conditions such as neurological disorders, arthritis, stroke, chronic pain and more.

This pool will be unique – there is no other pool of its type in Colorado. Anne's patients requiring intensive hydrotherapy have previously had to travel to Utah for this advanced treatment. The pool will raise the level of medical care available to residents of not only Estes Park but Northern Colorado, the state and the region. Practitioners will have access to the pool for their patients for physical and/or occupational therapy. Fees will be on a sliding scale, based on ability to pay. The Board of Healing Waters Foundation envisions developing the facility into a center for aquatic rehabilitation, hydrotherapy resources and conferences, which will provide funds to help sustain the facility and the organization as well as benefitting the local economy.

The pool will also be a memorial to one of Anne's former patients, Alan Follender, MD, a neurologist who suffered a traumatic brain injury as a result of a bicycle-motor vehicle accident in 2000. Follender and his family had long-time ties to Estes Park and after his death in 2004 his wife, Nancy, made a substantial donation in her husband's memory to go towards purchase of a hydrotherapeutic pool and the development of a hydrotherapy rehabilitation program. Healing Waters has also applied for several grants and is accepting donations to fund various aspects of the development of the center and program.

So that the services of Healing Waters Foundation can be made available to the public sooner a smaller hydrotherapy pool will be purchased initially. It has a fixed floor with a treadmill and can be installed in an existing space without building an entire new building. The organization is currently finalizing requirements and costs for construction modifications necessary to accommodate the pool.

For more information on the Healing Waters Foundation, the hydrotherapy center or its services, or to make a tax-deductible donation please contact executive director, Annie Slack, at 970-577-8200.

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