

## Molly's Story



I am both thrilled and humbled that Molly and I have been selected as DPP team of the month as I am in awe of the work done by the membership.

As my retirement approached, I began looking for ways to fulfill two of my dreams. The first one was easy. I found a pottery studio that offered classes for beginners. The second was more complex. I wanted a therapy dog. A partner for making hospice visits, a friend and partner to fill my home.

I found Molly at the Dumb Friends League. She was seven weeks old and appears to be a Border Collie/Corgi mix. After puppy school we found the

Delta Society, then Denver Pet Partners. Under their guidance we passed our evaluation for complex visits.

We are affiliated with Hospice of Saint John and visit two nursing homes in Castle Rock weekly. The hospice clients are only a small number of the people we visit there. Most of the residents living in nursing homes and the staff are anxious to see Molly. She slips between wheelchairs, and puts her paws up on padded knees. I often hear, "I always had a dog but it has been years since I have been able to pet one." Some of my most memorable hospice visits have been with the family members of a patient who is in the process of dying. Their time spent with Molly is time free of grief.



This past year we have been invited to a second location. Pine Grove Elementary is a totally different type of visit. Molly and I focus on three wonderful third grade boys. Walking her, reading to her and, working with her commands are some of our activities. Molly loves the busy hallways, the crowded classrooms, and the attention from the facility. Both Molly and I enjoy the change of pace.

I am so glad that we can make both types of visits and Molly appears to be equally happy in each setting. No matter how many lives life's she touches I know that mine is the most enriched and, yes, I am still making pottery!

