



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **PALISADE HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM DONATES \$1,800 TO FAMILY HEALTH WEST FOUNDATION**

The Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) recommends high school volleyball programs in the state recognize National Breast Cancer Awareness month at a home match in October. The Palisade High School volleyball program started their Breast Cancer Awareness recognition in 2007 by simply wearing pink jerseys and playing in honor or in memory of a person who has survived or lost the battle to Breast Cancer. In 2009, Palisade volleyball decided to not just increase awareness but to take action and started actively raising money. They made their first donation of \$1,000 to a breast cancer fund with the American Cancer Society. Since that time, the volleyball program has continued to donate every year but has decided to keep their donations in the Grand Valley. Palisade volleyball has donated over \$13,500 to local charitable organizations and causes since 2009, with \$12,500 going to local breast cancer patients.

One of the players father, Dr. Michael Neste, is on the front line of diagnosing patients with breast cancer as the Director of Radiology at Colorado Canyons Hospital & Medical Center in Fruita, a service of Family Health West. The \$1,800 donation, which is the second year in a row they have chosen the Family Health West Foundation, will be used for patients with little or no insurance that cannot pay for either a mammogram or a needed procedure such as a breast biopsy. The Foundation currently has a program, the Aspen Fund, for reduced cost and flexible payment plans, but these funds will be able to reduce their expense (and stress) to the patients even further. Since establishing this fund over a year ago, dozens of patients have been helped with imaging or procedures related to breast cancer screening and diagnosis. Without this fund, some would never have the ability to be screened.

The team has donated to both St. Mary's and Community Hospital in the past and recognizes that breast cancer does not discriminate on which hospital a patient chooses or is obligated to attend.

Family Health West staff will be at Palisade High School Tuesday, October 30, 2018 at 3:30pm to meet the team and receive the check. All will be available for interviews.

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### **About Colorado Canyons Hospital & Medical Center a service provided by Family Health West**

Colorado Canyons Hospital & Medical Center is a full-service Critical Access Hospital designed to meet the growing healthcare needs of our community. The non-profit hospital is the only Medicare swing bed facility in the Grand Valley, which can immediately switch a hospital room from acute care status to skilled care status. Being a designated Critical Access Hospital with 24/7 Level IV Trauma and emergency care, allows Colorado Canyons provide a more focused level of care to patients through both inpatient and outpatient services. Located in the heart of Fruita, Family Health West has been serving the healthcare needs of the Lower Valley since 1946 by additionally offering surgical services; comprehensive imaging; arthritis care; infusion services; neurosurgery; podiatry; orthopedics and sports medicine; outpatient procedures; pain management; integrative rehabilitation; physical, speech and occupational therapies for adults and pediatrics; wound healing; access clinic; assisted and secure assisted living. For more information on services, please call (970) 858-3900 or visit [www.fhw.org](http://www.fhw.org).