

## Learning from Last Year

*Marillac continues to assess the impact of the pandemic on our patients and operations. We are learning to adapt to the 'new' that was caused by the pandemic's upheaval. As we reflect on the past year, we'd like to share some successes that were made possible by your support.*

- **Marillac stayed open throughout the statewide shut-down from March through May**, providing care to our patients as well as emergency dental care to anyone.
- **Staff learned new skills**, like how to use Telehealth (from 0 to 3000 appointments in 2020), how to breathe and talk through masks all day long, and how to perform COVID testing in parking lots as well as exam rooms.
- **We made changes that increased safety**, like installing air sanitizer units in lobbies and exam rooms, creating outdoor seating in summer and winter, building a negative pressure room at the Main Clinic, and redirecting patient access and flow to the clinics and exam rooms.
- **Our staff reassured a lot of scared patients and sometimes fellow staff, our families and friends, and our community.**
- **The number of Marillac patients who frequently choose to use the Emergency Room for chronic care decreased by 24%.**
- **Patient participation in the Chronic Care Management Program remained strong.**
- **We learned that people are more likely to be tested and vaccinated when we go to them**, so we added locations for COVID testing and vaccine administration.

*The pivot and learning continues here and we know 2021 will present challenges and opportunities. In 2020, Colorado's Stay at Home Order and the subsequent Safer at Home campaign resulted in a 23% reduction in Marillac's patient volume. We anticipate our biggest challenge will be bringing patients back for care and accommodating the increased demand... AND WE KNOW WITH YOUR HELP, WE ARE UP TO IT!*



## Get Vaccinated

**Now that we have a vaccine that helps protect people against COVID-19, Marillac encourages all who can, to get vaccinated.**

**When we are vaccinated, we are less likely to be ill and lose productivity at work, school, and play.**

**COVID-19 symptoms can last for weeks or months. The disease is both dangerous and disruptive.**

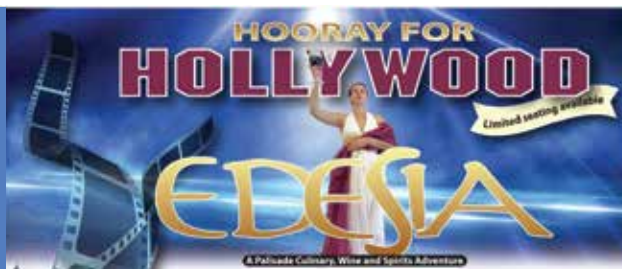
**Protect yourself and your loved ones by getting vaccinated. Contact Marillac or Mesa County Public Health.**

MarillacHealth.org • 970.200.1600

health.mesacounty.us/covid19/vaccine/  
970.248.6900

*(continued on page 2)*

**Hooray for Edesia Donors and Sponsors!**  
**Together you raised over \$50,000 for patient care at Marillac!**



*Additional Edesia Sponsors on page 2*

(continued from page 1)

## Get Vaccinated

Once the vaccine became available, Marillac offered it to patients and to the public.

We opened a drive-through vaccination clinic at Central High School in mid-March and April to provide a method for people to receive their vaccines without leaving their vehicles, as well as offering a vaccination site on the east end of the Valley.

This was an especially important service for people who wanted to maximize social distancing and for those who are unable to walk long distances and therefore have trouble visiting clinical offices.

To further encourage participation, the clinics took place on Saturdays, allowing people to come outside of their week-day schedules. We also offered transportation to patients through Sunshine Rides.

### Additional Edesia Sponsors

Community Hospital  
Dalby Wendland & Co.

Drs. Ashley Ford Rottman & Randy Rottman  
Dufford Waldeck Law

Express Employment Professionals

Hilltop Community Resources

Hoskin Farina & Kampf

Jim & JoAnne Roland

Legacy Wealth Management

Office Outfitters

Quality Health Network

Rocky Mountain Health Plans

Shaw Construction

Whitewater Building Materials

Xcel Energy

## The Warrior Wellness Center Thrives

If you haven't heard yet, MarillacHealth runs a school-based health center for students and staff at Central High School. The Warrior Wellness Center opened with much fanfare in August, 2020, and Marillac staff worked hard to build awareness of the WWC by visiting classrooms and presenting at meetings of students and staff. The efforts paid off: what began as a trickle of student visits increased to nearly a flood by spring. **By offering medical and behavioral healthcare daily and now dental screenings twice each month, available with or without an appointment and in a school setting, Marillac WWC staff have seen over 520 students in its first academic year.**

"Many of the students who use WWC have had little interaction with a doctor or dentist before," says Rosa Gardner, the Physician Assistant at WWC. "They come here with questions. Sometimes they come with a physical complaint, and use that to begin a conversation about a mental health problem they are struggling with. **The best part is that they are coming to get care; it's beginning to feel like a normal thing to do at CHS: to visit the Warrior Wellness Center. This is a very good thing!**"



Rosa Gardner, Physician Assistant and Raja

**Raja, a spring graduate of CHS, will pursue a nursing degree so she can "...do something to love and take care of people."**

While speaking about WWC, she said, "In the past, I had difficulty getting healthcare...with WWC here, I can ask lots of questions and learn about my body and my health. **I come here a lot; other kids do, too, even if it's just for a snack. People feel comfortable coming here.**"



### Thanks to you...

**Impact happens at the intersection of need, expertise, and dollars. It's donors like you who have helped keep Marillac strong over the past 16 months. Programs like the Warrior Wellness Center and our proactive vaccination outreach makes our community a better, healthier place for all of us!**



*Lori and Little Bear, her service dog that alerts her to oncoming epileptic seizures, as well as just being a sweet and loyal companion.*

## Overcoming a Troubled Family Legacy

**Lori has been a drinker since she was four years old.**

Raised by a dad who saw nothing wrong with feeding her beer whenever she was thirsty, drinking alcohol has been a way for her to “sleep and forget all the bad things.” And there have been many, including physical abuse, rape, and multiple suicide attempts.

**Through all of this, Lori was able to hold a job, one that was good enough so by age 25, as a single mom moving to Grand Junction, she was able to buy a house.** All was good until she was diagnosed with end-stage liver failure and was prescribed bed rest. **She lost her job and then her home. Lori alternately lived in her car, on the streets, with friends, and at Homeward Bound of the Grand Valley (homeless shelter). She would visit the emergency room; doctors would treat her and advise her to “go to Marillac”.**

It was when she came under the care of Dr. Lovett that she felt truly cared for. **“Once I got in to see Dr. Lovett, she listened and explained. That’s how I learn best. She connected me with Rod [Pyland] to help me with my addiction [through Acudetox] and Pam Shanahan for counseling. They really tag-teamed my care! Finally, on March 20, 2020, I quit!”**

We first reached out to Lori two months ago. It wasn’t until a week ago that she returned our call and we were able to meet. She apologized: she explained that on Mother’s Day she “broke down” and drank, which sent her to the hospital for a week. “But,” she said, “That relapse was the best thing that happened to me because it made me realize how good I could feel without drinking in my life!”

**“...I want to enjoy my life; I don’t want to drink.”**

### **PATIENT QUOTES...**

***Lori is just one of so many patients who think Marillac is one of the best things to ever happen to them...***

***“I couldn’t recommend Marillac Health more! They have the best staff and practices on the Western Slope!”***

***“I love Marillac and how much they care for the patients.”***

***“My mind was eased about Covid-19 when I experienced the excellent level of care taken at my check in.”***

***“Staff and Drs. are very personal, caring, and friendly.”***

***“No one is perfect but you are close.”***



## Dr. Lavery Recognized

**Dr. Tom Lavery, our Chief Dental Officer, was awarded Staff Member of the Year from Community Impact Council of Mesa County** at their annual celebration of nonprofits. In their nomination, Marillac colleagues suggested he deserved this award for his long-standing insistence on “compassionate and comprehensive dental care so that no one goes without excellent oral health, even in the midst of a pandemic.”

**While dental practices throughout the State and County were closed due to the public health emergency, Dr. Lavery and his team sprang into action to provide fulltime, urgent/emergency dental care to Marillac patients and the general public.** Were it not for his care and persistence, most of the patients would have clogged local emergency departments with dental emergencies they are not equipped to address.

**Thank you, Dr. Lavery, for your fifteen years of service to Marillac!**

## Our New Associate Dental Director: Dr. Kate Hart

For thirteen years, Dr. Hart has been instrumental in creating and developing the clinic’s pediatric dental program.

**Her calm and compassionate presence makes even the most reluctant young patients look forward to their visits with “Dr. Kate.”** In her new position, she will take a more active role in leadership and decision-making. **Congratulations!**



## New Additions to the Marillac Team



**Ivan Coziah, MBA**  
Chief Operating Officer



**Zachary Diamond, DDS**  
Dentist



**Amy Leibli, DNP, FNP-BC**  
Family Nurse Practitioner



**Connie Mercer-Cogburn, LPC**  
Associate Director of  
Behavioral Health

# M+ MarillacHealth

*Beginning with this edition, Marillac’s newsletters will also be available in an email format. In fact, if we have your correct email address on file, you will likely receive one in your inbox. If you prefer delivery one way or the other, let us know.*

[www.MarillacHealth.org](http://www.MarillacHealth.org) • 970-200-1600