

## TRU Welcomes New Board Members

TRU Community Care welcomes Michelle McParland, Vicki Piers, and Dave Marusiak to its Governing Board. McParland and Piers are each serving the first of three two-year terms. Marusiak will be rejoining the Board after taking a requisite year off following his previous terms.



Michelle McParland

McParland, VP for Health and Supportive Services with Boulder-based Frasier Retirement Community, resides in Arvada with her partner, Shana, and their four children ranging in age from 12 to 26. Born in Fort Collins and raised in Boulder, McParland proudly identifies as a Boulder native. She earned

her Bachelor of Science in Medical Social Work from Metropolitan State University in Denver.

In her free time, McParland enjoys watching her kids participate in sports, theater, and music. She has also started a small side hustle cookie business where she bakes and decorates iced sugar cookies. Additionally, she enjoys reading, traveling, and doing jigsaw puzzles.

When asked about her service on TRU's Board, McParland replied, "I look forward to building relationships with board members and staff alike, learning about other mission-driven organizations serving our community, and contributing to the well-being of others through mission-focused efforts." She added, "I find immense satisfaction in collaborating with like-minded, mission-driven professionals to collectively make a positive impact on our community."

Piers, a retired Ball Aerospace contract specialist, was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. She graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Communication. She moved to Colorado the day after she married and eventually welcomed her brother and, most recently, her mother to the allure of Colorado. Piers' mother recently celebrated her 85th birthday.

Piers and her husband of 36 years, Robin, have two grown sons and a daughter-in-law. Both sons own

homes in nearby Berthoud and Broomfield. Rounding out the family tree are Dudley and Fritz, whom Piers affectionately calls "our grand-dogs."

In her spare time, Piers enjoys reading, going for long walks, practicing yoga, cooking, entertaining, and dog sitting for Dudley and Fritz.

Piers expressed her enthusiasm, saying, "I am very excited to be a part of an organization with an important mission, giving back to my community, and lending my experience in hopes of being a strong contributor." She was introduced to TRU through good friends and current Board members, Kitty deKieffer and Kelly Rogers, all of whom are members of Alpha Chi Omega sorority from different universities.



Vicki Piers



Dave Marusiak

Marusiak is Regional Manager – Commercial Banking with BOK Financial. Born and raised just outside of Rochester, NY, he earned his Business Administration and Management degree from the State University of New York at Oswego and a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University

of Phoenix.

Marusiak and his wife Sarah have two children, a son (19) attending CSU, and a daughter (17) at Longmont High School. The Marusiak family are avid sports fans, enjoying high school, college, and professional sports. Additionally, they can be found hiking in the summer and skiing in the winter.

When asked about his service on the TRU Board, Marusiak replied, "The work TRU does for our communities is amazing. I have lost both of my parents, which gives me an even greater respect for the work that is done for patients and families every single day. I want to help TRU grow by looking into the future and figuring out how to keep the organization relevant. TRU is special."

# Leo Hill's Legacy Fuels TRU Growth and Innovation

At the crossroads of innovation and legacy lies TRU Community Care. As a nonprofit, community-based organization, TRU has been the recipient of over \$750,000 from the Leo Hill Trust since 2015. This philanthropic investment has played a pivotal role in initiating TRU PACE and establishing TRU's Tele-Care Center, which enhances the quality of care through innovative technology.



Leo Hill would have celebrated his 100th birthday in December 2023.

“The impact of Leo’s investment in TRU’s growth and innovation is immeasurable but will undoubtedly have a lasting effect on the delivery of care,” said TRU CEO Scott Gresser. “Since Leo’s initial donation in 2015, TRU Community Care has more than doubled the number of patients and participants we have been able to serve.”

Hill (1923-2014) was a World War II pilot and a community leader who achieved significant success in the banking industry. Born in Missouri in 1923, Hill’s family relocated to Pueblo, Colorado when he was a high school sophomore. He graduated with honors from Colorado College and married his high school sweetheart, Betty Lue Demaree, who preceded him in death.



(l-r) Leo Hill Trust Trustee Wayne Hutchens, TRU CEO Scott Gresser, TRU Board Member Kitty deKieffer, and Leo Hill Trust Trustee Rick Lawrence at a recent toast to Leo Hill at the TRU Tele-Care Center in Louisville, Colorado.

## Save the Date

### ***Cello: My Life, My Death, My Choices***

April 16, 2024, 5:30 - 7:30 pm  
Dairy Center for the Arts, Boulder

Please Join TRU and The Conversation Project in Boulder County for a showing of a short film about a renowned musician facing a terminal diagnosis and navigating end-of-life conversations. The film will be followed by a panel and audience discussion.

Please visit [TRUcare.org/cello](https://TRUcare.org/cello) or scan the QR code below.



### **2024 Butterfly Release & Memorial Event**

June 22, 2024, 9 am  
Heritage Park, Louisville

Releasing a butterfly in memory of a loved one is a special way to honor those we’ve lost. Please Join TRU for our much loved butterfly release and memorial event that will take place at Heritage Park in Louisville. The event is free and open to the public.

Please visit [TRUcare.org/butterfly](https://TRUcare.org/butterfly) or scan the QR code below.



### ***Innovate for Impact: A Luncheon of Progress and Possibilities***

October 17, 2024, 12 pm  
Frasier Retirement Community, Boulder

TRU Cares Fundraising Luncheon is our annual event that brings our supporters and community members together in continued support of our continuum of care for people living with illness and loss.

Please visit [TRUcare.org/luncheon](https://TRUcare.org/luncheon) or scan the QR code below.



For sponsorship opportunities contact Dave Samson at (303) 949-8986.

# Innovative Care for Rural Communities

The disparity in healthcare access between urban and rural areas, particularly evident in regions like Colorado, underscores the need for innovative solutions. While metropolitan areas like Denver boast abundant healthcare options, remote communities face significant challenges due to limited services. Recent closures of hospice providers in regions like Estes Park exacerbate this issue, leaving residents with few alternatives. TRU Community Care has stepped in to address these gaps, offering telehealth solutions and in-person support tailored to the unique needs of remote communities.

TRU's Tele-Care program, launched in 2019, has proved instrumental in providing essential services remotely, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Partnering with organizations in areas designated as Frontier Communities, TRU has demonstrated the effectiveness of remote monitoring in detecting and addressing health concerns promptly. Despite



regulatory constraints, TRU remains steadfast in its commitment to serving all individuals in need, regardless of geographical proximity or financial status. The prevalence of rural health disparities highlights the urgency of such efforts, as evidenced by statistics indicating higher rates of disease and mortality in rural areas. By continuing to explore innovative approaches, TRU Community Care aims to bridge the healthcare gap and ensure equitable access for all, regardless of where they reside.

## Introducing TINA: TRU Immediate Nurse Access

TRU is excited to roll out the much-anticipated TRU Immediate Nurse Access (TINA) initiative. While many hospitals throughout the country already provide this model of cooperative partnerships for their nursing staff, no other hospice organizations in our region are putting this very forward-thinking initiative into practice.

A virtual nurse, supporting three field nurses, can share many of the responsibilities of each caseload that do not require hands-on treatment. This allows the field nurses to use their time more effectively, conducting additional in-person visits. TINA will alleviate much of the field nurses' workloads while continuing TRU's exceptional and comprehensive care of our patients.

TINA also supports our workforce development as it allows us to add a "specialty nursing" position to our tele-nursing pool.



### NOTABLE FEATURES



Schedule video meetings with our team and your family members.



Receive check-ins, reminders, and questionnaires from your nurse.



Access educational videos and flyers from our team.



Send images securely.

Please consider supporting our work with a tax-deductible donation to TRU today.  
For your convenience, a donor reply device is enclosed.  
You can also donate online at [TRUcare.org/trutalk](https://TRUcare.org/trutalk).

## Why Support TRU?

TRU Community Care relies on support from friends like you to help us:

- Provide the best possible care to anyone who needs us, regardless of an inability to pay
- Offer extensive grief counseling and group support to anyone who has lost a loved one
- Keep the TRU Hospice Care Center open for patients in need of short-term intensive care
- Grow new programs and meet community needs.

In the words of a thankful family member,

*"Thanks to all of you for your kindness and wonderful help during the passing of my husband, my great love. Every day as I think of him, I am thankful for the entire TRU team and the care and support you provided."*

Donate online at [TRUcare.org/trutalk](https://TRUcare.org/trutalk) or text TRUTalk to 41444.

