

# Geraldine (Geri) Nelson, MSW, LCSW

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## Professional Profile

Social Worker with 37 years of experience. Broad knowledge base in bereavement support and counseling. Eleven years of my professional career focused solely on parental bereavement.

- Developed "Colors of Healing" program at Children's Hospital Colorado to support bereaved parents
- Provided support via cards, newsletters, invitations to groups and speakers
- Maintained multi-state resource information for referral needs of families
- Developed format for and facilitated 9 week parental grief support groups
- Chaired Bereavement Council of professional colleagues and bereaved parents
- Secured national speakers for education for staff and families
- Provided opportunities for bereaved families to gather in support via scrapbooking days, grandparent brunches, monthly "drop-in" meetings, teen film groups, sibling support groups
- Maintained data base of approximately 1200 bereaved parents
- Provided educational opportunities for staff via monthly in-house in-services: "Good Grief at Noon"

## Professional Accomplishments

Produced three award winning films regarding parental bereavement

- "Grieving and Hope: Living with the death of your child"
- "A Dad's Journey Through Grief"
- "Tender Healing: A sibling's journey through grief"

Professional Memberships:

- Association of Death Education and Counseling [ADEC]
- Colorado Grief Network Alliance (current)
- Round Up River Ranch, Medical Advisory Council 2010-2012
- Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep, Advisory Board, 2008-2010

Past Speaking Engagements:

- ADEC 34th Annual Conference, Atlanta, March 2012 ~ "When Photos Are All You Have Left"
- Children's Hospice International, Washington DC, 2011 ~ "Steps toward the New Normal: Building from Scratch"
- End of Life Nursing Education Consortium: Pediatric Palliative Care (ELNEC), Denver, June 2010 ~ "Loss, Grief and Bereavement"
- ADEC 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, Kansas City, April 2010 ~ "Creating from Loss: Teen/Young Adult Video Project"
- Colorado Center for Hospice and Palliative Care, March 2010 ~ "A Sibling's Journey Through Grief"
- Colorado Center for Hospice and Palliative Care, Breckenridge, 2009 ~ "Creating from Loss: Teen/Young Adult Video Project"
- World Gathering on Bereavement, Vancouver, 2005 ~ "Putting into Practice Lessons Learned from Bereaved Parents"
- Numerous educational programs at Children's Hospital Colorado

Assisted in Editing: Service Corporation International (SCI) course manual, "Funeral Customs and Rituals: Differing Ways to Say Goodbye", 2012

## Work History

**2001 - 2012**

Bereavement Coordinator, Children's Hospital Colorado, Aurora, CO

	<p><b>1985 - 2001</b> Social Worker, Children’s Hospital Colorado, Aurora, CO</p> <p><b>1981 - 1982</b> Social Work/Discharge Planner, Daniel Freeman Hospital, Inglewood, CA</p> <p><b>1980 - 1982</b> Social Work, Peninsula Rehabilitation Center, Harbor City, CA</p>
	<p><b>1978 – 1980</b> Social Work, Rehabilitation Unit, St. Mary’s Medical Center, Long Beach, CA</p> <p><b>1978 – 1980</b> Social Work, Spinal Cord Program, Harmarville Rehabilitation Center, Pittsburgh, PA</p>
<b>Adjunct teaching</b>	<p><b>Summer 2013; Fall 2014</b> University of Denver, Graduate School of Social Work ~ “Social Work with the Chronically/Terminally Ill”</p> <p><b>Spring 2014; Spring 2015</b> Arapahoe Community College, Mortuary Science Program ~ “Death and Bereavement in Society”</p>
<b>Education</b>	<p>MSW University of Denver Denver, CO August 1, 1984</p>
<b>References</b>	<p>References upon request</p>