

# Dedication

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In 1998, as part of his preparation to lead the 14<sup>th</sup> Fall Conference, Michael Hopp did an extraordinary thing: He interviewed all the previous leaders, got their responses on audio tape, and enlisted his mother to transcribe several hours of conversation.

Due to his efforts and her generous labors, we are fortunate to have a record of the early years of the Men's Wellness movement in New Mexico, told by the men who planted the seed, nurtured it, and – except for the tragic absence of Michael himself – continue to watch it flourish each year at Ghost Ranch, at seasonal gatherings, and in the wider community of men.



We owe a great debt to Michael for initiating the process of documenting Men's Wellness and for doing it with such energy and commitment, qualities he brought to every facet of his life, and certainly to his own leadership of the fall conference. It was the inspiration for this publication, which we dedicate to him and to the founders of Men's Wellness, conference leaders, editors of *Man*, *ALIVE!*, and all the participants over the years, as well as those men who have, unfortunately, passed on.

## Acknowledgments

A heartfelt thanks to David Johnson for his expert editorial eye – and his perspective as one of the interviewees – in reviewing Michael Hopp's transcript and extracting the best from it. He also culled through 20 years of *Man*, *ALIVE!* issues and the 1990 Men's Network anthology *Talking From the Heart* for representative poetry and other selections. As poet, author, editor, and friend his experience helped guide me through the recent planning and gathering process. Special thanks to Todd Tibbals for making his original artwork and photographs available. Uwe Schroeter and webmaster Jim Connolly have been most helpful. Thanks also to my spouse, Candace Hibben, for transcribing David's markup for this publication. I must recognize the generosity of my friend Michael Ray Lloyd, who for years made his studio space available to our men's group and recently for production on this project. He passed away October 5, 2009. And to everyone who responded to my requests for information, insights, and other special materials over my extended period of collection, and encouraged me along the way, my most sincere appreciation. Any shortcomings in making the best of these wonderful resources are mine.

Patrick Sauer