

The rhythm of a miracle: Craig Morroni's Highline Canal story

February 10, 2026



Officer Belding of the Cherry Hills Village Police Department arrived first to take over compressions. "I checked his pulse, and I checked his breathing before I started... there was no pulse, no breathing," Belding said. "He was just, he was dead."

When South Metro Fire and emergency medical services crews arrived, the coordination was seamless. Jason Vollmer, an EMS supervisor, joined the primary paramedics on the scene: Joe Douglas, Sarah Bishop and Kyle Sanchez. The team worked simultaneously to deliver shocks with a defibrillator, start IVs and insert an advanced airway. Vollmer noted that because a bystander immediately initiated CPR, Craig had a fighting chance.

Precision in motion: the journey to HCA HealthONE Swedish

As the medic unit sped toward HCA HealthONE Swedish, Vollmer described the critical communication unfolding in real time. "It's usually communication from whoever's driving — 'Hey, we're eight minutes out. We're five minutes out.'"

At the five-minute mark, the bio phone rang, alerting the emergency department that a cardiac arrest patient was inbound. That call activated the ER care team, allowing them to prepare before Craig ever crossed the threshold.

When the doors opened, a coordinated group was already in motion. Julie Enriquez, CNC, helped lead the rapid clinical response, ensuring resources, personnel and workflow aligned instantly. Eunseo "Alice" Lee, the primary nurse in the ER, assumed bedside coordination, translating the incoming EMS report into immediate action.

Samantha Goldman, a paramedic working in the ER, partnered seamlessly with EMS to continue advanced life support without interruption, while Alexis Cox, ER technician, moved swiftly to support procedures, monitoring and equipment readiness. Overseeing the entire resuscitation effort was Dr. Peter Bakes, ER attending physician, whose clinical leadership guided decision-making during the most critical moments of Craig's care.

Vollmer later reflected on the handoff: "Nothing throws us off more than being surprised. We had accurate information from the start." That preparation allowed the ER team to move with precision — no wasted seconds, no lost momentum — preserving the fragile progress that had begun on the trail.

The long 72 hours: Mary's vigil

While the medical teams worked with clinical precision, the experience for Craig's wife, Mary, was an emotional whirlwind. She had been at her son's house, wondering why "Grandpa" was late for dinner, when the call came from the emergency room. Craig was placed in a medically induced coma for 72 hours.

Craig's survival was not the result of a single moment or a single team. It was the result of people choosing to act — and a continuum of care that never broke.

Officer Belding and the EMS teams were unequivocal when reflecting on what made the difference that day: Craig was alive when they arrived because Joyanne and Seguin stepped in immediately. Their willingness to act — and their confidence in their training — gave Craig a fighting chance long before sirens were ever heard.

"If Joyanne and Seguin had not started CPR, the outcome would have been different," Belding said.

That early action set everything else in motion. As EMS Supervisor Jason Vollmer said, "If Joyanne and the police officer had not started CPR... they're giving us a chance to get in there... then we're giving HCA HealthONE Swedish a chance to work their magic."

Mary Morroni later described HCA HealthONE Swedish as a "community treasure," not just for its technology, but for its people. From the moment Craig arrived in the ER — met by Julie Enriquez, Alice Lee, Samantha Goldman, Alexis Cox and Dr. Peter Bakes — the care felt intentional, coordinated and deeply human.

"It couldn't have happened in a better place," Mary said, reflecting on both the lifesaving care Craig received on the trail and the expert, compassionate response inside the emergency room.

Neither Joyanne nor Seguin set out that day expecting to save a life. One was out for a bike ride. The other was finishing a long training run. What they shared was something simple, but powerful: CPR training and the willingness to act.

Craig's story is a reminder that emergencies do not announce themselves. They happen in ordinary moments, in ordinary places — and in those moments, action matters.

By learning CPR and being prepared to step forward, any one of us can become the first link in the Chain of Survival. Because sometimes, that single decision is what gives an entire team — and a family — the chance to bring someone home.

Because you never know when you might save someone's life.

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Heart care in Denver

12/18/2025

Dear Battalion Chief Vollmer:

Words simply cannot express my deepest gratitude for your crew's heroic efforts that saved my life.

As someone who has used the Highline Trail hundreds of times, I often ride past the South Metro Fire Station.

To better understand this Miracle, there have been multiple times I have tried to analyze the circumstances around my heart attack. Why, for example, was I at Colorado Blvd and the Highline trail and not on an isolated part of the path? How could I be so fortunate to be just down the street from the South Metro Fire Department? I simply should not be here on this earth.

Because there aren't any answers to these questions, I have come to realize that I simply need to accept the Gift offered to me by your dedicated team.

Know that I specifically think of you at some point every day and I thank God for the effectiveness and training you provide your team and for your deep love of Life.

And for those days that are often a grind, are difficult to figure out 'why' and you go home tired, please remind yourself that on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, you saved the life of a husband who has been married 43 years, a father of three, and a grandfather of 8.

Thus, it is with deep conviction that I recognize your work as a leader within the South Metro Fire Department. It is with the utmost respect for you, that I say 'Thank You for Your Service'.

My future rides past your fire station will never be the same.

My prayer is that God protects you in your work.

Once again thank you for the Gift of Life.

*Clay*