

PETER'S PLACE

CHANGING THE FACE
OF GRIEF FOR



The mission of Peter's Place is to provide safe and supportive environments for grieving children and families and to act as a community resource to foster understanding of the effects of death and grief.

2020-2021: A COVID Year in Review

Social Media Statistics

Social media followers
have increased 24%



2,977 social media followers



Over 10,000 people
visited our website for the
first time



More than 3,000
people viewed the website
from their Apple iPhone



Produced **30 videos** with Rip Roarin Productions
highlighting family experiences at Peter's Place

Co-hosted two Facebook Live
events with over **8,000 views**



Hosted first virtual event via Zoom in March
2021 with **60 people in attendance**

Fundraising Statistics

273 donations made "In Memory"
and "In Honor" of someone significant



Received gifts from nearly **300 zip codes**

Raised \$35,271 in response to a matching
\$25,000 grant from The Lily Foundation



57% increase in the
number of foundation
grants awarded



Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, donors remained generous and we raised
over \$781,000 for this program year – THANK YOU!!!

18% increase in new donors



44% increase in donations from
graduate and active families



26% increase in online donations

Program Statistics

Inquiries **increased 35%**



Over 225 children and adults enrolled in our hybrid onsite support groups

More than 1,300 children and adults served through our virtual offsite programs



Established a virtual **spousal loss support group**

Provided **16 Postvention Programs** to schools, directly serving more than 200 children and adults, following the death of a student or school staff member

Facilitated 35 virtual school-based groups serving elementary, middle school, and high school students



Facilitated 18 hybrid onsite groups serving ages 4 to 18



Over **400 individual craft kits** were assembled and given to all children and teens participating in our grief support groups

72% of the students to whom we provide school-based peer support groups qualify for free lunch or reduced-fee lunch programs



2020-2021 Schools and Families Served by County



Advancing Our Mission to Lessen the Impact of Childhood Bereavement

Childhood bereavement is a critical public health issue and is tragically misunderstood. Because children grieve differently from adults, their responses are not always noticeable to their parents, teachers, or even their support professionals. Children often grieve in isolation with some suffering devastating consequences from lack of appropriate support. The June 2021 Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM) developed by Judi's House/JAG Institute reports that 1 in 12 children in Pennsylvania will experience the death of a parent or sibling by the age of 18 and this statistic more than doubles by the age of 25 (using data from 2015-2019).

Prior to the pandemic, Peter's Place was experiencing unprecedented growth in the number of grieving children and families we were serving both in our Onsite and School-Based programs. Since March 2020, children are losing parents, grandparents, family, and other significant people in their lives at an astonishing rate. According to a recent study published by the American Academy of Pediatrics, over 140,000 children in the U.S. experienced the death of a primary or secondary caregiver due to COVID-19. Along with the growing number of physical losses in their lives, children have missed out on special events and traditional milestones and have endured disruptions to their school structure and school community. This secondary loss, as it is called, elicits a similar grief response to losing an important person in one's life.

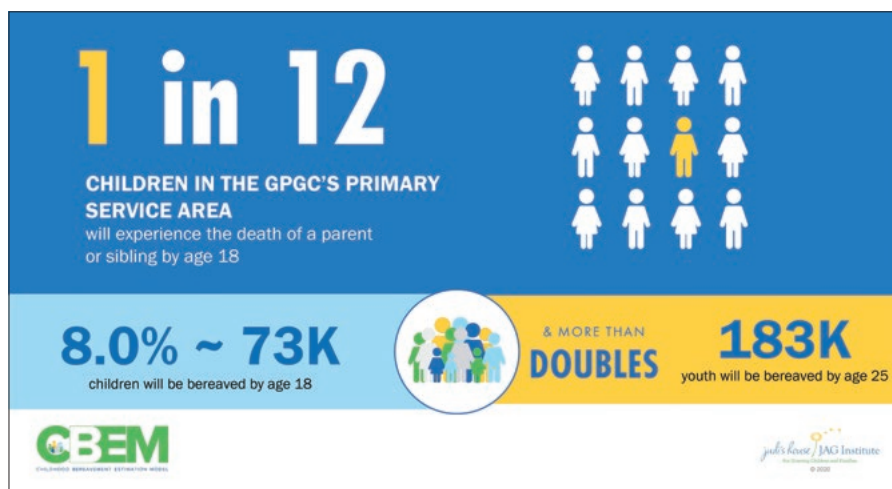
THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

To expand our understanding of the impact of grief in our own community, Peter's Place and four grieving centers located throughout the five-county Philadelphia area joined together to establish the Greater Philadelphia Grief Collaborative (GPGC). This collaboration is part of a larger national partnership with Judi's House/JAG Institute for grieving centers across the country to gain a clearer and more comprehensive portrayal of the impact of childhood bereavement in the U.S., and specifically within their own communities.

The purpose of our collaboration was for the GPGC to work with Judi's House/JAG Institute to develop data-driven resources, which detail childhood bereavement prevalence within our own service area taking into consideration both leading causes of death and socioeconomic factors. The final report

identified for us grief support needs by highlighting the diverse communities being, and not currently being, served with equally diverse grief needs. The collaborative is utilizing the data programmatically, for advocacy, education and training, for outreach, and for funding opportunities.

Being part of this collaboration has helped us better serve grieving children in the greater Philadelphia area, foster greater partnership potential throughout the region, and inform Peter's Place on how to gather data in more efficient and beneficial ways for future use. **Yet, the most significant takeaway was that the report empowers us all, in our strategic planning and community partnerships, to ensure programming has the potential to meet more specific needs and unserved individuals in our distinct service areas. Ultimately, making sure no child grieves alone.**



Nationwide, 1 in 14 children will experience the death of parent or sibling by the age of 18. However, results from the collaborative show that, similarly to the state of Pennsylvania, 1 in 12 children residing in our service area will experience the death of a parent or sibling by that age.

MOVING FORWARD

Left unaddressed, grieving children risk a myriad of social, academic, developmental, and mental health issues that can have lasting repercussions. At Peter's Place, their grief is validated, they are empowered, and children have the opportunity to heal. Peter's Place mitigates risk and helps children and families progress towards health and well being. ***Throughout the past year, we have had a unique calling to be a primary resource for a community who is grieving. As we continue to move through this pandemic, we remain an important resource for children and families as they process their direct and indirect losses.***

With the increasing needs of our grieving community, as highlighted in the GPGC study and the lessons that we have learned in the past 18 months, Peter's Place is advancing its mission and efforts through collaborative partnerships with schools, youth-serving programs, and community organizations with revised programming in both virtual and in-person environments. In addition to hiring more Program staff members and training nine new volunteer facilitators, programs have been amended in the following three key areas to meet the increase in demand:

- virtual and in-person onsite groups at our Radnor center
- virtual and in-person school-based services such as school groups, postventions, and professional development trainings
- youth outreach services and professional development trainings with unique youth-serving programs such as Child Guidance Resource Centers in Havertown, PA

Since our opening in 2001, Peter's Place has provided direct support to over 10,000 grieving children and adult caregivers and indirect support to tens of thousands in the five-county Philadelphia area and Camden, NJ. ***Peter's Place is committed to continue to be a trusted source of grief support to ensure that no child ever grieves alone.***

Eight Lessons Our Program Staff Learned During the Pandemic

1. Listen to what the families and communities we serve were saying that they needed
2. Be flexible
3. Be grounded
4. DO instead of doubt
5. Use the materials you have
6. Maintain consistency and continuity across all youth and adult grief support groups
7. Focus on creating a community that will lead to a deeper capacity to share thoughts and feelings about grief
8. Remember to trust in the process

Thank You Andy Walsh!

A Dedicated Leader For 18 Years



How do we adequately say “thank you” to Andy Walsh for his years of dedicated service and commitment to the mission of Peter’s Place? It’s hard to do!

Andy’s tenure with Peter’s Place began in 2003 when he answered the call of the founders to join the Board of Directors. Eleanor Morsbach Godin, who served as Co-Chair with Andy shared, “He is a friend to many, has broad experience with startup nonprofits, has an empathetic heart, and he was an attorney! Little did he know then that he would shepherd this young organization through varied stages of growth for over a decade.”

Andy was involved on many levels, playing a role on a variety of committees over the years, adding tremendous value to a growing organization. His tireless efforts were apparent; however, perhaps most notable was Andy’s compassionate leadership while serving as Vice Chair, Co-Chair and, finally, Board Chair from 2006 until June 2018.

“As a Board, we have always tried to do what was in the best interest of the grieving children we serve,” Andy explained. “I am very proud of what we have here.”

Jim Buck, a founding Board member, described Andy in this way, “There are some people who are prone to run away from trouble; others are naturally disposed to put out fires. Andy’s not only the latter type, he’s also an inspiring leader who helped guide Peter’s Place – its management, Board, and community – towards solutions and strategies for a much better future.”

Andy completed his Board term this year and was elected Emeritus; a designation so richly deserved and held by few.

“Peter’s Place has been a home to me for a long time, 18 years. It is a family to me. I still will be involved and serve on the Board in the best way that I can; to continue to help Peter’s Place fulfill its mission to serve grieving children,” Andy said.

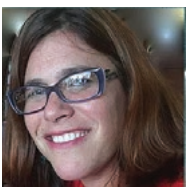
As we celebrate 20 Years of Changing the Face of Grief, the Peter’s Place family extends our genuine gratitude to Andy for believing in the need for grief support services in our community.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Celeste Johnson, MSS, LCSW, Ph.D.

Celeste is an Associate Professor at the Widener University Center for Social Work Education. Her research and publications explore traumatic stress, grief, loss, and resilience across the life span with a particular emphasis on the impact of community violence on underrepresented urban populations.



Lara Krawchuk, MSW, LCSW, MPH

Lara is a clinical social worker and the owner and clinical director at Healing Concepts LLC, offering counseling, consulting and continuing education related to caregiving, chronic and life-threatening illness, grief, living losses, professional compassion fatigue, stress management, transition to college, and trauma. She is a nationally recognized expert on grief, loss, coping with physical illness, and professional compassion fatigue.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PROGRAM TEAM MEMBERS



Pictured (Left to Right):

Lizann McLaughlin, MEd, CCLS, Onsite Group Facilitator

Allie Hoffman, MSW, CCIC, Onsite Group Facilitator

Kitty McQuaid, MA, School-Based Group Facilitator

Mimi Dambro, MSW, LSW, Assistant Director of Programs

Community Engagement

Throughout the year, Peter's Place partners with corporations, organizations, and schools to host or participate in events, including community education and professional development trainings. Through these events, we broaden community awareness of the grief support services we provide and act as a community resource on the effects of childhood bereavement.

Additionally, our staff plans events for current families being served and our volunteer group facilitators to help build community among all members of the Peter's Place family.

Event Highlights:

- Sponsored a virtual evening of events via Zoom featuring a magician, meditation class, and cooking demonstration, hosted by our Advisory Council
- Held a virtual screening of *"Speaking Grief"* documentary followed by a panel discussion
- Invited current families to a rock-climbing event at The Gravity Vault
- Pat Wong Connolly, Onsite Group Facilitator, presented on lessons learned during the pandemic at the 2021 National Alliance for Children's Grief National Symposium
- Thanked our volunteer group facilitators at an evening of appreciation at Jenkin's Arboretum
- Gathered for our Annual Summer Family Event at Fenimore Woods
- Welcomed back our returning volunteer group facilitators for refresh training
- Conducted 30-hours of training for nine new volunteer group facilitators
- Shared information on our mission and services to a group of University of Pennsylvania nurse practitioner students
- Provided professional development training to Interboro School District counselors and staff on supporting grieving students in the classroom
- Extended our reach through professional development training with more than 80 school professionals from Achievement House Cyber Charter School regarding our school-based programming and how to best support grieving students
- Participated on a Teen Suicide Community Panel hosted by Daemion Counseling Center
- Offered a Grief Workshop Series which provided space for education, support, and discussions on Adult Death of a Parent, Sibling Loss, Anticipatory Grief, and Non-Death Loss



Save the Date

20th Anniversary

Benefit & Auction

April 30, 2022

Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, PA



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*Assistant Director of
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*School-Based Group
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Marissa Roberto
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