



PETER'S PLACE
A Center for Grieving Children & Families

OUR PEOPLE, PARTNERS, AND PROGRESS



IN THIS ISSUE:

A year in review
& planning for our future

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

Our Expansive Programming

As a nonprofit organization focused on supporting grieving children, teens, and families, we were excited to return to in-person programming for the 2021-2022 program year.

Upon our return, in September 2021, adjustments were made based upon what our Program Staff learned from providing virtual and hybrid programming for two years. For example, prior to COVID-19, Onsite Group Members moved around the group room in a less directed manner. However, with the implementation of virtual meetings, the need for groups to be more structured became evident; thus, the Program Staff focused on moving each group together based on one grief related topic and associated activities. The Program Staff saw that this realignment facilitated deeper peer connections and created additional opportunities to share. Because of this success, our staff have adopted these group practices.

Our continued growth and the increasing needs of our grieving community has led us to hire additional staff and recruit more volunteers. As of September 2022, we have two full-time and five part-time Program Staff members - with the budget approval to hire an additional full-time Program Staff member in January 2023 - two interns, and nearly 40 volunteer group facilitators.

ALL THAT WE OFFER!

When we opened our doors on September 12, 2001, we focused our programming solely on Onsite Grief Support Groups for children and their families. However, throughout our 21-year history, additional child and adult focused programs have been added to meet the growing and changing needs of our grieving community.

“One mom shared that her son liked to come to Peter’s Place because everyone else got him. The children that come here get that they lost someone important. They get that they have these mixed emotions and feelings and thoughts about someone important to them that they might not find with peers and friends outside of Peter’s Place.”

- Pat Wong Connolly, MEd, MSS, LSW, Onsite Group Facilitator



THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND/OR ADULTS SERVED DURING THE 2001-2002 VS 2021-2022 PROGRAM YEARS:

Program Offered	2001-2002	2021-2022
Children & Adults Served at our Radnor Center	18	302
Children & Adults Served through School-Based Groups	Did Not Exist	373
Children & Adults Served through Postventions	Did Not Exist	157
Adults Served through Ryan’s Hope	Did Not Exist	13
Adults Served through Virtual Programming	Did Not Exist	22
Adults Served through Professional Development Initiatives	Did Not Exist	268
Children & Adults Served through Grief Support Seminars/ Presentations	Did Not Exist	198

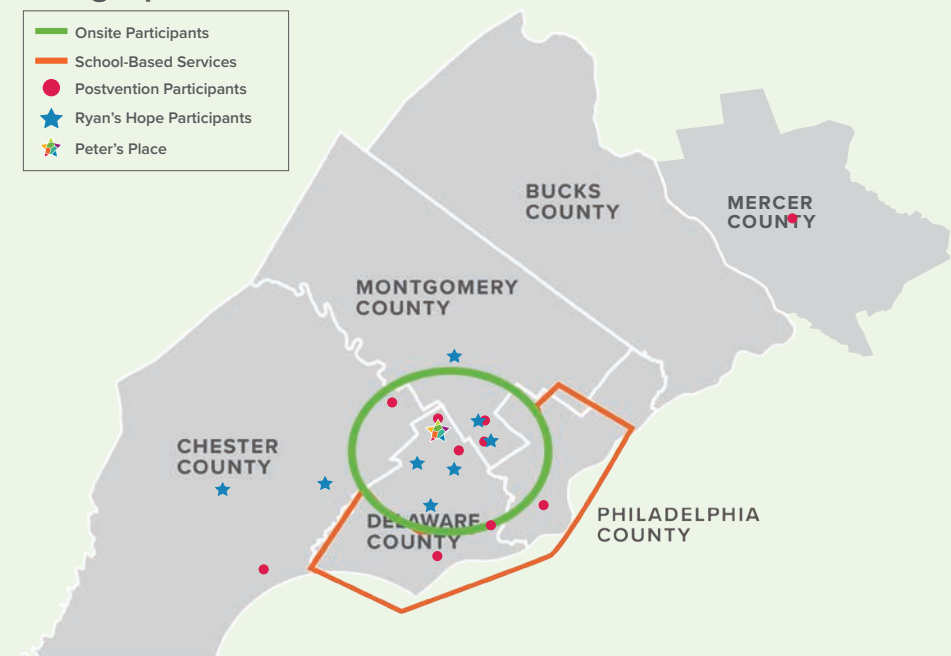
AS OF TODAY, WE OFFER:

- **Onsite Groups:** Onsite Peer Support Groups are for children ages 4 to 18 and their adult caregiver, which are held at our Radnor location. Through talk, play, and craft activities, we facilitate a group experience where members can connect with others and process their thoughts and feelings.
- **School-Based Groups:** Our School-Based Program broadens our reach to school communities in and around the Philadelphia five-county area. In partnership with school counselors and administration, our grief

facilitators lead an eight-week curriculum, which offers students an opportunity to connect with peers while sharing their grief in a private and familiar environment.

- **Postventions:** When a sudden or tragic loss occurs in a community or school, we offer support through our Postvention services. Peter’s Place works collaboratively with groups or school administration to create a customized response to support all communities through their collective grief at a most needed time.
- **Our Professional Development Initiatives, Grief Support Seminars, and Presentations:** As an organization, Peter’s Place is committed to providing grief support and education by offering continuing education opportunities for professionals and non-professionals to expand and enhance their knowledge base about companionship the bereaved.
- **Ryan’s Hope:** Founded in 2012 by the Monaghan family, Ryan’s Hope is a peer support group for parents who have had a child die from substance use. This group meets with the intention of providing a safe environment where parents can connect and support one another through their shared experiences.
- **Virtual Programming:** As an expansion of our services since 2020, virtual adult workshops and groups enable Peter’s Place to expand our sphere of support while continuing to utilize a virtual platform in a sensible, accessible, and growth-oriented way. Topics for these programs include Spousal Loss, Parental Loss, and COVID-19 Related Deaths.

Geographic Reach



WHO WE SERVE

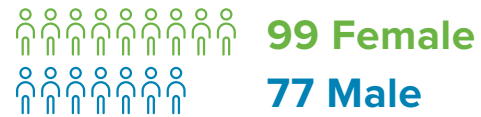
Since our inception, Peter’s Place has provided direct support to over 15,000 grieving children and adult caregivers, indirect support to tens of thousands of grieving community members, and are committed to be a trusted source of grief support to ensure that no child ever grieves alone.

This map indicates our current geographical reach for the majority of our grief support programs including: Onsite Services at our Radnor location, School-Based Services, Postventions, and Ryan’s Hope.

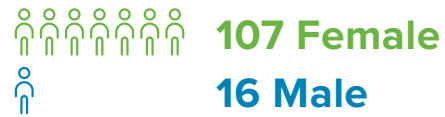
Who We Serve Through Our Onsite Programs

Our Onsite Peer Grief Support Groups provide a safe space for grieving children and teens. While they gather, we facilitate caregiver groups that are offered for adults to connect with others who are also caring for grieving children. Those who attend our Onsite Programming join us from all over the Philadelphia five-county area, and have their own unique grief experience to share with their peers.

Child Participants by Gender



Caregiver Participants by Gender



79% of children served

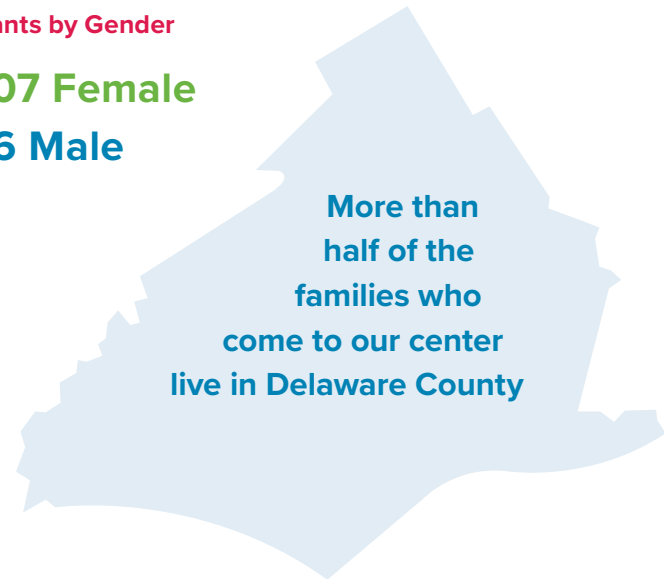
Experienced the death of a parent

10 years old

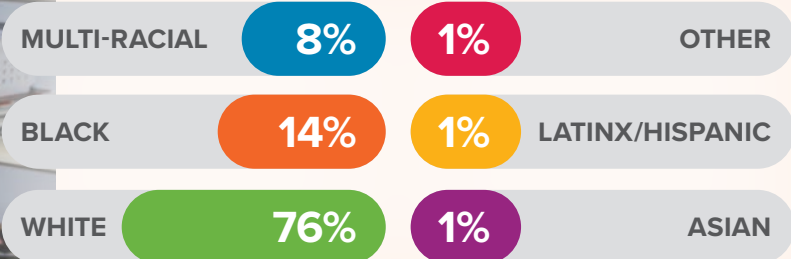
Average age of a child participant

\$66,500

Average household income



Race of Child Participants



Facilitated

24 Grief Support Groups

at our center for children, teens, and their adult caregivers

Directly Served

170+ children

Responded to

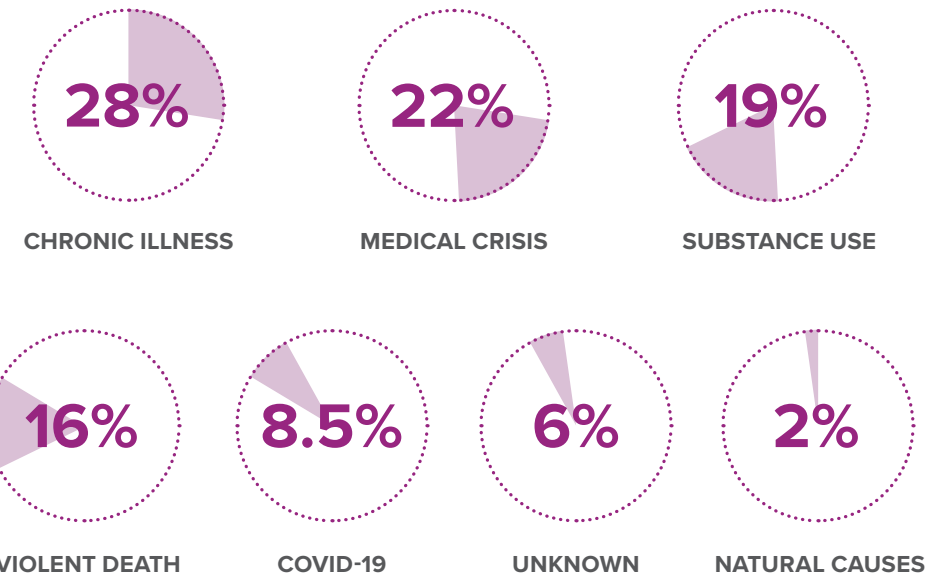
200+ inquiries

for information about our grief support resources and materials

Leading Causes of Death

We organize this information through general categories that embody numerous causes of deaths.

% Exceeds 100% as some families experienced multiple deaths



“What I like most about coming to Peter’s Place is that other people have experienced the same things I have experienced, so I have people to talk to about it. Some of those experiences are when I lost my mom, like what was happening and what I was going through.”

– Aiden, Child Participant

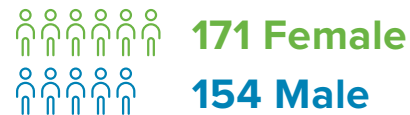
“Peter’s Place provided me with a comfort level of understanding that there are so many people that are dealing with loss and things that you are also dealing with. It just doesn’t make you feel alone, and for a while I was feeling alone.”

– Alicia, Adult Caregiver

Who We Serve Through Our School-Based Programs

Recognizing that not all families can easily access services provided at our Radnor location, our School-Based Programming broadens our reach to school communities in and around the Philadelphia five-county area. These School-Based programs allow us to support hundreds of additional children each year. Having the opportunity to talk openly about the death of their person helps to normalize their grief, and allows students to recognize that others in their school community face similar losses, reassuring them they are not alone in their experience.

Student Participants by Gender



46% of children served

Experienced the death of a parent

46% of children served

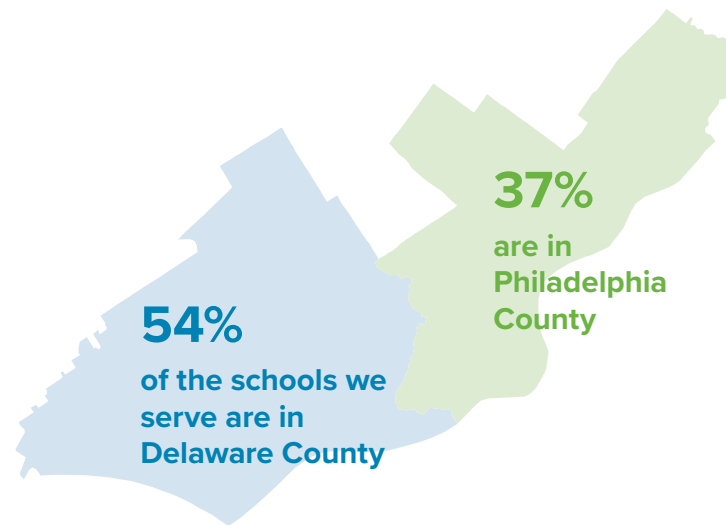
Experienced the death of a grandparent

10 years old

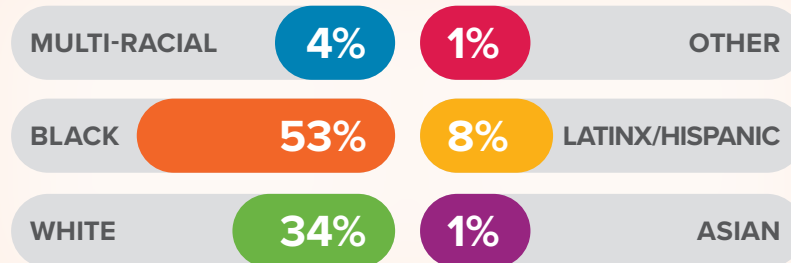
Average age of a school participant

\$41,000

Average household income



Race of Student Participants



Facilitated

49 School-Based Peer Support Groups

including elementary, middle, and high school levels

Directly Served

325 Children and Teens

through participation in school-based peer support groups

Supported

150+ Students and School Professionals

through Postventions

Leading Causes of Death

We organize this information through general categories that embody numerous causes of deaths.

% exceeds 100% as some families experienced multiple deaths



MEDICAL CRISIS



CHRONIC ILLNESS



VIOLENT DEATH



COVID-19



SUBSTANCE USE



NATURAL CAUSES

“It’s a break from class to get a breather and have serious conversation with others about our experiences.”

– Student Participant

“The school-based facilitators and I put a lot of thought into balancing meaningful discussion topics with fun and creative activities so kids can explore their grief without becoming overwhelmed. Students look forward to their grief group each week and often express disappointment when it has to end.”

– Kitty McQuaid, School-Based Group Facilitator

Beyond Our Peer Grief Support Groups

Throughout the 2021-2022 program year, our staff organized opportunities for our families and children to gather outside of their group experiences.

Events and programs allowed the participants to create connections and foster an enhanced sense of community. During this past program year, we were able to provide five events for our Onsite Group Participants.



“It’s a wonderful community resource. It’s one of those places where you wish it didn’t have to exist, but you are grateful that it does, especially in the situation of having lost a spouse and having that kind of support available.”

- John, Adult Caregiver



FAMILY PROGRAMS

- Family Bowling Night
- Annual Summer Family Picnic at Fenimore Woods
- Marple Sports Arena Family Outing
- Outward Bound Experience for Teens
- Ryan’s Hope Author Presentation

Volunteers are integral to the success of Peter’s Place in carrying out our mission. As a result, we provide annual facilitator trainings and activities that enable volunteers to grow their facilitation skills, care for themselves, and reflect on their group experiences.

Properly educating and supporting our volunteer grief facilitators allows them to be present and aware when facilitating groups, develop a special bond with the children and families we serve, and have a meaningful and broadening experience.

During the 2021-2022 program year, we trained 28 new volunteer facilitators and hosted four events for all facilitators to attend.



VOLUNTEER FACILITATOR TRAININGS & EVENTS

- Jenkins Arboretum Mindfulness Walk
- New Volunteer Training
- Returning Volunteer Refresh Training
- Volunteer Appreciation Party

“My volunteer experience at Peter’s Place has been an extremely rewarding and fulfilling experience. Everyone in the community demonstrates compassion, empathy and support of the grief process. I’m looking forward to continuing supporting the children this fall.”

- Rusty McGrave, Volunteer Facilitator



Partnering to “Grow” Peter’s Place – Our Healing Garden

As part of their Centennial Celebration, the **Four Counties Garden Club** (FCGC) has partnered with us to develop a portion of our property into a Healing Garden. Founded in 1922, FCGC has been dedicated to improving and protecting the quality of the environment through programs in education and community service. In addition to initial funding from the FCGC, they have committed to establishing a subcommittee that will help maintain the garden and has committed to providing our Program Staff with information about horticultural programming that we can implement with our grief support groups.

The positive connection between nature and health has been widely researched. There is clear evidence that nature has benefits for both physical and psychological human well-being. This includes cognitive functioning, and improvements in mood, mental health, and emotional well-being.

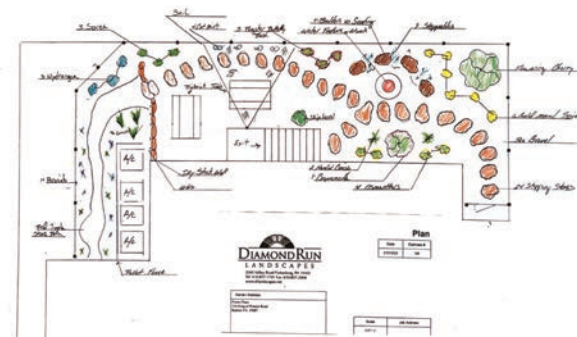
Our Healing Garden will enhance our grief support work by providing an extension of group space. The private outside

area, in nature and of nature, will be a place where all can feel safe to just be, as they move forward in their grief journey. Our Program Staff will utilize the garden for grief-themed activities with children and families to stay connected to their person who died through creating rock garden memorials, adding new plantings, decorating steppingstones, and more. Further, this space will provide a welcome respite to staff and volunteers for essential self-care.

The design of the Healing Garden includes specific features outlined by the American Horticultural Therapy Association, including well defined perimeters, a profusion of plants in open spaces with simple patterns, and four seasons of sensory stimulation. Further, our chosen plants, shrubbery and flowers for the garden are predominantly native species; as such, they will require less watering and fertilization and will support local pollinators. The first phase of this project is complete, and we plan to finish the project and formally open the Healing Garden in the spring of 2023.

“The healing power of nature is deep and profound. Giving children at Peter’s Place the opportunity to nurture a garden allows them to experience the role of caregiver. This could be enlightening as they may see a glimpse of a future when they are no longer enveloped by grief.”

- Mandy Swope Joos, Member of Four Counties Garden Club; Chair of the Executive Committee and Co-Chair of the Centennial Celebration



Community Collaborations and Partnerships to Enhance and Support Peter’s Place

Collaboration is a powerful tool that can help enhance and support the work we do for our grieving children and families. During the 2021-2022 program year, we had the opportunity to work with many organizations and businesses that provided their expertise. Our work together inspired us, built relationships, solved problems, and allowed us to be innovative. **THANK YOU!**

- Received a second Childhood Bereavement Changemaker grant so that we may continue our work with **Judi’s House/JAG Institute** to further standardize and expand our data collection and evaluation capacity.
- Brought together middle and high school aged group members in a team-building environment, conducted in partnership with **Philadelphia Outward Bound School**, to facilitate connection prior to the start of grief groups in September 2022.
- Volunteers from **The O’Connor Group** donated their time to our 2022 Benefit & Auction to support our staff at our registration desk, Giving Tree, and Putting Contest!
- With a grant from **New York Life Foundation**, Peter’s Place partnered with **Capacity for Change** to develop a three-year strategic plan that is informed by the successes and challenges of our past strategic plans and includes a full assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on the organization and within our grieving community.
- Our DEI Task Force (a subcommittee of the board) collaborated with **Praxis Consulting Group** to engage in DEI training for the Peter’s Place community as a precursor to the development of our new strategic plan.



- **Merz**, a Media, PA based branding firm, generously provides Peter’s Place with ongoing pro-bono marketing and design consultation to help us professionalize our program and fundraising materials.
- Local businesses – especially those in our own neighborhood – supported our families and staff through their collaboration with Peter’s Place. We could not achieve all that we do without their help. THANK YOU to **Campus Corner, Brendon Gibbons Co., Harriton High School, T/E Middle School, Radnor Elementary School, Two Paper Dolls Design House, Wayne Business Association, The Neighborhood League Shop, Ardmore Toyota, and Main Line Print Shop.**

Strategically Planning for Our Sustainability

In July 2022, our Board of Directors adopted our new three-year strategic plan. The planning process began in October 2021 and ended this past May with the creation of a strategic plan that includes measurable goals, objectives, and action steps. The planning process and the support of a consultant, Megan McVety from Capacity for Change, was funded by a generous grant from the New York Life Foundation.

Our new plan is informed by the successes and challenges of the past strategic plan and includes a full assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on the organization and our community. The year 2020 was extremely challenging for Peter's Place. Social distancing guidelines changed the way we could deliver our services and the rapidly changing needs of our community required us to respond with a broader definition of grief to include non-death grief and secondary loss. In addition, the June 2021 Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM), developed by Judi's House/JAG Institute, reported that in our five-county service area alone—Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties—a total of 27,570 children under 18 were currently bereaving the death of a parent, and an additional 33,380 children were predicted to experience the death of a parent by age 18.

As a result of the changes and the astounding increase in parental bereavement, Peter's Place is at an important inflection point when our understanding of purpose, programming, growth, staffing, and opportunity have significantly shifted compared to our pre-pandemic operations. Thus, to ensure that our services continue well into the future, to meet the needs of our community, and to ensure our operations remain sustainable, we must carefully plan for our future. A comprehensive strategic plan—that includes input from our board and staff—enables us to focus our work and our purpose as well as provides us a guided path towards sustainable services that meets the needs of our community.

A Financial Snapshot of 2021-2022

With the overwhelming support of our donors, we exceeded all fundraising benchmarks for our fiscal year 2021-2022. Our successful fundraising enabled our Program Staff to offer our services to **over 1,300 children and their family members** during our program year. With our solid financial footing, we are well positioned for future growth.



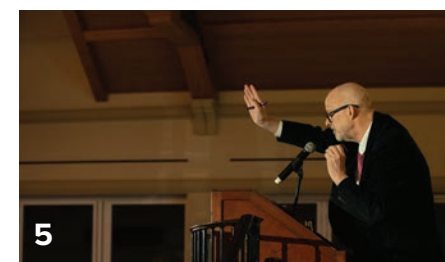
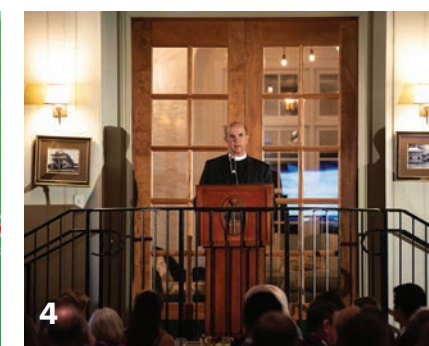
- 77% Program
- 14% Management & General
- 9% Fundraising



- 43% Events
- 35% Individuals
- 15% Foundations
- 7% Other Income

Highlights from Our 20th Anniversary Celebration

On April 30, 2022, we hosted our 20th Anniversary Benefit & Auction at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, PA where we honored two of our Founding Board Members, Eleanor Morsbach Godin and Jim Buck, for their life-long giving to Peter's Place. In addition, we celebrated 20 years of providing grief support services to children and families as well as recognized the many members of our community who have given their time, talent, and treasures to ensure our success since opening our doors. **THANK YOU!**



1 Honorees, Eleanor Morsbach Godin and Jim Buck **2** Benefit & Auction Co-Chairs, Susan Moses and Kristen Hartz **3** 2021-2022 Peter's Place Board of Directors **4** Reverend Frank Allen **5** Alasdair Nichol, Chairman, Head of Fine Art, Freeman's **6** John and Jenny Ward, Bryn Smythe, and Jack Reuben

“I am thankful that I was invited in and could learn from so many amazing people, who watered that seed of love planted in tragedy, and helped it to grow to what we know as Peter's Place today. So many heroes have stepped forward to support and build and help this seed of love grow.”

- Rev. Frank Allen, Rector St. David's Episcopal Church, Wayne, PA and Founding Board Member of Peter's Place

Save the Date
for our Annual Benefit & Auction at Aronimink Golf Club in Newtown Square, PA
April 29, 2023

Thank You, Eleanor Morsbach Godin!

An Inspirational Leader is Elected Emeritus

Eleanor Morsbach Godin completed her board term this year and was elected Emeritus, an honorary title held by few who have provided extraordinary service and commitment to our organization.

“Being involved with Peter’s Place over the last 20 years has been one of the greatest honors of my life,” Eleanor said. “The death of my son Peter was the catalyst for this organization, and also, our founders’ compassionate response to the realization that there were no grief support services in the suburban Philadelphia area.”

Eleanor has been the face of the organization as well as a long-time supporter and advocate. In the beginning, her involvement was in any capacity possible. Eleanor also participated in the Volunteer Facilitator Training and facilitated grief support groups.

As the organization formalized, Eleanor became Co-Chair of the Board of Directors with Andy Walsh in 2007 where she remained until 2014. Then, she turned her attention to chairing the organization’s first capital campaign “A Home for Peter’s Place” where we raised over \$1.8 million. Today, she is on the Development and Marketing Committee, and continues to spread awareness in the community about our grief support services.

Founding Board Member Jim Buck shared, “Eleanor and I have been in the trenches together for 21 years. I can’t imagine where I would be now without her at my side in this area.”

“Peter’s Place has grown deep roots in our community and proven the value of its mission. Our work will never be done,” Eleanor said. “My grand hope for the future would be that we can continue to help more and more children with grief support and raise awareness of the effects of grief on children and families. Also, to establish an endowment that would sustain our organization for generations to come.”

The Peter’s Place community extends our sincere gratitude to Eleanor for her limitless compassion and dedication to our mission.



Thank You to our Retiring Board Members



George Bodenger
Served Peter’s Place Since 2013



Lindy Cummiskey
Served Peter’s Place Since 2014



Marcia Martin
Served Peter’s Place Since 2014

A Grateful Yet Bittersweet Farewell

It is with sadness, yet deep appreciation, that Catsy Pemberton is retiring after more than five years of extraordinary leadership as Executive Director of our organization. She first learned about Peter’s Place when she received an invitation to our annual Benefit & Auction in 2007. Immediately, our mission drew her in.



Catsy has led Peter’s Place from a grassroots organization to a well-established and professional nonprofit, serving the needs of grieving children and families. During her tenure, the achievements of her and her team include:

- Increased number of children and adults directly served by more than 70%
- Doubled top line revenue to more than \$1 million
- Significantly expanded the Program Staff to meet the demand for services
- Completed the rebranding of Peter’s Place
- Implemented steps towards the establishment of an endowment
- Created a new three-year strategic plan for 2022-2025 providing a roadmap for future growth

We thank Catsy for being so deeply connected and devoted to not only the mission of Peter’s Place, but to the wellbeing of our staff, volunteers, and Board; our donors; and to the children and families that utilize our services. We wish her nothing but happiness in retirement!

Introducing Our New Team Members!



Laura Kennedy
Executive Coordinator

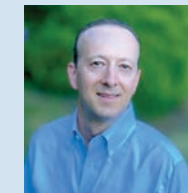


Catherine Barshinger
Intern



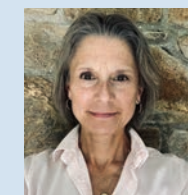
Bridget McCabe, MPH
Intern

Welcome To Our New Board Members



BRADFORD PAUL
Bradford owns and operates M&B Automotive Group which includes Ardmore Toyota,

Central City Toyota, and Paul Bros Autobody. In addition, Bradford has guided many community activities through Ardmore Toyota, and has created and funded a Classical Guitar Scholarship Program at the Overbrook School for the Blind as well as Max Paul Park, a self-sustaining community park and garden in West Philadelphia.



ANNE WILMERDING
Anne has served on the boards of several nonprofit organizations

throughout the Greater Philadelphia region. She was president of the board of HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy and was chair of the board of the Community Partnership School in Philadelphia, an independent elementary school in North Central Philadelphia. Anne also works as a director for Altus Partners, Inc., a risk management, and insurance brokerage firm.

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Kitty McQuaid, MA
School-Based Group Facilitator
Marissa Roberto
Communications Coordinator
Catherine Barshinger
Intern
Bridget McCabe, MPH
Intern

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