



PETER'S PLACE
A Center for Grieving Children & Families

2024 FALL NEWSLETTER





My Connection in Grief

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. This past summer, I was personally impacted by our mission. My Mom died at the end of June after a long battle with dementia. Losing a parent is never easy, but when you no longer have parents here on Earth, there are many emotions that come with it.

In August, my oldest nephew got married – it was an amazing time with friends and family – it was also when I was able to start processing my mom's death. Life is about connections. My parents were our last lifeline and connection to our family culture, our heritage, our traditions, and our memories. When they died, I had to mourn the loss of those connections too.

The responsibility to carry those forward for my children is big and heavy, but I realized that I don't have to bear that burden alone. My mom's family from California was at the wedding and I watched them connecting with my kids, sharing stories, speaking Tagalog, laughing, and joking around. It was a connection I didn't know I needed; it was a connection my kids needed.

It was sad that my parents weren't there to see their first grandchild get married, but in a way, I know they were there. They were present through family, through friends, through storytelling, through new memories, and through new connections.

What I have learned through Peter's Place is that grief is something you never get over. Some days are better than others. You work through it one minute, one hour, one day at a time. Look for your support, your connection – it's there for you when you need it most.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stephanie Lim Capello". The signature is fluid and personal.

Stephanie Lim Capello, Executive Director

Welcome New Board of Directors

“Our new Board Members will add valuable life, career experience, and tremendous energy to the work we do. They are already deeply committed to our mission that no child should grieve alone, and the four of them will be instrumental in helping Peter’s Place deliver on Year Two of our three-year strategic plan”

— James G. Staples, Board Chair



Chris Ciatto, Leashia Lewis, Catherine Fries, and Mary Kate Lo Conte



Thank You Retiring Board of Directors

JENNY WARD & C. PACE DUCKETT

served Peter's Place since 2018.

&

Thank You

ROBIN PEW, CHAIR OF ADVISORY COUNCIL

served as Chair since 2019.

ONSITE PROGRAMMING

"I learned that grief doesn't go away. Every time I am in group, I just have a really fun time, and I have become open to share my story."

—Maya, Onsite Teen
Group Participant



Forming Connections Through Loss

Maya and her mom, Wendy, joined our Onsite Programming in 2021 when their dad/husband died from Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, a rare neurological disorder. At the time of his death, all Wendy wanted to do was help and make sure her daughter was okay, as her dad was her biggest supporter. From her role as a teacher, Wendy had learned about the services Peter's Place offered through referring former students who had experienced a loss.

Peter's Place provides Maya and Wendy with a safe and inviting space where they can get the support they need by meeting with other children, teens, and adults who have also experienced the death of an important person.

"I choose to participate in Peter's Place groups because it has really helped me see other kids' experiences and share my own," Maya said. "The bonds I have made here with other people are just really hard to find, especially in school. Being in a group full of other teens is really helpful."

Wendy has learned to allow Maya to grieve in her own way and not push her to share her feelings when she doesn't want to. She loves seeing the familiar faces every time she steps into Peter's Place. Wendy feels it's nice knowing that all the participants are here for each other and whatever they share in the group is ok.

"Maya wants to come. She wants to be part of a group, and she wants to connect and hear other people's stories. She is also seeing that the wound, the hole, of pain inside of her has also become the place where she is allowing friendship and warmth. She's allowing people to see that hole that many other people in our lives don't see," said Wendy. "Similar to myself, ironically, it's the pain that forces me to come back to the reality of the loss but it's not a feeling of sadness anymore, it's the feeling of healing now, and I think that's what Peter's Place has done. The loss will never go away; it's just a part of who we are now."

Peter's Place continues to be a trusted source of grief support in the community, ensuring no child ever grieves alone.

PETER'S PLACE BY THE NUMBERS

A Program Snapshot

**DIRECTLY SERVED
1,163 CHILDREN, TEENS, AND ADULTS**
at our Radnor center, in schools, and communities
throughout the Philadelphia five-county area.

98% of the children and teens participating in Peter's Place groups shared that they had a positive experience, and **93%** understood more about their own grief after attending.

PROGRAM STAFF PROVIDED 7
professional development trainings and educational
presentations to **257** school and mental health
professionals and community members.

98% of parents and caregivers said that Peter's Place has
helped them understand and feel more equipped to
understand their grieving child(ren), and that they have
FOUND A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY.

"One thing I liked most about my group experience is that we laughed a lot and became close. It was just chill and fun."
—Onsite Groups Child Participant

A Financial Snapshot



73%
Program
17%
Fundraising
10%
Management & General



27%
Events
26%
Investments, Trainings, & Other Income
23%
Foundations
20%
Individuals
4%
Corporations

Connecting Our Community



Throughout the program year, our team partnered with local organizations, like the Philadelphia Phillies and Philadelphia Outward Bound School, to host events for current families enrolled in groups at our center to gather outside of their group experience. We also hosted events and trainings for our Volunteer Grief Facilitators. Events help strengthen connection among the children, families, and volunteers ensuring they feel part of a supportive community.

Additionally, Peter's Place partnered with organizations, corporations, and local media outlets to present or participate in events, including the 27th National Symposium on Children's Grief, Givnish Spotlight Hour on WWDB- Talk Radio 860, and Grief 101 Workshop hosted by CHOP. Through these events, we broadened community awareness of the grief support services we provide and showed we are a community leader in childhood bereavement.

Highlights From Our Annual Events



CONSTELLATIONS: A NIGHT OF SHINING STARS

was a remarkable evening at Aronimink Golf Club on Saturday, April 20, 2024! Our wonderful Co-Chairs, Kate Morsbach and Eileen Myers, brought excitement and energy to the room, as guests recognized our mission and enjoyed cocktails, dinner, and a special program honoring Andy Walsh for over 20 years of dedicated service.

We are grateful for our Big Dipper Sponsor, Lynne & Steve Torbeck, our event sponsors, and all our attendees for their generous support.

SAVE THE DATE and join us next year on
Friday, April 25, 2025 at Aronimink!

Sponsorship and Ticket Opportunities are **LIVE**

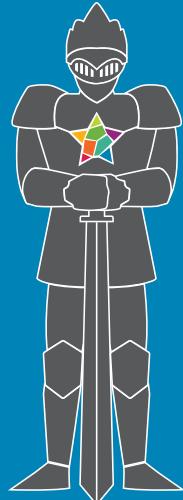


OUR FIRST ANNUAL FALL FEST was a fun-filled successful afternoon! This family fundraising event brought members of the community together to experience our mission at our center and enjoy an afternoon of fall activities. Thank you to our Co-Chairs, Michelle Krietsch and Lauren Forman, and our Advisory Council for hosting this wonderful event!

POSITIONING US FOR THE FUTURE

Planned Giving

We all want to be remembered and feel as though we have made a difference in the world. When creating or updating your will, you can leave a lasting charitable legacy through a planned gift to Peter's Place by helping grieving children and families find comfort and healing for decades to come. *Please consult your financial, tax, and/or legal advisors to determine the benefits of a planned gift for you. Please contact us if you need assistance identifying an expert to assist you in your gift planning.*



Sam's Squad – Monthly Giving Program

Sam's Squad is our new monthly giving program at Peter's Place! Each contribution plays a vital role in transforming grieving children's lives, and we believe in the power of collective action and sustained support. How it works:

1. Sam's Squad is our way of recognizing "The Squad" – donors – who commit to supporting our mission month after month.
2. Join the squad today by scanning the QR Code to the side!
3. Choose a reoccurring amount that feels comfortable for you. Your donation is set to happen automatically every month. You can increase, decrease, or cancel your donation whenever you wish.
4. An update with the latest Peter's Place happenings will be sent to you regularly, along with some exciting squad swag!

As a special incentive, the first 23 donors will receive a stylish green tote bag from Peter's Place, commemorating 23 years of providing grief support programs! Your participation isn't just a donation; it's an investment in providing grieving children and families with a safe space to connect and heal. Join Sam's Squad TODAY!



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