

Ele's Place: A healing center for grieving children & teens

What is Ele's Place?

Ele's Place is a nonprofit, community-based organization whose mission is to create awareness of and support for grieving children and their families. Through peer support groups, Ele's Place helps children and teens cope with the death of a parent, sibling or other close family member or friend.

Can Ele's Place Help My Child?

Before coming to Ele's Place, many grieving children and teens feel alone and keep their emotions inside, not wanting to burden their parents or other family members. Often friends don't seem to understand if they haven't had a similar experience. But each week at Ele's Place, hundreds of grieving children find a warm and welcoming place to meet new friends who really understand how they feel. By sharing their feelings and memories with others in peer support groups, children and teens learn to accept their loss and begin to heal.

Why is Ele's Place Important?

Ele's Place recognizes that children's grief is unique, and that unaddressed grief can have a negative impact on their health and well-being. Unresolved childhood loss is often linked with poor school performance, depression, violence, alcoholism, drug abuse and suicidal tendencies. Ele's Place helps grieving children and teens who are at risk of developing these negative behaviors by supporting them in a unique way. Through our programs, they develop healthy coping skills to continue their lives with hope and confidence.

What Services Does Ele's Place Provide?

On-site Support Groups

Ele's Place provides ongoing, weekly peer support groups for grieving children and teens, ages 3 - 18. Age groups include Preschool/Kindergarten, Early Elementary, Upper Elementary, Middle School and High School. A young adult group is also available for individuals 19 - 25. Music, art, storytelling, writing, and play are creative tools used to help children and teens express their fears, anger, guilt and sadness. Support groups for the child's parents or guardians meet at the same time. Groups are facilitated by clinicians and trained volunteers under the supervision of Ele's Place licensed social workers. In order to ensure Ele's Place is accessible to all grieving children, there is no fee for services.

School-based Services

Ele's Group is an off-site support group program in partnership with area schools and organizations, reaching children and teens unable to come to our building. Eight week groups are co-facilitated by Ele's Place program staff along with the school social worker, counselor or other staff.

Clinical Consultations

Licensed social workers and counselors at Ele's Place provide grieving families with individual guidance and support. Clinical staff assist parents in helping their children and teens through the grief process with information, advice and referrals to area therapists who can provide child and family grief counseling.

Community Education

Ele's Place provides presentations, trainings, and guidance for educators, health care professionals and others interested in learning how to help grieving children and teens.

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