

GRIEF MATTERS

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CHILDREN ARE OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE, BUT WE ARE THE HOPE FOR THEIRS. Anonymous

Greetings to the friends of Annie's Hope!

Have we got some exciting things going on here. Camp Courage and Camp Erin were both big time successes, we are nearing completion on a strategic planning and development planning exercise to strengthen Annie's Hope, and **we are exploring a new space so Annie's Hope can expand services and reach more grieving kids and their families.** We have known for quite some time that the requests for our programs exceeded our ability to meet the demand. We need and want to change that. With potential support from St. Louis Rotary Club #11 and Italian Open Board, we are confident that we can accept an offer on a larger space near St. Louis Science Center. But, this effort is bigger than the Downtown Rotary Club, Italian Open

Board, Annie's Hope Board of Directors and staff joining together. This is a project we can all get behind. We need an architect to draw the plans for renovation, we need an electrician, plumber, and HVAC Technician to volunteer their talents, we need volunteers who will help put up dry wall, paint walls, and lay carpet. We need "lease angels" to come forward and adopt a month's rent and utilities. Even though we are living in hard economic times, it doesn't mean that great things can't happen for those in our community who need us the most – the teen girl who is wondering if her father will die suddenly, just like her mom did, the toddler who repeatedly asks when his dad is coming home from heaven, and the 10 year old boy who feels overwhelming guilt for telling his sister that he hated her soon before she died in a car accident. I welcome

your support in whatever ways you can offer it. Please know that your time, energy and financial resources will help to heal kids who are the forgotten mourners of our neighborhoods, our schools, and our future. Peace,
Becky Byrne
Executive Director

Annie's Hope is in need of some help in our new space. Please let us know if you, or someone you know, would be willing to donate your time, talent and/or funds! We are looking for...

- ◆ Lease Angels
- ◆ Architects
- ◆ Plumbers
- ◆ Electricians
- ◆ Drywall Installers
- ◆ HVAC Technicians
- ◆ Landscapers
- ◆ Painters
- ◆ Carpet Layers
- ◆ Tilers

MAKING MAGIC FOR ANNIE'S HOPE



Annie's Hope teen Mariah Mootz having a "hair raising" time at the Magic House family social event.

Annie's Hope hosted it's annual "A Night At The Magic House!" On Sunday, April 19th, grieving kids, families, friends and supporters of Annie's Hope were able to join at the Magic House for a special FREE evening.

Through hands-on learning experiences, kids were able to enjoy an entertaining evening of being with others who had shared a similar loss, and who

were supportive of them. This is an important piece of the grieving and healing process. The Magic House event also gave us a chance to thank our volunteers for their hard work through the free fun evening.

Annie's Hope would like to send a magical "thank you" to the Saigh Foundation for funding this event and bringing joy & laughter back into the lives of grieving kids.

WORDS FROM AN ANNIE'S HOPE INTERN



Annie's Hope Intern, Christine Frampus and a child at Camp Courage.

"I am currently a graduate student going for my Masters in Social Work at St. Louis University and have taken this summer to volunteer my time as an intern at Annie's Hope.

Of all the experiences I have had in grad school, I consider this one to be one of the most vital to my development as a social worker.

By participating in both Camp Courage and Camp Erin – St. Louis my eyes were opened... I learned that grief is truly a universal emotion. Many of the kids and teens at camp

feel isolated in their grief when they are at home or at school. But camp allows them to be okay with that grief, it gives them the understanding that it was okay to cry and that other people are dealing with similar emotions. It allows them to relate to others in a way that most of their school friends could not possibly understand.

Being able to witness this realization in the children and teens throughout the weeks of camp was unbelievable. There were bonds and friend-

ships made over a common emotion, and it was obvious to see how relieved the kids were that some of their peers are feeling the same way as them.

I am truly grateful to Annie's Hope for allowing me to have this experience and I look forward to working with the agency in the future."

If you, or someone you know, is interested in interning or volunteering your time with Annie's Hope, please call our office at (314) 965-5015.

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY OF HOPE

YOU can ensure that grieving children continue to get the support they need for years and years to come. Donating part or all of your estate to Annie's Hope through your will not only benefits grieving kids throughout St. Louis, but could reduce the amount of estate taxes your heirs have to pay on your estate. Here's how to do it.

1. Consult an attorney who specializes in wills and

estate planning. He will advise you on the different ways to make your donation. For example, you could make an outright bequest, name Annie's Hope as the beneficiary on your retirement benefits or set up a charitable trust.

2. Decide how much money you want to leave to the kids of Annie's Hope. This decision may be affected by the advice you receive from your lawyer and

financial planner. If your estate is valued high enough to be taxed, a charitable donation may reduce the amount of taxes owed or decrease the value of your estate so no taxes are levied.

As one man said, "What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal." - Albert Pine



Executive Director Becky Byrne, talking with a child at a candle lighting remembrance ceremony.

THE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO HELP KIDS

Thanks to all who have recently hosted community events to benefit grieving kids! What a great idea—getting friends together for a great cause!

☞ **The Fenton Mayor's Charity Ball** was held on March 28th. Annie's Hope representatives were privileged to attend the event which raised money for Annie's Hope and another children's charity.

☞ "Angels on Ice"...On April 12th **The P.A.I.G.E.**

Foundation hosted this second annual event at the Hardees Iceplex, raising money for the kids of Annie's Hope.

☞ **Hallmark Stone** hosted their annual remnant sale which raised funds for Annie's Hope and other charities. Participants were able to beautify their kitchen and help the community at the same time!

☞ **The St. Louis Rotary Club #11 Downtown** hosted it's annual golf tournament at Forest Park Golf Course.

Annie's Hope was the fortunate recipient of funding from this year's event.

☞ **The Italian Open Golf Tournament** was a success again this year held at Norwood Country Club. Annie's Hope received funding from this event, along with other children's charities.

☞ Lobsters were on the Loose! On June 20th **Grace Episcopal Church** in Kirkwood hosted their annual lobster sale with funds donated for the kids of Annie's Hope.



Annie's Hope representatives at the Fenton Mayor's Charity Ball

KIDS EXPERIENCE CAMP COURAGE AND CAMP ERIN - ST. LOUIS



Camp Counselor, Mike, with a camper at Camp Courage after a “mud fight”.



A courageous teen shows us how to try something new in spite of her fears by conquering the Alpine Tower and Swing at Camp Erin - St. Louis.



This teen created a fence post in memory of his brother at Camp Erin - St. Louis. The fence post will be used at a future Annie's Hope home.



A memory box created during arts & crafts at Camp Courage.



A teen sharing his story at the at the Camp Erin—St. Louis candle lighting ceremony.

SEASONS OF GRIEF

*“Grief is like a blank page
because you feel empty inside.
Sometimes it is like a tornado
without the wind or destruction;
Yet other times everything is
spinning and going so fast.
Grief is a heavy load to carry.
It, like life, is a calendar; everyday
is different.
Grief is like a full page, your head
is packed (full) with thoughts and
feelings...”*

Through the Teen Retreat Program, Annie's Hope facilitators work with bereaved teens (13 to 18) at an overnight “retreat” weekend. It offers a time for teens to relax and meet others their age who share a common experience, to explore issues, concerns, and feelings about the death, and to discover more healthy ways for coping during the grieving process.

The poem to the left is one example of an activity done at the retreat. The participants

were asked to write a few statements or phrases about what grief is to them and/or compare it to something they know. The poem titled “Seasons of grief” is a collaboration of children's words to enlighten others about grief.

If you or someone you know would be interested in participating in a Teen Retreat or other Annie's Hope program, please call our office at (314) 965-5015.

Contributions from:

**Corporations, Foundations, and
Community Organizations**

AmerenUE
Beussink, Hey & Roe P.C.
BJC Health System
BNI Networking Group
Durant Life Member Council Pioneers
ESCO Technologies Foundation
Fenton Community Charitable Association
Hallmark Stone
Henderson Elementary
Heroes & Legends
John L. Ziegenhein & Sons Undertakers, Inc
Mary Queen of Peace Church "Class 2009"
Me Too Bracelets, LLC
Missouri Foundation For Health
Optimist Club of Brentwood
P.A.I.G.E. Foundation
St. Louis Italian Invitational Golf Tourn
St. Louis Rotary Club
Suburban Journals Old Newsboys Day
Thomson Reuters
Webster Groves High School
Wellpoint Foundation

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Andrea Visser
Kate Volobuev
Claudia & Dan Wagner
Mary E. Walsh
Joe & Kay Walsh
Donna & Mark Wayne
Mary Wildhagen-Kuc
Lonnie Williamson

*"With Love, From
Santa" letters coming
again this holiday
season. Watch our
website for details!*

In MEMORY OF:

Dorothy Belko

Agnes Wolfe

Richard Blau

Robert & Carol Kranz

Victor Brown

Stacy Brown & Chris Braeskie

Richard Darragh

Mark & Eleanor Burns

Steven Denney

Jean Levick

Ann Rempe

Frank Fank

Cindy Petzoldt

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Fran Goldstein

Lisa Goldstein

Diane & Steve Sanford

Gary Sorth

Jan Sorth

Lucille Strande

Anthony & Mary Strande

Catherine Guthri Tyler

Lucy & Greg Reinhart

In HONOR OF:

Annie's Hope Staff

Ron & Roberta Tellor

Beth Boeding

Ron & Roberta Tellor

Becky Byrne's birthday

Pam & David Weiss

Gerri Gremand

Ali & Clayton Johnson

Fran Goldstein

Robyn Blanke

Payton Lindeman

Gary & George Ann Cooper

Cindy Petzoldt's birthday

Margaret Fank

Cindy Petzoldt

Kay Walsh "Mutti"

Tim & Erin Meana

IN KIND Donors

AmerenUE Meramec Plant

Brentwood Ice Arena

Bob & Becky Byrne

Marcia Clark

Alex Donovan

GIVEBAC For Kids

Jane & Peter Hull

The Jackson Family

Papa Johns

Planet Sun

Simply Fondue

Karen Zelechowski

(February 1 - July 30, 2009)

We also thank the many people who have supported our fundraisers. If we have somehow missed your name, **please** let us know.

Pathways- A Mother's Retreat

Friday, September 25th - Sunday, September 27th

Come join us for an overnight weekend retreat in the peaceful outdoor setting at Sunnyhill Adventures.

This is your chance to connect with other moms who are grieving the death of their spouse or significant other.

Here you will be able to

- tell your story,
- explore your grief journey,
- learn how to care for yourself and your children while in the midst of grief

Enrollment forms can be found on our website at www.annieshope.org or you can call/email the office at 314-965-5015/annieshopekids@aol.com.

**Annie's
Hope**

Space will be limited, so enroll today!



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 Glendale, MO 63122

Phone: 314-965-5015
 Email: annieshopekids@aol.com
 www.annieshope.org

**We need your EMAIL . . .
 It will save us postage!!!
 You will get the "latest"
 much earlier!!!**

Calendar of Events

Aug. 22	Saturday	More Cowbell Concert at Old Rock House
Aug. 28, 29, Sept. 3, 10, 18		Comprehensive Grief Workshop
Sept. 8	Tuesdays	Eight Week Family Support Group Sessions begin (held one night/week)
Sept. 20	Sunday	Crazy Bowling Fun Family Social Event Olivette Lanes, 1- 4pm, call to RSVP
Sept. 25	Friday	Angels on Stage Event hosted by the PAIGE Foundation
Sept. 25-27	Fri-Sun	Moms Retreat Weekend Held at Sunnyhill Adventures Camp Dittmer, MO
Fall		Teen Retreat weekend - dates TBA
Dec. 11	Friday	Hope & Healing Holiday Gathering
Jan. 10, 2010	Sunday	A Free Night at the Magic House

PROGRAMS

Family Support Groups
 School Support & Education
 Horizons - Anticipatory Grief
 Camp Courage & Camp Erin—St. Louis
 Hope & Healing Gathering
 Retreats (teens, moms and dads)
 Social Events
 Community Resource Library
 Grief Community Referrals
 Speakers Institute

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 Horizons Coordinator
 Ellen Hugge
 Grants Manager