

July 28, 2010

Dear friend,

Thank you for your interest in the support groups for grieving kids and families hosted by Annie's Hope. As you may already know, the support groups meet once a week for eight weeks. The next set of groups will start on Tuesday, September 14, 2010. Please check to make sure you can commit to attend **every** week. You are invited to arrive as early as 5:45 PM for complimentary pizza and drink, but the support group meetings begin at 6:30 PM and last until 8 PM. The entire list of dates for the group meetings are:

Tuesdays, September 14, 21, 28;
 October 5, 12, 19, 26;
 November 2;

Please check your schedule to make sure you will not have travel plans, spring break, school events, teacher conferences, sports events, church obligations, etc. that will interfere with your attendance.

An adult must attend with the children and only kids between the ages of 3 and 18 will be able to participate. You will be responsible for finding childcare each week for kids under 3.

Enclosed/Attached are the forms that you need for your family. You will find:

- An enrollment form & photo release for the each adult who will be attending.
- Enrollment forms & photo releases for the kids who will be attending.
- Directions to the place we will meet for the support groups.

If you have a teenager who will be attending, he/she should complete his/her own enrollment form. Yet, there is a page attached to the teen form for you, the parent or guardian, to complete. For all children younger than 13 years of age, you should complete the enrollment form. Remember to make sure your child signs his/her enrollment form. You, of course, complete your own enrollment form. Realizing that the forms may be hard to complete, please do your best and then return them as soon as you can. The absolute latest date we will accept forms is September 1st, but please do not wait until then to turn yours in. Space is limited and we typically have a wait list for families hoping to get in. When your forms are received in our office and reviewed, you will receive an email or phone call confirming that you have been successfully enrolled and your family's space is reserved.

You are invited to bring a memento or picture of the person who died on the first night. They will be placed by the candle that your family will light each week upon your arrival. The dress for support groups is casual. If you need additional enrollment forms, you may copy them yourself or contact me for more. Please know that almost all who attend will feel some anxiety and nervousness, especially the first week. It may be helpful to remember that you are all in similar situations and that you will not be forced to say or do anything that would make you feel uncomfortable.

I look forward to meeting you and the kids. Please don't hesitate to call with questions.

Ali

Ali Johnson, Program Director
Annie's Hope – The Bereavement Center for Kids
314-965-5015