

CHILD BEREAVEMENT PROGRAMS IN WISCONSIN

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INTRODUCTION TO BEREAVEMENT PROGRAMS

Children who experience loss are affected by their own experience and the reactions of those around them. When a loved one dies as a result of violence, children and adults alike must grapple with a grief that is compounded by the trauma associated with a violent and unexpected death. The psychological effects on children mourning a violent death may be different than what is expected or experienced when a death is not violent. This type of grieving cannot be generalized, however, as every child moves through grief in his or her own way.

Child bereavement organizations provide support for children experiencing grief stemming from the death of a loved one. Peer support is typically a cornerstone of such programs but other tools might be used, such as traditional counseling, art and play therapy, support groups and grief education. Programs strive to help children and their families learn coping skills and express their grief with others who are also enduring a loss. Many programs offer concurrent workshops for adults during the sessions for children and/or activities for the entire family.

This publication contains contact information for child bereavement programs in Wisconsin as a resource for parents, guardians and other loved ones who want to explore whether a bereavement program is appropriate for a child in their life. Information was gathered from the organizations' websites, staff and publications. Contact organizations directly to verify program information. The Department of Justice Victim Resource Center does not endorse or have experience with the listed programs.

The list provided is not exhaustive. If a program isn't listed for your area, you might be able to find information about a program in your community by contacting a local hospital, Boys & Girls Club or hospice program.



QUESTIONS TO ASK PROGRAMS

It may be advisable to speak with the child bereavement organization prior to bringing your child to the program. (Many programs require pre-registration.) Together, you can assess whether the program is a good fit for your child. Discuss the current needs and behavior of your child with a program director to get a sense of whether the services provided seem likely to offer a positive experience for your child. You may want to ask programs about the following: their experience with children grieving a traumatic or violent death; the ages of other children with whom your child might be in a peer or support group session; the training and use of volunteers; whether the program offers special events such as family activities or summer camps; and whether pre-registration or payment is required to access programs.

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CAMPS



Camp Erin www.moyerfoundation.org/programs/CampErin_About.aspx

Description: Camp Erin is a weekend-long experience filled with traditional, fun, camp activities combined with grief education and emotional support -- facilitated by grief professionals and trained volunteers. Camp Erin is held in various locations throughout the country. In 2011, "Camp Erin Milwaukee" was held in conjunction with MargaretAnn's Place Wisconsin's Center of Hope for Grieving Children in Lake Geneva, WI.

Camp Hope www.camphopeforkids.org camphope@charter.net

301 Florence Drive
Stevens Point, WI 54482
(715) 341-0076

Description: A spring and fall camping experience for children and teenagers who gather to work through the grieving process after a loved one dies. The camp gently guides the children and teenagers through the complex emotions by showing them that they are not alone. Camp HOPE rents the Wisconsin Lions Camp in central Wisconsin two miles east of Rosholt and sixteen miles northeast of Stevens Point. **Camp HOPE also offers a camp retreat for the adults** who are dropping off their children for the weekend. These family members can then gain the same insights into their grief as their children, while being treated to massage therapy, canoeing, hiking, arts and crafts, carving, and the bonds of new and powerful friendships. The camp retreat is at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station.

Camp Lloyd <http://www.uwgb.edu/camplloyd>

UWGB-Camp Lloyd
2420 Nicolet Drive Mac C310
Green Bay WI 54311-7001

Description: Camp Lloyd is a week long day camp that goes all day from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. It is a camp for grieving children ages 7 - 14 held on the beautiful University of Wisconsin - Green Bay campus. The camp is filled with fun activities such as arts and crafts, music, games, swimming and hiking. It is also a time for campers to explore their own experiences of grief, realize that their feelings are normal and find support from each other. The Camp Lloyd staff consists of professional grief counselors and trained student interns from the UW-Green Bay.

Center for Grieving Children <http://www.centerforgrievingchildrenfoxvalley.org/>

160 S. Badger Street
Appleton, WI 54914
(920) 750-5839

Mission: To provide peer support and education, as well as opportunities to remember and commemorate for children, teens and families in the Fox Valley grieving the death of a loved one.

Service Area: Fox Valley

Programs: Family Night - The Center conducts an evening program once each month, for families with children 3 - 18; Support groups are facilitated by trained volunteers. Teen Group- Grief support group for teens age 13-18 only; Newsletter - A monthly newsletter of family night activities and community resources for grieving families is available on line or through e-mail; Outreach - Educational resources about children and teen grief are available through our lending library of books, manuals, and handouts.

Grief Relief <http://www.agnesian.com> (Search "grief relief")

912 Hickory Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54937
920-924-4660

Mission: Agnesian Health Care's Grief Relief program offers peer support groups for children, teens, young adults and their families who are grieving the death of a significant person in their lives.

Service Area: Fond du Lac area

Programs: Support groups are facilitated by trained grief volunteers. Separate meetings are set up for children between the ages of 4 to 6; 7 to 10; 11 to 14; and for 15 to 17 year-olds. Adult caretakers of the youths attending the sessions can participate in peer support groups meeting at the same time.

Healing Hearts of Waukesha County www.healingheartsofwaukeshaco.org

First United Methodist Church, Waukesha
121 Wisconsin Avenue
Waukesha, WI 53186



Mission: A not-for-profit organization offering compassion, hope and healing through guided peer support for children experiencing loss and the adults who care about them

Service Area: Waukesha County

Programs: 14 week peer support program for children ages 4-18. To register, contact Kathy at 262-538-0547. Spanish speaking families are welcome.

Kids Care <http://www.aurorahealthcare.org/>

Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center
2900 W. Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, WI
414-649-6634

Mission: To provide support for children ages five to twelve who have lost a loved one.

Service Area: Milwaukee area

Programs: Four week grief support program for children age 5 to 12; call for dates and times.

Kids, Teens "n" Grief www.beloitregionalhospice.com

Beloit Regional Hospice
655 Third Street, Address 2: Suite 200
Beloit, WI 53511
608-363-7421

Mission: The grief support programs of Beloit Regional Hospice help children process their grief and heal and help caregivers recognize the forms of expression that grief may take in children and teens.

Service Area: Wisconsin and Illinois

Programs: Grief support groups for children, teens, and their guardians are held in the spring and in the fall at the Beloit Regional Hospice offices. Call for more information and to register.

Kyle's Korner www.kyleskorner.org

7106 W. North Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 777-1585



Mission: To provide grief support programs and services for children, teens and their families who have experienced the death of a loved one through peer support groups, grief education and training services for schools, businesses and other community organizations.

Service Area: Milwaukee area

Programs: Based on the Dougy Center model, programs offer children a supportive using play, music, books and art to help children and teens express and process feelings related to death they have experienced. Sessions with trained group facilitators give children, teens and adults the opportunity to express feelings and share concerns.

MargaretAnn's Place - Wisconsin's Center of Hope for Grieving Children

www.margaretannsplace.org

Milwaukee Office
912 N Hawley Rd, #220
Milwaukee, WI 53213-3222
Office: (414) 732-2663
Toll Free: (866) 455-HOPE

Mission: Providing support, education, and awareness for children and their families who are grieving a death. Established in 1998 as the first center for grieving children in Wisconsin, provides child-focused, family and school based peer support/education programming for children and their adult caregivers who have experienced the death of a mom, dad, brother, sister or other significant person in their life. Consults with and provides support and educational presentations to the larger community about the needs of grieving children and equips those who work with children to support them after a death.

Service Area: Southeastern Wisconsin, primarily Milwaukee, Waukesha, Racine, and Kenosha counties, via a main office in Milwaukee and a satellite office in Kenosha.

Programs: Peer support and education (not therapy); professional training and community education; Grief programs for schools; Camp Erin for grieving children (See page 2 for information about Camp Erin); "Good Grief" in the Schools Program: provides support, training, literature and consultation to school staff and administrators to assist them with meeting the needs of their students and staff when a death occurs.

Mourning Cloak www.mourningcloak.org

Contact Information: By Phone: 262-268-7599 or 414-704-7640
Email: pat@mourningcloak.org

Mission: To provide high quality support, education and companionship to those who are grieving a death or loss.

Service Area: Ozaukee, Milwaukee, Washington and Sheboygan counties

Programs: Programs are held at a number of locations and at our main office in Port Washington. Trained volunteers facilitate peer support groups that are age-specific covering ages four through eighteen. Facilitators use art, music, writing, and storytelling to promote healing. We also offer grief support groups in schools, after school programs, youth homes and other community agencies.



My Good Mourning Place www.mygoodmourningplace.org

4005 W. Oklahoma Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-719-5385

Mission: To help grieving children and their families heal.

Service Area: Southeastern Wisconsin

Programs: Programs use volunteers and professionals to provide group interventions for bereaved children, teens, and their adult caregivers. Activities are structured around play, music, books, drama and art. Children and teens come to bi-weekly sessions for 1 to 1.5 hours depending upon their age. A parent, guardian or adult family member must accompany the child and teen throughout each session.

Unity Hospice www.unityhospice.org

2366 Oak Ridge Cir.
De Pere, WI 54115
800-990-9249

Mission: Unity offers a variety of support programs to meet the needs of our patients' families and friends, as well as grieving adults and children.

Service Area: Northeastern Wisconsin.

Programs: **Hope for Grieving Families** is a monthly program designed to support grieving families with children and teens ages 6 - 18. For more information and to register (registration is required) call 920-338-1111 or 800-990-9249.

Do you have information about other resources for grieving children to share? Please email the information to us at ocvs@doj.state.wi.us !



If you need resources about crime victim rights and services contact us:

Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of Crime Victim Services
17 West Main Street
Madison, WI 53707
Phone - (800) 446-6564 or 608-264-9497
Fax - (608) 264-6368 Email: ocvs@doj.state.wi.us

We're on the Web!
Visit us at: www.doj.state.wi.us/cvs