

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



NEW HOPE  
Center for Grief Support



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# FROM THE FOUNDERS, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Providing grief support to adults and children in the midst of a nationwide pandemic is something I never faced during the early days of New Hope. I'm so proud of the way Jennifer, the New Hope staff, and volunteers have overcome this hurdle and continued to care for those who are grieving throughout southeastern Michigan. I am so thankful to each and everyone of you who have supported New Hope in any way and I continue to keep this ministry that I envisioned 22 years ago in my heart and in my prayers

-Cathy Clough, Founder

New Hope was founded as a Christian based ministry and it is our continuing prayer that those who are grieving will sense God's presence as described in Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

-John & Betty Baird, Founders

This year was a year of growth for New Hope as we introduced many new programs and connected to more griever than ever before. My seventeen years of involvement at New Hope reminds me of Mark 2:1-12. Four men were trying to get their paralytic friend to Jesus. These men realized that there was no getting past the crowd to get to Christ, so they took apart the building by deconstructing the roof and lowering their friend into the presence of Jesus. The friends of the paralytic man remind me of all the people behind the scenes that make New Hope possible. The founders, board of directors, executive director, staff, facilitators, speakers, and hundreds of volunteers make hope, healing, and new beginnings possible. I praise God for all the healing as well as the countless friends that New Hope has brought me and so many others.

-Ed Doody, Chairman of the Board

## Hope

*If you only carry one thing throughout your entire life, let it be hope. Let it be hope that better things are always ahead. Let it be hope that you can get through even the toughest of times. Let it be hope that you are stronger than any challenge that comes your way. Let it be hope that you are exactly where you are meant to be right now, and that you are on the path to where you are meant to be. Because during these times, hope will be the very thing that carries you through.*

-Nikkie Banas

Dear New Hope Supporters,

The past year was one of rising up despite the pain, a year of holding on to hope, and a year of being grateful that we have each other. In spite of these uncertain times, New Hope Center was able to continue the mission of bringing hope, healing, and new beginnings to those impacted by the death of a loved one. We experienced amazing compassion from our volunteers and blessings of financial generosity from donors and grantors, allowing New Hope to tailor our programming. We were able to meet griever's needs through virtual/on-line sessions, in-person connections, or through hybrid options. The virtual options allowed us to provide grief services throughout Michigan, across state lines, and even in other countries. During a year of such uncertainty, we touched the lives of more griever's with greater capacity than ever before, achieving 10,925 direct program impacts.

In 2021, New Hope grew and moved into new offices at the Northville Square mall. We grew our Ongoing Peer Support Groups, and now offer 20 loss-specific groups meeting on a regular basis. We held our largest Eight-Week Workshop ever, with 190 participants, and served a record number of 77 campers at our July "Grief Is Messy" Kids Camp. We launched a Starting Again Group in Dearborn, and wrapped up the year with a beautiful Memorial Candlelight Ceremony where nearly 150 participants honored their loved ones.

Touched by the support services offered in the wake of the worst cases of COVID-19 during desperately isolating times, our community rallied to share information about New Hope Center for Grief Support while also raising funds to help those grieving after loss. We are so blessed for the community support to help reach more griever's with greater impact during our world's unprecedented times.

The impact New Hope has had on those grieving over the last year is remarkable and would not be possible without the more than 150 volunteers that help run our programs. I have immense respect and admiration for this army of volunteers that help to serve each griever reaching out for support. Volunteers willingly step into the lives of the broken, extend a helping hand, and become a ray of light. They strive to help each adult, teen or child find the strength to move the mountain of grief. This is the beauty of New Hope.

Thank you for rising up in 2021 to support all griever's under our care. All we need is hope; and for that, we have each other!

*Jennifer Frush*  
Executive Director

**"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."  
Matthew 5:4**

## MISSION

New Hope Center for Grief Support is a 501c3 charitable organization dedicated to bringing hope, healing, and new beginnings to adults and children grieving the death of a loved one.

## VISION

Our vision as a bereavement resource center for Southeast Michigan is to see those who have come through our program create a safe, supportive community for others in grief and help change the way our culture responds to grief and loss.

# NEW HOPE STAFF



**JENNIFER FRUSH**  
*Executive Director*



**ALLISON BUNCH**  
*Program & Development Manager*



**VALERIE BRDA**  
*Program Coordinator*



**COURTNEY GILLIM**  
*Grief Coordinator*



**COLLEEN AGROTIS**  
*Office Administrator*

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tom Krause  
Kevin Bullock  
Debbie Damesworth  
Alan Walthall  
Beth Santer  
Kristin Ryeson  
Kathy Swierlik  
Tricia Burger

### FOUNDERS

Cathy Clough  
*Founder & Executive Director*  
*Emeritus*  
Betty & John Baird  
*Founders*

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Robert Kalec  
Beth Voyles  
Steve Rowley



## MISSION IMPACT | ADULT PROGRAMS

In 2021, New Hope Center for Grief Support was able to serve more griever than ever before. We saw record attendance numbers at multiple workshops and seminars. This is a strong indicator of the need we see in our community for bereavement support services. We continued to offer virtual and hybrid options, which helped us expand our reach. We have continued to see increasing demand for grief support services, and New Hope remains committed to serving every griever who looks to us for help.

### "From Grief to New Hope" Eight-Week Workshop

New Hope Center hosted our "From Grief to New Hope" Eight-Week Workshop twice in 2021, with a total of 335 participants at Ward Church. Both workshops were offered virtually and in-person. We have continued to see griever join this workshop, and other programs, sooner and sooner after their loss. Of New Hope's workshop participants, 44% lost a loved one 3-6 months before the workshop, and another 17% had lost someone less than three months before coming to the workshop.

*"It is so powerful because it's so matter of fact and realistic, plus has so many helpful practical tools. These speakers are excellent... you all have something really valuable here."*

*-Fall Workshop Participant*

*"My facilitators were very supportive, understanding and in tune with the needs of every person in the group."*

*-Spring Workshop Participant*

**93%** of participants felt they better understood their grief after participating in the workshop.

**89%** of workshop participants were better able to communicate their thoughts and feelings.

**90%** of workshop participants are now better able to talk about their loved one who passed.

**Thank you to the Packer Group, for making the success of this workshop possible through their generous support.**



## Next Steps Ongoing Peer Support Groups

New Hope Center served an average of 235 participants each month in 2021 through the "Next Steps" program. "Next Steps" encompasses 20 different age and loss specific support groups for those grieving the loss of a loved one. These groups are spread across Southeastern Michigan, and we offer virtual options when possible. All of New Hope's ongoing groups are led by trained, volunteer group facilitators, who have experienced loss themselves and now serve as a way to continue their own healing after a loss.

235

average group  
participants  
per month  
in 2021

20

Ongoing Peer  
Support  
Groups

## Seminars

New Hope Center for Grief Support offers two different half-day seminars: "Beginning the Grief Journey" and "Hope for the Holidays". "Beginning the Grief Journey" is offered each winter and summer, prior to the start of the "From Grief to New Hope" workshop, and "Hope for the Holidays" is offered before the start of the holiday season. We welcomed 179 seminar participants in 2021.

## Memorial Candlelight Ceremony

New Hope Center hosted our annual Memorial Candlelight Ceremony again this year, after a two year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were pleased to have 144 participants join us for this ceremony, to reflect and grieve in community. We memorialized our loved ones at this ceremony by acknowledging each of their names, and by lighting five ceremonial candles: one for our grief, one for courage, one for our memories, one for love, and one for hope.



## MISSION IMPACT | CIRCLES OF HOPE

"Circles of Hope" includes all of New Hope Center's children's and family programming. "Circles of Hope" programming helps children process their emotions in a safe, supportive environment, and develop healthy coping skills. Through this programming, New Hope aims to strengthen families in our community.

### "Grief is Messy" Kids Camp

We welcomed 77 campers to our "Grief is Messy" Kids Camp at Maybury Farm. This was a substantial increase from the 35 children who came to camp in 2020. We would like to thank Angela Hospice, the Northville Township Police Department, and the Northville Township Fire Department for their support of and involvement with Kids Camp.



**"I learned that grief is messy and you're not alone."  
"There are other people dealing with loss. You can have a lot of  
fun here."**

### Family Fridays

In 2021, New Hope Center began our Family Fridays on Zoom, and returned to in person programming last spring. We host Family Fridays monthly, with a different theme each time. This program is a chance for grieving families to connect, learn, and grow together. Family Friday attendance averaged 17 participants per month in 2021 prior to Kids Camp. After an especially large turnout at Kids Camp boosted overall community awareness of New Hope Center and the Circles of Hope program, our average monthly attendance grew to 34.



**"Weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in  
the morning." Psalm 30:5**

### Teen Group

New Hope Center's Teen Group met for three six-week sessions in 2021. 33 teens attended Teen Group, with an average of 11 teens per session. With school staff overwhelmed and mental health professionals who serve children and families seeing heavier caseloads than ever, New Hope is proud to be able to support youth in our community through our Teen Group.

## MISSION IMPACT | OUTREACH

New Hope Center is committed to supporting our community, whenever and however we can. Over the last two years, the need for that support has been greater than ever. Through our continued outreach efforts, New Hope reached 2,090 people in 2021.

### Children's Grief Awareness Day Art Exhibit

In recognition of Children's Grief Awareness Day on November 18th, New Hope Center hosted an art exhibit featuring paintings by children from our Circles of Hope program. The theme of the exhibit was "What Grief Means to Me." We would like to thank Mayor Brian Turnbull for supporting the event by proclaiming the day "Children's Grief Awareness Day" in the City of Northville.

### School-Based Programming and Crisis Support

In 2021, New Hope Center for Grief Support was honored to work with Northville Public Schools and Plymouth Canton Community Schools. Through our work in these schools, New Hope provided direct support after losses in the school communities and offered training opportunities for school faculty who are supporting grieving students.

### Focus on Zero

New Hope Center's Executive Director, Jennifer Frush, presented at the 2021 *Focus on Zero: Pathways for Suicide and Domestic Violence Prevention* conference, hosted by Hegira Health. She spoke about the complicated grief often experienced by those who lose a loved one to suicide.

### Media Appearances

Over the course of 2021, New Hope Center was featured on several local media channels. Jennifer Frush gave interviews on the Chris Ayotte radio show, the *Mind Matters* television show with Dr. Michele Leno, and was featured on the *Oakland County Megacast* three times. These media appearances have represented opportunities for New Hope to connect with new griever throughout Southeastern Michigan.

### Councils

New Hope Center for Grief Support's Executive Director, Jennifer Frush, sits on the following councils: Northville CARES, Ascension Community Health, Community Mental Health Association through St. Mary Mercy Hospital, and Wayne County Schools – Let's Continue the Conversation Committee.

This community involvement has not only brought a new level of visibility to New Hope Center and all that we do, it is also a signal of our dedication to serving wherever and however we are able.



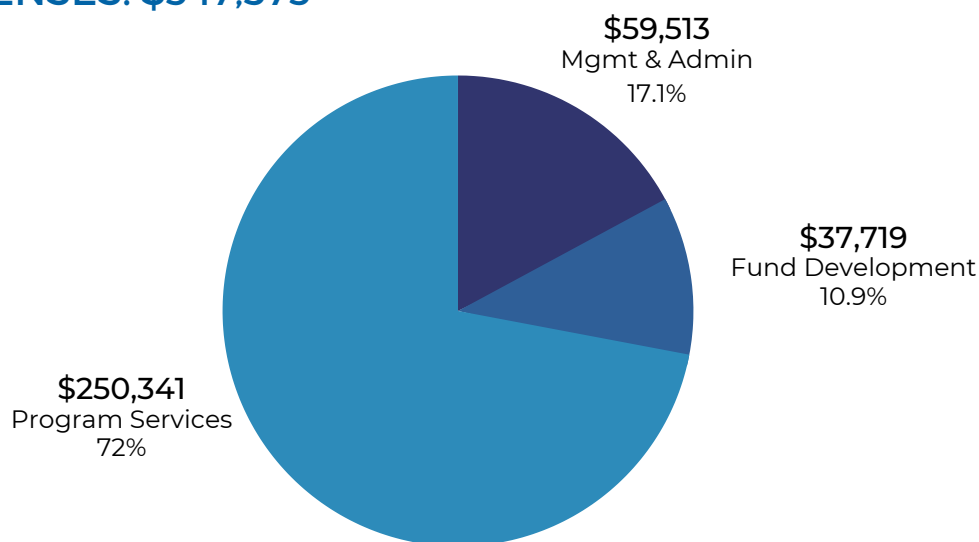


## OPERATING BUDGET

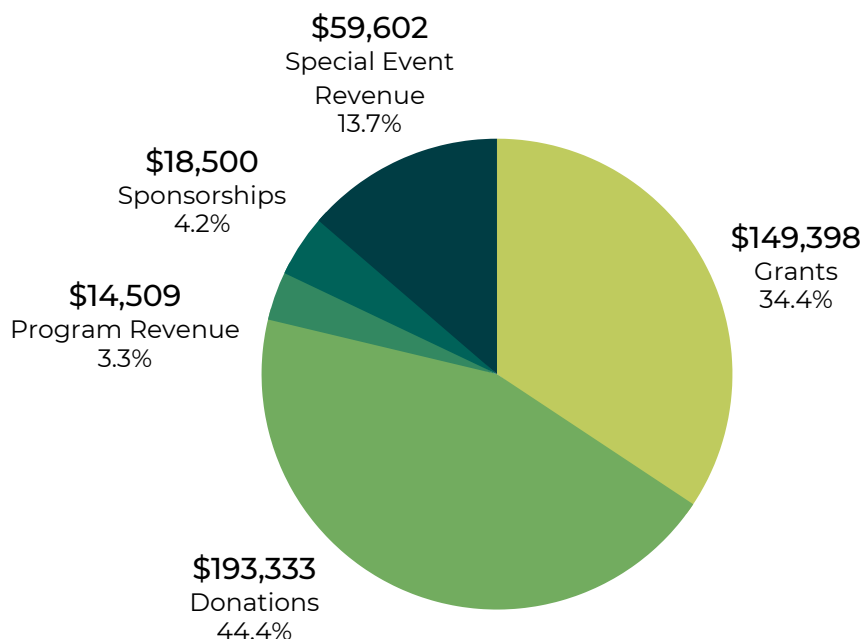
New Hope Center's operating budget grew to \$324,454 in 2021, an increase from 2020. The increase in budget allowed us to start new programs, increase the capacity of existing programs, and hire additional staff to support this growth.

Expenses for the year came in over budget at \$347,573. Our revenue, however, far exceeded our projections and came in at \$435,342. This is a 27% increase from our revenue in 2020. Individual donations were our largest revenue stream. This is a true testament to the impact of New Hope's programming and service to the community. New Hope Center remains grateful beyond words to our supporters, and committed to responsible stewardship of these resources.

### 2021 EXPENSES: \$347,573



### 2021 REVENUE: \$435,342





## HEROES OF HOPE

Thank you to our Heroes of Hope, for their monthly contributions to New Hope Center for Grief Support which bring stability to our programs and resources to our griever.. It is through their ongoing support that we are able to bring Hope, Healing, and New Beginnings to so many in grief.

**Sylvia Arakelian**  
**John & Betty Baird**  
**Paul & Janeen Baird**  
**Margie Brace**  
**Kevin & Julie Brown**  
**Kevin & Tracey Bullock**  
**Barbara Bushey**  
**Carol Carr**  
**Paul & Cathy Clough**  
**Debbie Damesworth**  
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**Paul & Karla Declue**  
**Ed Doody**  
**Jim Eldridge**  
**Brenda Florence**

**Robert & Jennifer Frush**  
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**Don & Beth Voyles**  
**Alan Walthall**  
**Ed Weidenbach**  
**Charles Wilkinson**

## MEMORIAL DONATIONS

New Hope Center would like to thank our donors who contributed in memory of their lost loved ones:

Christ Vlachos · Rev. Douglas Barranger · Jack Cameron · Blake Kinzer · Brynlee Damesworth · Lucille Vuich · Jerry Harding · Becky Hilger · Jim Lawrence, Jr. · Glenn Long · Lois Long · Norman McLeod · Patrick Clancy · John Claude · Irene Nowakowski · Lenard Nowakowski · David Nowakowski · Henry Rotenheber · Gary Serb · Michael Wisniewski · Carl Zenoni · Joyce Sproul · Maxine Phaneuf · Richard Strasser · David Guastella · Michael Stewart · Charles Carney · Jimmy Stevens · Matthew Wansor · Sharon Ziolkowski · Kevin Gilchrist · Bertha Schaden · Martin Arakelian · Naomi Pretto · Sylvia · Frank Guczwa · Shiela Rasak Jr. · Tiffany Kirby · David Rykalsky · Lucas Silvasi · Grant Waitz · Merriam Weglarz · Jon Bozich · Lily · Pamela Tchalo Dotlich · John Holmstrom · Joel Boutin · Kristy Conniff · Mary Guire Miller · Bill · Rob · Jose Gorbea · Elba Gorbea · Hannah Doody · Susan Copeland · John Flynn · Linda Stalker · Travis Hopson · Diane Ryeson · Nicholas Kouvatas · Bob Anderson · John Gumina · Ella Jane Gillim · Jessica Napolitano · Andrew Prakken · Joe Hanson · Shanay Mahadeo · Greg Sables · Kayla · Richard Brower · Tom Hughes, Sr. · Sasha · Jim Johnides · Christopher Lantto · Alexandra Simpson · Linda Marie Brown · Jeff Leonhard · Bruce Russell · Dash Gurney · John Murphy · Deborah Mayer · Mike Dore · Jordan Wells · Robert Martin · Jeffery Niemiec · Eleanor Browers · Maurice Browers · John Hamilton · Aaron Prillwitz · Chelsea Rauss · Katherine Torres · Riley Frush · Tim Evans · Ted Setla · Christopher Burnham · Donna Nabozny · Fred Geist

## GRANTORS & SPONSORS



## HOST PARTNERS



## GET INVOLVED

Grief is a universal life experience. At some point in our lives, we will all be touched by grief and loss. The need for grief support in our community is immense, as shown by the record numbers of participation at New Hope programs in 2021. New Hope Center for Grief Support needs your help to reach more griever and provide them with the resources they need to find hope, healing, and new beginnings. Please consider volunteering with New Hope, sponsoring a program, or making a donation in 2022.

## VOLUNTEER

To learn about volunteer opportunities at New Hope Center for Grief Support, please call our office at (248) 348-0115 or visit [www.newhopecenter.net/volunteer](http://www.newhopecenter.net/volunteer)

## DONATE OR SPONSOR A PROGRAM

To make a donation or learn more about program sponsorships at New Hope Center, please call our office at (248) 348-0115 or visit [www.newhopecenter.net/get-involved](http://www.newhopecenter.net/get-involved)

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

