NEW HOPE
Center for Grief Support

IMPACT REPORT

Circles of Hope

2025



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(248) 348-0115 | griefhelp@newhopecenter.net | www.newhopecenter.net

In 2025...

We have served **285** unique children and adolescents.

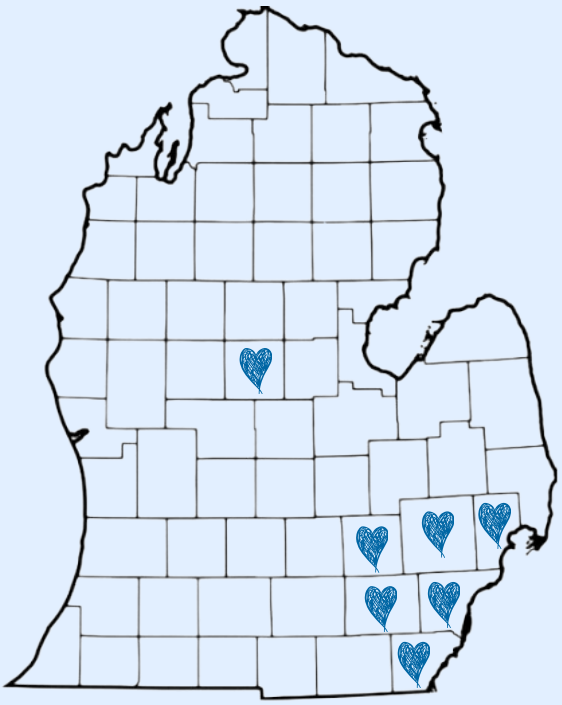
Individuals have attended our Circles of Hope programming **2,599** times.

We have served **204** families.

We served families from **7** different counties across Michigan.







CIRCLES OF HOPE

- FAMILY FRIDAY
- FINDING YOUR SUPERPOWERS SEMINAR
- TEEN GROUP
- KID'S CAMP
- SCHOOL-BASED GRIEF SUPPORT
- DAY- TO-PLAY

11% increase in youth participants

We had participants from 35 cities

KID'S CAMP

Our annual kid's grief camp is designed to help children connect with other children to know they are not alone in their grief, learn about the reactions and emotions associated with grief, develop healthy coping strategies, and discover ways to grow through their grief journey by sharing their stories.

During Kid's Camp, our campers experienced a fun interactive 2-day camp through eleven different stations. Each station was specifically designed to ensure children had the opportunity to talk about their loss, learn about grief-related emotions and reactions, and connect with other grieving children.










181 children and teens were in attendance

275 volunteers helped make camp possible

9 fire and police departments volunteered

- Michigan State Police
- Northville Township Police Department
- Northville Police Department
- Novi Police Department
- Livonia Police Department
- Farmington Hills Police Department
- Canton Police Department
- Northville Township Fire Department

Horse Therapy | Art Therapy | MI Jags Soccer | Skatepark Designing | Song Writing | Grief Trail Mix | Cardio Drumming | Football | Social Media | Kickball | Baseball

TOGETHER, WE LEARNED THAT "HITTING GRIEF OUT OF THE PARK" TAKES...

TEAMING
up with others to navigate grief

STRIKING
out fears and worries

CATCHING
hope when grief feels overwhelming







"[They liked] being with friends and others who understood."

CAREGIVER OF CAMPER



65%
of campers lost a parent or sibling

44%
of our campers have attended our camp previously

20%
of campers experienced loss due to suicide or substance use

FAMILY FRIDAYS

Throughout the year, we offer this monthly family-based program. Dinner is provided, along with break-out sessions, discussions, and activities to provide tools to help navigate the grief journey. We offer a unique theme, and activity each month.

49
families served at Family Fridays

81
children have attended Family Friday events

47%
experienced loss due to suicide or substance use

FAMILY FRIDAY THEMES

- **JAN** Lei It All Out
- **FEB** Act Out Your Grief
- **MAR** Detect Your Emotions
- **MAY** Weathering Our Grief
- **JUN** Chop Down Hard Feelings
- **AUG** Observing Our Emotions
- **SEP** Leaf Room for Healing
- **OCT** Preserving Memories
- **NOV** Art Workshop
- **DEC** Santa's Workshop



CREATING EMOTION CHARTS



DESIGNING STRENGTH KARATE BELTS



DECORATING LEIS & LIMBO

TYPES OF LOSS



80% PARENT



12% EXTENDED FAMILY



8% SIBLING

AGES



18% - - - - 0-4



39% - - - - 5-8



37% - - - - 9-12



6% - - - - 13+

DAY-TO-PLAY

"Day-to-Play" is a special activity that gives children the opportunity to connect and share with other children who have lost a loved one. Our goal is for the kids to connect, share, and express their feelings in a safe environment.



21
YOUTH ATTENDANCES



FEB
COMMUNITY HEROES



JUN
SHAKE OUT YOUR FEELINGS



NOV
RESPONDING TO OUR EMOTIONS



FINDING YOUR SUPERPOWERS

The "Finding Your Superpowers" Seminar is an interactive family event designed to help families respond to grief and loss through the stories of our favorite superheroes.

SUMMARY IN A FLASH

- 33 Children
- 21 Adults
- 18 Volunteers
- 7 Police Officers
- 2 Therapy Dogs
- 3 Staff Members
- 2 Bat Mobiles

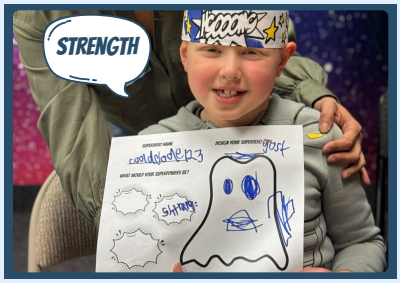








WE LEARNED THAT EVEN IN OUR GRIEF...
WE HAVE SPECIAL SUPERPOWERS











DID YOU KNOW?

The "S" on Superman's chest is actually the kryptonian symbol for **HOPE** .



SCHOOL-BASED GRIEF SUPPORT

School-based grief support programs aim to help schools identify and track students impacted by grief and prepare and collaborate with schools to support those students. Our programming includes childhood bereavement training, First Steps Advocacy, direct support after the loss of student or staff, 8-week on-site grief support groups, and ongoing support and resources.

THE IMPACT:

- We served bereaved students, staff, and families in the Northville, Novi, Wayne-Westland, Plymouth/Canton/Salem, and Livonia School Districts.
- We expanded our program to provide School-Based Grief Support to 60 schools across Southeast Michigan.
- 73 unique students participated in our school-based grief support groups.
- Students attended groups 617 times, which was a 124% increase from 2024.
- First Steps Advocacy provides one-to-one support for students. We had a 63% increase in meetings compared to the program in 2023.
- We had 252 school professionals attend our Grief Sensitivity Trainings. This was a 38% increase from 2024.

WHAT THE STUDENTS HAD TO SAY ABOUT GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS:

- 92% of students found the information that was shared to be helpful.
- 100% of students would recommend this grief group to other grieving students.

WHAT STUDENTS LEARNED FROM THEIR TIME IN THE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP:

- "It's good to talk through your thoughts out loud."
- "Everyone has a different experience."
- "Talking about your feelings can make you feel better."
- "I'm not the only one that has experienced specific things."



NEW HOPE PROVIDED GRIEF SENSITIVITY TRAINING TO 282 SCHOOL PROFESSIONALS. WE SUPPORTED 45 STUDENTS AND STAFF FOLLOWING THE LOSS OF A STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER.

TEEN GROUP

Teen group is an 8-week session support group designed for teens that are grieving the death of a loved one. This program will help teens better understand their grief, provide a safe space for them to communicate their thoughts and feelings, and provide them with healthy coping skills, and the tools they will need to help them navigate their grief journey.

THE IMPACT

- Two 8-week sessions of Teen Group were held.
- Teen Group had 195 attendances.
- 88% of teen participants lost a parent or sibling.
- We discussed topics such as common emotions and reactions related to grief, healthy coping strategies, various ways to navigate holidays and special days, and a plethora of other grief-related topics that teens were able to connect over.

26 teen participants

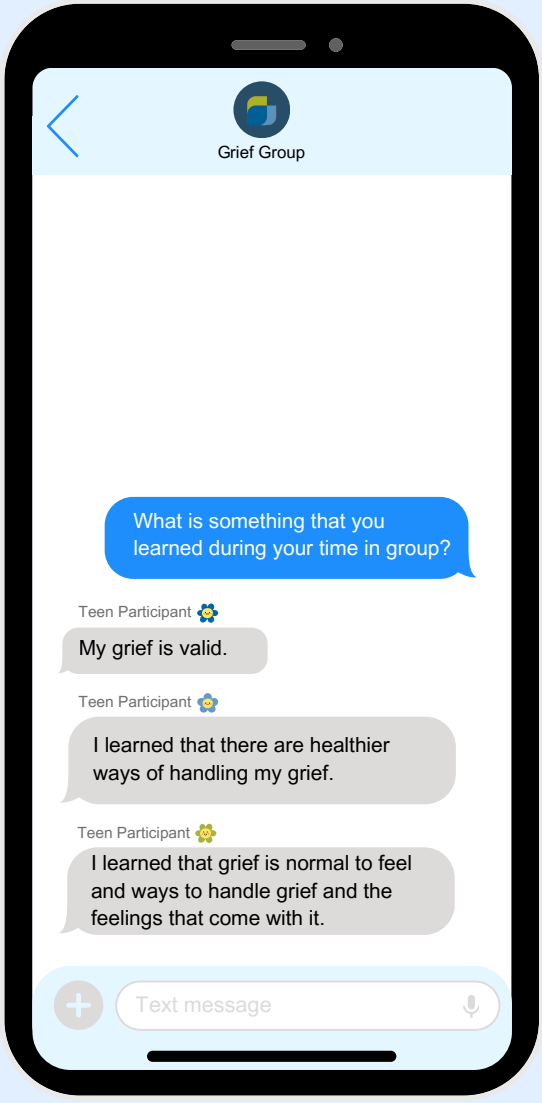
62% increase in participants from 2024

46% of teens also had a parent attend the workshop





19% experienced loss due to suicide or substance use



THANK YOU.

to the grantors, donors, sponsors, and countless community partners and volunteers that help families connect, learn, and grow.



Kid's Camp



Presenting Sponsor:

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Ascension

United Way
Plymouth Community United Way

Eagles for Children
Helping Children One Eagle At A Time

Thank you to the Plymouth First United Methodist Church for hosting and the DRE Project for sponsoring the food. Thank you to Keith Kolodsick for photographing so many of our special moments.

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE DRE PROJECT

Circles of Hope

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