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*I like that we got to talk.*  
-Michael, age 9

”

“

*I like that we played  
games and would have  
fun and would get along  
with each other:*

-Niya, age 14

”

“

*That I know people been  
through what I have.*

-Alexis, age 11

”



## About the Center

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The Center was founded in 1995 by the Bereavement Program at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children and incorporated as an independent nonprofit in 2000. Our main office is located in East Falls with various Center-Based locations throughout the city.

All programs for grieving children and families are provided FREE of charge. The Center is supported through individual donations, grants and corporate sponsorships.



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# Center-Based Program

Our Center-Based Program offers free peer support groups for children and teens age 4-18 who have experienced the death of someone significant in their lives. Peer support and a caring adult presence help to reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness children often experience after a death.

- Multiple locations throughout the city
- Creative activities and games allow children and teens to express their thoughts and feelings about the death
- Groups are divided by age and developmental level
- Concurrent caregiver group provides support for adults raising a grieving child



## Our Mission

The Center helps children grieving a death to heal and grow through their grief while strengthening families, communities and professionals' understanding of how best to respond to their needs.

## We believe that:

Grief is a natural reaction to the loss of a loved one for children and teens, as well as adults.

Within each individual is the natural capacity to heal oneself.

The duration and intensity of grief are unique for each individual.

Caring and acceptance assist in the healing process.

# Community-Based Program

Our Community-Based Program provides free peer support groups for children and training for professionals who work with bereaved children and families. This program is a mobile version of The Center provided within communities where children are unable to attend Center-Based groups due to a variety of barriers.

## In-School services

- 8-week peer support groups provide a safe outlet for grieving students during the school day
- Run in partnership with school staff
- Creative and activity-based curriculum
- Provides normalization of the grief process and reduces feelings of isolation

## Grief resources and training

The Center provides telephone consultations as well as formal trainings on issues related to children's bereavement for professionals and organizations working with grieving children and families.

