

Healing Hearts



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Dear

Friends,

I love dogs and have a special place in my heart for the Raisin, Chip and Buddy stuffed puppies that we have at Bo's Place, especially because I know the "back story" of why we give one of our puppies to each of the children who come to Bo's Place. We do so as a tribute to our namesake, Bo Neuhaus. It is one of the ways that we ensure his legacy lives on and that he continues to touch each child who comes to us for support.

Here's the story as shared in *It's Okay, God, We Can Take It*, the book that Bo wrote with his mom, Lindy Neuhaus:

"Bo's last two weeks were not easy. He was in a lot of pain and never could get very comfortable. He needed his body turned from side to side every half hour, around the clock. It was spring break, and the majority of our friends had gone on their planned trips. Our sixteen-year-old niece, Palmer, with whom Bo had a very special friendship, opted to miss her family's ski trip in order to spend time with Bo. She spent many hours at our house visiting with Bo during his illness and, at the end, was there helping to physically care for him. Palmer was the one person that Bo was always happy to see, no matter how he felt, and she could always seem to make him feel better. She and our housekeeper, Riri, were an invaluable extra pair of hands those last weeks.

Bo's only other constant company was his lazy old dachshund, Raisin, who much to Raisin's delight, became a house dog for Bo's last two weeks. When Bo was in one of his few alert stages during those last weeks, he told me that he wanted a black lab puppy. (He said it with a half grin on his face.) I told him: 'Bo you know that I would do just about anything for you at this point, but here's where I have to draw the line. The last thing we need is a new puppy, and besides, you already have a dog.'

Bo, with as much energy as he could muster, replied, 'Okay, Mom, let me get this straight. Here I am, a little boy who can't do anything except lie here,

and I am probably going to die soon, and my own mother won't even get me a little lab puppy.' I looked down to see probably the last mischievous smile from him that I would ever see again. I remember thinking to myself, 'He really isn't afraid, and he's going to have a little fun down to the last minute.'

My response to him was that we would make Raisin a house dog and she could stay in his bed. Raisin adjusted to her new way of life like a champ. She would lie in Bo's bed with him all day and night, leaving his side only for meals and to take short breaks outside. She thought she had died and gone to heaven. And Bo loved the company."

I love to read this passage and I think of that mischievous smile whenever I see a child's eyes light up as they select their own Raisin, Chip or Buddy. With every puppy we give to a child who comes to Bo's Place, it is our hope that we share a little bit of Bo and his uplifting spirit of hope, love and resiliency in the process.



Mary
Executive Director

Beth

Staine



What we did for Summer Fun 2015 - We HAD FUN!

And did we ever!! Starting off in June with Movie Night and ending in August with Fiesta en Bo's Place, Summer Fun 2015 offered four unique programs and was another super success. Thanks to the generosity of the **David and Bonnie Weekley Family Foundation**, our Bo's Place children and their families were able to create new memories, make new friends, and learn that despite a great sadness, you can still have a fun and happy life.

Movie

Fifteen of our little guys enjoyed Baymax and Hiro from "Big Hero 6" on Movie Night at Bo's Place in an elevator ride to San Fransokyo (otherwise known as the Bo's Place Training Room). After the movie and popcorn, the kids had the chance to think about their own inner "hero" qualities and strengths while making their very own hero cape.

Night



Camp for All 2 U

Have YOU ever canoed in a parking lot with no water?? We did. Thanks to Camp 4 All 2 U, camp came to Bo's Place for thirty-four Bo's Place kids ranging from children in our Littles groups to the Teen groups. After a shared dinner of pizza, hot dogs, or chicken-nuggets, camp activities began with energizers in the dining room before campers headed with their "cabin-mates" to their activity rotations. Activities included putt putt golf; "Bad-mitten"; Angry Bird Zip Line; rocket launching; a petting zoo of barnyard animals; arts and crafts; and more. Camp nights always ended with parents joining the campers and volunteers in singing "I'm the World's Greatest."



Family Fun Night

Family Fun Night provided a night when families made scrapbooks of their loved ones and spent time together creating new family memories. After

enjoying a family dinner compliments of the **Olive Garden** and **Silver Stone Events**, nineteen families (with 53 family members) worked on scrapbooks, played board games, danced to DJ music, made balloon animals, slurped snowcones, bounced in a bouncy house and more. One mother shared that she was having a bad day, but coming to Family Fun Night turned her day right around. Family Fun Night has become a beloved August tradition at Bo's Place.



Fiesta en Bo's Place

For the first time ever, we offered a new version of Family Fun Night for our Spanish speaking families entitled *Fiesta en Bo's Place*. Twelve families (with 42 family members) enjoyed a yummy taco bar provided by a **Taquiza** and cookies compliments of **Tiff's Treats**. Families celebrated with laughter, new memories, and coming together as a family and community in ways that promote healing. Not only did they have a great time, but many families who had not previously attended groups at our home campus had the opportunity to take a tour of the building to prepare for their new groups starting in September. We hope all felt a cordial, warm welcome!



Announcing our Marathon Sponsors!

Team Bo's Place is very excited to announce our Houston Marathon Sidewalk Squad Corporate Charity Program **Record Holder** participants:



Sidewalk Squad Corporate Charity Program Partners are local businesses that want to partner with Bo's Place for the Chevron Houston Marathon by supporting at either the *Champion* (\$5,000), *Olympian* (\$7,500) or *Record Holder* (\$10,000) levels. These businesses receive marketing opportunities through the Marathon and with Bo's Place and are critical to helping reach our fundraising goal of \$65,000. If you know of a potential company partner, please contact Teri Howell at marathon@bosplace.org.



We *heart* our Volunteers



Chevron

Cindy Kemble, owner of Kemble Creative, is a hidden jewel of a volunteer for Bo's Place! For the past four years, she has used her graphic design expertise to help Bo's Place meet our goal of creating a consistent look and feel for all our collateral materials. Cindy helps us with flyers for virtually all our program needs - upcoming support groups, camp, Summer Fun, and educational workshops and trainings. With her camp logos and graphics (our camp t-shirts are amazing!), we've taken Camp Healing Hearts and Retiro Sanando Corazones to a whole new level. On the development front, she's designed auction brochures, invitations, signage, and created logos and t-shirts for our participation in the Houston Marathon.

Cindy's most recent projects include revamping the power point presentation for our New Board Member Orientation, designing the graphic layout for our new Volunteer Facilitator Manual and developing power point slides that tie to

the look of the manual. She's also designing a layout for the new parent handouts that were developed over the summer for our Ongoing Groups, and serving on the the sub-committee overseeing our website upgrade.

Cindy not only shares her artistic talents with us, but has also participated in the Marathon, either by walking the half marathon for Team Bo's Place or by staffing the hoopla/watering station. Cindy has experienced the deaths of close family members and shares a deep commitment to helping other families who have experienced the death of a loved one. And, by the way, she's the sister of our Executive Director, Mary Beth Staine! Thank you, Cindy, for your countless hours volunteering for Bo's Place.



Bidding for Bo's Place

Our live auction items are coming together for this year's "Una Notte in Italia" to be held on Friday, November 6 at the Royal Sonesta. Come ready to bid on the following packages:

- Trip for two to Napa Valley with airfare, 3-night stay at the Meritage, dinner on the wine train and a 6-hour chauffeured excursion!
- Trip for two to the Golden Nugget Lake Charles with a 2-night stay in a corner suite, complete with chauffeured limo service and bubbly!
- In-town fun with a private multi-course dinner and drinks at SaltAir Seafood Kitchen with Houston Texans Brian Cushing and Duane Brown, complete with a weekend lease of a Jaguar XJL from Momentum Jaguar!
- Fabulous trip for two to scenic Italy, with 2 nights in Rome and 5 nights in the Tuscan countryside town of Barga - includes wine tasting and car rental.

For more information on these live auction items, please contact Andrea Sivells at 713-942-8339 or via email at unanotte@bosplace.org. To join us at the event and bid on these exciting live auction items, you can purchase your ticket or table [here](#).



Happenings

On August 1, we hosted 22 students from **Baylor College of Medicine** for a service project. They completed staining a hundred treasure maps, painting planks for a camp activity, and assembling a Captain Hook ring toss board for Camp Healing Hearts this fall.



Bo's Place representatives attended the **Belle Blackwell School Nurse's Conference** on August 5. It was a great opportunity to talk to nurses about Bo's Place and our new school based program!

Bo's Place was all abuzz on August 29 as we held a kick-off party for our **Team Bo's Place** runners and their families and recruited for **Bo's Buddies**, our young professionals program.





On August 29, Bo's Place once again welcomed members of the **Junior League of Houston** for an educational meeting to learn about grief and Bo's Place services. The meeting ended in a wonderful surprise presentation of 18 messenger bags for Camp Healing Hearts, lovingly hand sewn by Junior League View program member Amie Blaschke. These amazing bags will be enjoyed for many years.



Bo's Place Grief Support Services

Bo's Place grief support programs are based on the idea that sharing experiences with others in grief helps individuals navigate the grief journey and move towards hope and healing. Grief Support Groups are available in English and Spanish and are free-of-charge.

If you or someone you know would like information about Bo's Place Grief Support Groups for children and their families, adults, and young adults, [click here](#) or call 713.942.8339.

Bo's Place exists to enhance the lives of those who have experienced the death of a loved one.

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