

Healing Hearts



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A Note from Jennifer...

At a concert, I heard Stevie Nicks talking about how she responds to grief and sadness. She had recently experienced the death of her dear friend and bandmate. She was grieving. She said years ago her mother told her to run to the stage when she was sad. The stage is where she feels safe, embraced by her band and her fans. The stage is where she can cope. The stage is where she finds hope and healing because of the support she feels. I guess that is why she's still on the stage. It's her place of peace.

It made me think about Bo's Place and what we provide for those who need a place to run to when they are grieving. Bo's Place is a community of people who stand with open hearts to welcome those who are bereaved. We embrace everyone and become their safe place to run to when nowhere else in the world seems to understand.

One of my favorite things about Bo's Place is that everyone is welcome. Everyone. Grief does not know any boundaries. The people of Bo's Place: the participants, the volunteers, the board, and the staff, create a beautiful tapestry of people that is hard to find anywhere else.

Thank you for being a part of Bo's Place and helping to create a place of hope and healing for people to run to.

With bright hope for tomorrow.

Jennifer Boubel
Executive Director



Make a Memorable Donation this Summer

Our school-based program has an Amazon Wish List request! To help prepare for a Memory Box activity this upcoming school year, we need special craft boxes that students will decorate in honor of their person(s) who died.

During their support group, students read *The Memory Box: A Book About Grief* by Joanna Rowland, which tells about a young child collecting mementos and stories of their loved one to help them remember them. Then, students are each given a box filled with colorful stickers and they decorate the outside of the box, while sharing thoughts and memories about their person(s). Favorite colors, drawings, messages, stickers, and symbols fill the boxes inside and out.

Students are encouraged to take their memory box home with them and place special items inside that will help them remember their person(s). Photos, notes, and small personal belongings are examples of items children might put in their memory box.

Memory boxes and other helpful materials for our support groups can be purchased on our Amazon Wish List.



Amazon Wish List



Volunteer Spotlight: Kirsten Herrscher

Kirsten Herrscher is a native Houstonian with three grown children. She loves to travel (especially with her children or to Colorado), needlepoint, do puzzles, or play backgammon with her husband.

Kirsten first got involved with Bo's Place when she "retired" from the corporate world and was looking for an outlet. When she came for a tour, she knew "that was it, I knew immediately it was an organization I wanted to know more about and be a part of. My husband and I had lost our daughter, Samantha, when she was 22 months old, and being able to be involved with grief felt like something I could understand and appreciate."

"I was asked to be on the Board about six years ago and served on several committees where I have been able to learn the actual processes that go into making Bo's Place a reality."

This past year, Kirsten has served as the Bo's Place's Board President. Part of that experience included one of her most rewarding experiences on the Board. "Last year our long-time and very loved Executive Director was set to retire, and I was responsible for hiring a replacement. Looking for someone to take over this important role was one of the most rewarding tasks I have performed."

Kirsten has not only been a long time Board member, but also a Support Group Facilitator. "Upon finishing the Facilitator Training, I was in the Wednesday evening adult group." She shared about one group that stands out to her from those Wednesday evenings. "We had a group of ladies who struggled together and through it became lifelong friends and are now, years later, facilitators themselves!"

"Some of those evenings were hard, emotionally, but the support you receive from your co-facilitators is amazing." When reflecting on the impact of facilitating over the past six years Kirsten shared "I think facilitating has made me a calmer, more empathetic, and a more grateful person. Even though it has been 27 years since our daughter passed away, I have reflected more on her since volunteering at Bo's Place. I am so grateful that there is a place like Bo's Place for people to connect with others going through the same situation. Helping people make that journey a little easier is the most rewarding act one can do."

Thank you, Kirsten, for your many years of service to Bo's Place.



Sponsor the Spanish Family Group Breakfast

Each Spanish Family Support Group, which meets on Saturday mornings, starts with a warm breakfast provided by generous donors. It is a time where children, families, and adults arrive with smiles, greeting their fellow group participants, and excitedly catching up with each other after their busy week.



Families eagerly express their gratitude to Bo's Place, to the breakfast donors, and to the hospitality volunteers for providing a place where they can gather, relax, and be the recipients when they are so often on the opposite side and taking care of others. This breakfast ritual to start to the group lays the foundation for participants to be able to focus on themselves, on how they are feeling, and on their struggles, which they can then share with each other and seek support during their group time. Providing the Spanish Family Group breakfast is this meaningful and impactful.

If you would like to help support Bo's Place programs by donating toward our family meals, see the link below. A gift of any size will help provide the comfort of a shared family meal and a community of support for bereaved families.

[Donate Now](#)



Gathering Together for Children's Grief

Bo's Place is a longtime member of the National Alliance for Children's Grief (NACG) and has worked closely with their staff and other members to help support the NACG's mission to raise awareness about the needs of children and teens grieving a death and provide education and resources to anyone who wants to support them.

This year, Bo's Place sent three staff members to attend the NACG's 27th National Symposium on Children's Grief, held June 17 - 19 in Denver Colorado along, with a new record of 576 attendees from across the United States and beyond.

The Symposium offered various workshops and poster presentations on topics important to children's grief, program development, non-profit administration, activities, fundraising, grief support models, and more. A big part of the experience is making connections with others in the field of children's bereavement and engaging in dialogue with colleagues, clinicians, researchers, and other grief support professionals to exchange ideas, information, and expertise.



Marian Mankin, Bo's Place Program Director, co-moderated a Regional Forum that brought together attendees from Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas to share ideas, struggles and successes. Our staff came back with new ideas and connections that will help Bo's Place continue to enhance and grow our services.

Kudos to NACG staff for a wonderful event, and thanks to premier sponsor New York Life Foundation and all the other sponsors for making the Symposium possible. We also appreciate the amazing Judi's House/JAG Institute for being a most gracious local host and inviting all to a reception at their beautiful new facility.

Visit the NACG website for more information and resources, trainings, and a locator for grief support options for children across the country.

[National](#)

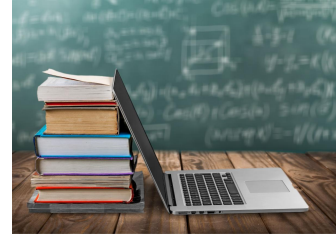
[New York Life](#)

[Judi's House](#)



Upcoming Training Opportunity: "Good Grief for School Professionals"

Presented by Bo's Place mental health professionals, this online training is designed for educators, counselors, administrators, and school staff wanting to gain a better understanding of children's grief and how to support bereaved students. Topics include an overview of current grief theory, indicators of grief, children's understanding of death throughout developmental stages, grief-based books and activities, helpful and not helpful things to say, and student support plans. Attendees will be provided access to student support plan templates and printable grief activity samples.



Good Grief for School Professionals Online Webinar
Friday, September 13, 2024
9:00am - 12:00pm

For more information and to register, please visit the link below or email alison@bosplace.org.

Register Now



Partner with Team Bo's Place

Is your company looking to increase employee social or wellness opportunities, or promote charitable giving? We invite your company to join Team Bo's Place as a Run for a Reason (RFAR) Corporate Partner as part of the 2025 Chevron Houston Marathon.

The RFAR Corporate Partnership Program provides your company with race entries and discounts, as well as branding and marketing opportunities to showcase your support of Bo's Place and the largest single-day sporting event in the city. Team Bo's Place corporate partners also receive tech t-shirts, signage, and an invitation to our Pancake Breakfast.

For more information about Team Bo's Place and the Corporate Partnership Program, please email marathon@bosplace.org.



Be a Heart Healer at Bo's Place

Bo's Place is looking for a Family Groups Manager. Requirements include: a graduate degree in social work, counseling, psychology, or marriage and family therapy, a current Texas state license in professional field and fluency in English and Spanish.

If you or someone you know meets the requirements and are interested in joining our team, please see the job description for more detail and how to apply.



Family Groups Manager



Happenings

On June 9, Marian Mankin, Bo's Place Program Director, shared information about Bo's Place and grief at the **Lockwood Funeral Home Service of Remembrance**.



The **New York Life Houston General Office** provided a taco bar meal for our family support group on June 13. Thank you to the agents who cooked, procured items, and served dinner.



On June 19, Bo's Place staff celebrated the start of summer at a happy hour hosted by **PostScript**. Thank you to PostScript for providing this opportunity for staff camaraderie!



The **Lewally Family** provided and served a wonderful feast for our families on June 20. The family attended Bo's Place after experiencing the death of their father/husband 20 years ago and wanted to give back to the families of Bo's Place in honor of this anniversary.



On June 26, all staff gathered at **Carrabba's** on Kirby for a lunch to celebrate the end of our fiscal year

and look toward the beginning of the next. We celebrated together and were reminded that the best leadership is from the heart. The food was delicious, and the fellowship was even better.



Bo's Place Grief Support Services

At Bo's Place, we believe that grieving families heal when they share their experiences with each other. We offer free Grief Support Groups in English and Spanish to families and individuals.

If you or someone you know would like information about Bo's Place Grief Support Groups for children, families, and 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.



Bo's Place | 10050 Buffalo Speedway | Houston, TX 77054 US

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