February 2025 Newsletter



A Note from Jennifer...

February is a month filled with love, and at Bo's Place, that love is woven into everything we do. Nowhere was that more evident than at our Hearts of Hope dinner, where so many came together in a room filled with warmth, generosity, and, most of all, hope. Seeing the love and support for Bo's Place in that space was a powerful reminder of what is possible when a community stands together.

As we celebrate 35 years of Bo's Place, I stand in awe of all that this organization has been—every person comforted, every hug shared, every moment of understanding offered. And I can't help but look forward with excitement to what the next 35 years and beyond will bring. Love is at the heart of Bo's Place, not just in February but every day, because of the people who make it what it is. From our volunteers and staff to the families who walk through our doors, you create a place where love is felt, shared, and lived.



With Bright Hope for Tomorrow,

Jennifer Boubel Executive Director



"My time here has been helpful because before I truly felt alone. At that time, I didn't want to share with my family because I did not know what space they were in. Coming here has opened the door to talk and express my feelings without judgment. Thank you to all my new friends here."

-Support Group Participant

Celebrating Love and Friendship

Many are familiar with February 14th being recognized as Valentine's Day. It is a day to celebrate love - often with flowers, chocolates, cards, candies, dinners, poems, or balloons. With sweet intentions and lots of hearts, Valentine's Day tends to place an emphasis on romantic love and couples. While romantic partnerships certainly deserve to be celebrated, love also extends into other types of relationships worth acknowledging.

In Mexico and other Latin American countries, such as Ecuador and Peru, February 14th is known as *Dia de Amor y Amistad* (Day of Love and Friendship). In Colombia, this day is celebrated in September. *Dia de Amor y Amistad* highlights appreciation of all relationships; family and friends included. Gifts and expressions of love are shared between those of all ages, honoring the important role of friendships in one's life.



What an opportunity to think about and acknowledge the relationships you value. The people who check in, the ones who show support, and the ones who share their time. The ones who make you laugh and the ones who let you cry. The family and friends who live far away but always feel nearby. What relationships are you grateful to have? Who are the people that show you kindness in small, everyday ways?

The love for others continues on, even when separated by distance or death.

"Even though you can't see it with your eyes, you can feel it with your heart and know that you are always connected to everyone you love."

This quote from the children's book *The Invisible String* by Patrice Karst speaks about continuing bonds with loved ones. This book, also available in Spanish (*El Hilo Invisible*), is shared with participants in Bo's Place grief support groups, paired with activities to help children express love or appreciation for those who have died.

Celebrating cherished relationships with those who are no longer here can serve as an outlet for the love still felt for them. Below are some ways children, teens, adults, and families can pay tribute to those they hold in their hearts.

- Make a card
- Write a note or letter
- Record a video of things you want to tell them
- Share photos or stories with others
- Try an activity or hobby they enjoyed
- Make their favorite food/meal
- Visit a place that helps you feel close to them

Printable handouts on Continuing Bonds and other grief topics can be found online in the Bo's Place Resource Library.

Bo's Place Resource Library

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 2 Bo's Place Open House 2:00pm - 4:00pm Learn More

Friday, February 28–Saturday, March 1 Volunteer Facilitator Training Friday 5:00pm - 9:00pm; Saturday 9:00am - 5:00pm Learn More

Friday, March 7 **The Ethics of Self Care: Caring for Ourselves to Care for Others** 9:00am - 12:00pm <u>Learn More</u>

Volunteer Spotlight: Leslie Jack

Leslie Jack is a native Houstonian who works as a consultant and recently became a certified grief educator. Leslie is venturing into the business world in 2025 in honor of her parents' death, sharing self-care and coping tools with women experiencing grief.

She started volunteering with Bo's Place in 2023 and has supported our programming as an ever-reliable substitute grief support group facilitator, lovingly referred to as our 'Super Sub.' Leslie shares, "I have found great joy in being a sub-facilitator as I get to meet and share in so many more people's stories of loss, hope, and inspiration. To be able to step outside of yourself to see and support someone else who is truly going through loss is one of the best things you could ever do in life. Not only does it put life in perspective, but it makes me recognize how truly blessed I am to be able to give back through a beautiful organization such as this."



We are thankful for our volunteers like Leslie, who help heal hearts through their time, flexibility, and passion. We appreciate you, Leslie!

For more information about volunteering, please emailvolunteer@bosplace.org or call 713-942-8339.

Recent Happenings



Junion League of Houston. Inc. Placement Preview Party 1.16.25



St. John's School Fair 1.17.25



Marathon Hoopla Station 1.19.25



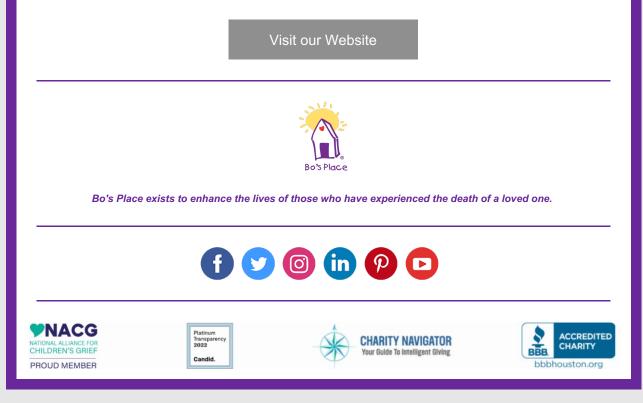
yMCA Open House 1.25.25



About Bo's Place

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 <u>here</u> or call 713.942.8339.



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