



Bo's Place

35th Anniversary

1990-2025



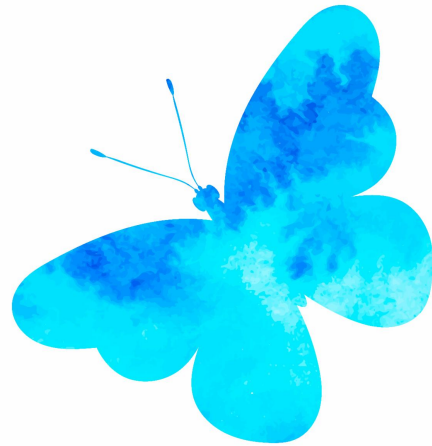
"Bo's Place is my happy place!"
-Support Group Participant

November is Children's Grief Awareness Month

In the United States, 1 in 11 children will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age 18.

The Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM), developed in partnership by Judi's House/JAG Institute and New York Life Foundation, offers recent, readily available national and state [reports](#) on childhood bereavement statistics. With such prevalent numbers of children who have or will experience the death of a parent or sibling, in addition to the loss of extended family members, caregivers, or friends, the need for grief education, awareness, and support is high.

November is Children's Grief Awareness Month- dedicated to recognizing the unique experiences of children who are grieving the death of someone important in their lives and providing guidance, resources, and strategies to meet the needs of the bereaved. This month serves as a reminder that children grieve differently than adults and highlights the benefits of creating safe spaces for children to express their thoughts and feelings, ask questions, and connect with others to ensure that no child grieves alone.



At the start of the month is the Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos), a two-day holiday celebrated on November 1 and 2 that reunites the living and the dead. Families may use marigolds, photos, memorabilia, and favorite foods and drinks to decorate gravesites or build altars filled with offerings to honor and remember those who have died. The Coalition to Support Grieving Students offers a guidance document on The Day of the Dead as an opportunity to start a conversation about death. Download the document [here](#).

Later in the month, November 20 is Children's Grief Awareness Day, observed on the third Thursday in November, the week before Thanksgiving. Started in 2008 by Highmark Caring Place, Children's Grief Awareness Day is represented by the color blue and a butterfly, a symbol of hope. Guidance on recognizing Grief Awareness Day at school can be found here: [Recognizing Grief Awareness Day in Your School](#). This time of year is especially important when it comes to supporting grieving children, as the holiday season is often a particularly difficult time after a death. Below are some helpful sites and resources to learn about children's grief and ways to take action.



[Bo's Place](#)

Website and resources available in English and Spanish

- Our [Resource Library](#) includes educational handouts, reading recommendations for children and adults, and additional online bereavement resources.
- The [Bo's Place @home](#) portal has access to free printable activities, handouts, and resources for adults and families.



[The National Alliance for Children's Grief \(NACG\)](#)

Website and resources available in 10 languages

- [Flip the Script!](#) These interactive cards share common responses that are said to the bereaved, suggestions on what to say instead.
- Free educational event: *Creative Pathways Through Grief and Loss: Culturally Affirming Approaches with Black Children and Families*. Registration information [here](#).



[NEW YORK LIFE FOUNDATION](#)

[New York Life Foundation](#)

Resources available in English and Spanish

- Bereavement resources for families, communities, schools, and workplaces [here](#).
- Free resources to download or order [here](#).

A Note from Leadership

The timing feels so right to begin this journey at Bo's Place, just as Children's Grief Awareness Month begins. I am honored to introduce myself to the Bo's Place community as your new Interim Executive Director! As a native Houstonian and lifelong advocate for community service and leadership, it is a privilege to join an organization so deeply committed to helping families heal and find hope after the death of a loved one.



My professional journey has been shaped by years of leadership in nonprofit organizations, both from the staff and board sides. I served as the CEO of Crime Stoppers of Houston for several years, where I led transformational community safety initiatives and worked alongside incredible volunteers to further our mission of public safety. More recently, I guided San Jose Clinic and Faith in Practice through periods of leadership transition as their Interim CEOs, always keeping their missions, people, and patients at the heart of every decision.

Throughout my career, I have focused on communication, collaboration, stability, and continuity of excellent service – all of which I look forward to bringing to Bo's Place. I have seen firsthand the power of dedicated teams and caring communities to uplift others. I am committed to supporting every member of our staff, volunteer network, and the families we serve during this time of transition.

Thank you for welcoming me to Bo's Place. Together, I am confident that we will continue to honor and strengthen our legacy of hope and healing.

All the best,

Katherine

Katherine Parsley
Bo's Place Interim Executive Director

Volunteer Spotlight: Gracie Bell

Gracie Bell is a volunteer facilitator for our Bilingual Family Support Group. Her nickname is "Violet" and she has a blended family with 8 beautiful children, 9 beautiful grandchildren (soon to be 10). Gracie loves to spend her free time hanging out with family, gardening, sewing, crocheting, riding her motorcycle and dressing up for themed events. In addition to group facilitating, Gracie also helps with fundraising and outreach events!

Gracie first learned about Bo's Place when she was referred to our groups in 2010 when her children's father died. She shares, "I remember how difficult life was for my very own children after their

father was killed and decided to help others by giving back." When reflecting on wanting to be a volunteer Gracie shared, "I did not think I could ever be a facilitator. Training was emotional, but now I love what I do. Helping these other kids get through what my own children experienced is fulfilling to my HEART & SOUL."

One powerful moment from facilitating included a child who did not want to share and was reactive to talk about death. She shares "Even though he would not speak much for the first four weeks of our sessions, he would take a piece of paper and create drawings with black clouds over top. Gradually he started saying bits and pieces about his story while listening to the other children speak about their own story. Once we reached the last session, he said he was sad that the groups were coming to an end and wanted to continue."

When asked how her experience as a volunteer has been Gracie shared "My volunteer experience with Bo's Place has been outstanding. They are supportive of us volunteers just as much as they are with the grieving families. They are considerate of your well-being, your time, and your balance in life." She further shared the importance of volunteering at a place like Bo's Place: "One day we will all need a place like Bo's Place. Give of your time and learn about how to deal with grief so that when you have someone in your circle that is going through a grief journey you can provide helpful support."

Thank you, Gracie, for your HEART & SOUL for Bo's Place. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please email volunteer@bosplace.org



Join the "We Are Houston 5K" - Run with us!

The Chevron Houston Marathon and Aramco Houston Half Marathon are sold out, but spots remain for the "We Are Houston 5K" on Saturday, January 10, and we want YOU to be a part of it!



[Read More](#)

Former Board Presidents Honored with Special 35th Anniversary Brick Walkway

It was a special gathering to honor those who have served as Bo's Place Board of Directors Presidents. We dedicated the 35th Anniversary Brick Walkway and celebrated these individuals on a beautiful October afternoon.



[Read More](#)

Recent Happenings



Children's Assessment Center
9.24.25



Truist Volunteer Day
9.25.25



Junior League Agency Visit
9.25.25



Houston Christian University
9.26.25



National Charity League-Memorial
9.27.25



Halliburton Employee Fair
10.1.25



U of H Association of Black Psychologists
10.3.25



Junior League Sustainers
10.8.25



Texas Children's Hospital
10.10.25



Wave of Light
10.12.25



Junior League Marigold Party
10.16.25



SpawGlass Check Presentation
10.16.25



Miss Georgia
10.17.25



LUX School Trunk-or-Treat
10.24.25



National Charity League-Memorial
10.25.25



Memorial Hermann
Volunteer Fair
10.28.25

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 [here](#) or call 713.942.8339.

Our Website

Our Mission

Volunteer

Donate

Amazon Wishlist



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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