



Bo's Place
35th Anniversary
1990-2025



"I have been struggling emotionally for quite some time and being part of Bo's Place has helped me feel heard and normal. I understand that my feelings are valid and totally normal. I have made new friends. I am extremely grateful for this opportunity."

-Support Group Participant

Holiday Break Grief Activity Ideas

As the holiday season approaches, many people experience changes in routines, shifting schedules, and a mix of emotions; especially for those missing a loved one. Grief can feel particularly heavy around special days and may at times be overwhelming. Planning ahead for ways to connect with others can serve as a reminder that no one has to be alone or grieve alone during the holidays, and choosing ways to intentionally honor or remember the deceased can help strengthen bonds and instill feelings of peace and comfort. Families and individuals may choose which holiday traditions and activities to continue and which new ones to try.



Connecting with Others: The absence of important people during the holidays may evoke feelings of isolation or loneliness. Reaching out and engaging with others, whether family, friends, or members of the community, can reduce loneliness and strengthen relationships. Having a few ideas in mind can make it easier to stay connected in ways that feel manageable.

Create something together. Collaborate with others to complete a shared goal or activity.

- Make holiday cards or uplifting notes to distribute
- Construct a gingerbread house
- Build a chosen structure with blocks or Legos
- Assemble a puzzle or craft
- Paint a shared piece of art
- Cook or prepare a meal together

Volunteer. Volunteering connects people through a shared purpose and fosters a sense of community. Below are some local volunteer opportunities this holiday season.

- [Volunteer Houston Holiday Needs 2025](#)
- [Houston Food Bank Share Your Holidays](#)

Remembering the Deceased: There is no single correct way to remember someone who's died or to keep their memory alive. What feels comforting or meaningful varies from person to person. Below are some ideas people have used to remember their loved ones during the holiday season.

Establish a place to hold memories. A tangible space for memories can be comforting to revisit or add to over time.

- A memory box for special keepsakes
- A photo album or scrapbook
- Recorded voice memos or videos to share stories

Do something intentional in their honor. Simple gestures or rituals can help strengthen the bond you feel with them.

- Place a chair or setting for them at the table
- Light a candle in their memory
- Write a letter or note expressing something you want to share with them
- Watch a show/movie they enjoyed or read a favorite book
- Try a favorite food, hobby, or activity of theirs
- Make a playlist of their favorite songs
- Visit a place that helps you feel close to them
- Donate to a charity or cause in their honor

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Team Bo's Place Marathon HOOPLA Station

[Learn More](#)

Thursday, January 29, 2026

Hearts of Hope Dinner

[Learn More](#)

Volunteer Spotlight: Maidie Ryan

Volunteer Maidie Ryan is a Texas Longhorn fan and loves to spend time with her dog and eat gluten free pizza! She first learned about Bo's Place when serving as the Community Vice President for the Junior League of Houston. She shared "our members consistently provided positive feedback about their volunteer experience at Bo's Place, so I wanted the Junior League to get more involved with the organization, which led to me getting more involved."

Maidie has been a super star volunteer for Bo's Place. She served on the Board of Directors, the Outreach Committee, and the Development Committee. She has been a cabin counselor at Camp Healing Hearts, and for three years, she has co-chaired our *Ofrenda: A Día de los Muertos Event* with staff. She shares that "volunteering at Bo's Place in each of these capacities has been very fulfilling for me."

When asked about a time she felt the "Bo's Place Magic," Maidie shared "the most recent time I felt the Bo's Place Magic was at the unveiling of the new 35th anniversary square on the walkway during the Past Presidents' Luncheon, a butterfly landed on someone's hand during the welcome speech. For many, a butterfly signifies the release of a departed soul, the eternal cycle of life, and the hope for eternal rest. The timing of this butterfly's appearance was nothing less than magic. My favorite Bo's Place Magic experience occurred at Camp Healing Hearts in 2017. Following the death of her father, a 9-year-old girl struggled to sleep apart from her mom. Thanks to new friendships made in the cabin – and Bo's Place Magic – both mom and daughter got a good night's sleep."

When reflecting on her experiences as a volunteer and what she has gained from the experience of giving back, Maidie said that she knows how to better support her friends/family and is intentional about saying "died" or "dead" instead of using euphemisms like "passed" or "gone." She says it best: "Every time I volunteer at Bo's Place, I leave feeling like I've received more than I have given. I learn something new about the resilience of the human spirit, vulnerability and the power of connection."



Thank you, Maidie, for ALL of the ways that you support Bo's Place and for bringing your deep compassion and care to our mission. If you are interested in being a volunteer please email volunteer@bosplace.org.

Hearts of Hope 2026 Dinner: Special Guest Speaker Jonathan McComb

Meet our special guest speaker for the Hearts of Hope Dinner on Thursday, January 29, 2026: Jonathan McComb. Jonathan will share his story about how his life was transformed by heartbreak. In 2015, during a sudden flash-flood in Wimberley, Texas, Jonathan survived a cabin being swept downstream, but tragically lost his family. Jonathan now helps others find closure and hope in the wake of tragedy.



[Read More](#)

Honoring Our Loved Ones at *Ofrenda: A Día de los Muertos Event*

Bo's Place hosted our annual *Ofrenda: A Día de los Muertos Event* in early November. We had a memory wall, a mariachi band, dancers, face painters, and delicious food and beverages. See more from this special day where we memorialized those we love who have died.



[Read More](#)

"We Remember Them/Los Recordamos" Memorial

Bo's Place annual "We Remember Them/Los Recordamos" Memorial Banner is now on display outside of Bo's Place. The memorial is surrounded by ribbons bearing the names of loved ones who have died. If you would like the name of your loved one(s) who died to be memorialized on a ribbon, please click below to learn more.



[Read More](#)

Support Group Activity Spotlight: Holiday Jar or Ornament

Families who have experienced a death often find that holidays are difficult and feel different than the ones in the past. It can be helpful to find ways during the holidays to remember the person who died and keep them incorporated in the festivities.

Learn about a Bo's Place activity that is centered around sharing memories of the loved one who died and keeping them a part of their family's holiday tradition.



[Read More](#)

Giving Tuesday is Tomorrow, Tuesday, December 2nd!

Giving Tuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of radical generosity.

Join the movement and support Bo's Place mission to enhance the lives of those who have experienced the death of a loved one.



[Read More](#)

Honoring Life & Legacy this Holiday Season

The holiday season can be particularly difficult for grieving families. Grief is heavy, but no one should carry it alone. Friends and family offer comfort, and Bo's Place builds on that foundation with specialized grief support service for children, families, and adults. In our grief support groups, those who are grieving find connection, understanding, and a path toward healing. Your gift helps families find hope again.



As the end of the year approaches, we invite you to make a meaningful impact by supporting Bo's Place. Your donation will help us sustain and expand our programs, ensuring that no one has to grieve alone.

[Read More](#)

Recent Happenings



Boyar Miller Meal Sponsors
11.8.25



MAPP Walk
11.8.25



greater Houston Community Foundation Philanthropy Day
11.8.25



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Walk
11.8.25



Camp Kesem - Rice Family & Friends Day
11.8.25



Carol Sam & Family Meal Sponsors
11.8.25



New York Life
Meal Sponsors
11.10.25



"Good Grief for School
Professionals" Training
11.13.25



Ronald McDonald House
11.13.25



Matthew's Garden Club
11.15.25



Creston Missionary
Baptist Church
11.15.25



Junior League of Houston
Meal Sponsors
11.18.25



*Nick Finnegan Counseling
Center Panel
11.18.25*



*Pearland ISD Training
11.20.25*



*First Community Credit
Union Volunteer Day
11.21.25*



*National Charity League -
Heart of Texas
11.23.25*

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.

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



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