



Ele's
Place

Ele's Place Ann Arbor
is here for YOU
Today ♥ Tomorrow ♥ Always
Call us at 734.929.6640

No Child or Teen Should Grieve Alone

1st Quarter 2021 Newsletter

YOUR Newsletter Includes:

- Virtual Grief Support – New Year Update
- In Their Own Words – A Story Shared by a Grateful Ele's Place Ann Arbor Family
- YOU fill our HEART – February 2021 Appeal
- Save the Dates! Ele's Place Ann Arbor - 2021 Events
- VIRTUAL Tours of the Heart
- GRANT FUNDERS Supporting Ele's Place Ann Arbor
- Thank YOU – Community Partners GIVE BACK
- Ele's Place Ann Arbor Servant Leader Spotlight



Virtual Grief Support - New Year update

Ele's Place Ann Arbor continues to see increased attendance at our **VIRTUAL peer grief support groups** on Tuesday through Thursday evenings. Some evenings have even added multiple virtual groups for certain age groups due to the growing numbers of children and teens participating! In addition, every program evening offers grief support groups for the parents or guardians of Ele's Place Ann Arbor children and teens, which are facilitated by Licensed Clinicians. We are grateful to be able to support adults in their grief so they can be more present with their child's/teen's grief. These evening support groups meet two weeks per month and serve grieving children and teens ages 3-18, and their adults, at no cost to the family.

Our bereavement and school-based coordinators are supporting our school partners and initiating new Winter 2021 **VIRTUAL school peer grief support groups** (Ele's Group) each week. During this time of remote schooling, we continue to provide support materials to our partner school counselors and virtual Ele's Groups when it works for them.

We are SO grateful to our dedicated and committed **VOLUNTEERS** who facilitate our virtual peer grief support groups! After your full daytime schedules (many remote, with computer screen drain), YOU stand by us as we stand by the grieving children and teens in our community and the surrounding southeast Michigan area! We couldn't do what we do WITHOUT YOU! ♥

AND, three cheers for the Ele's Place Ann Arbor Program staff for a successful **"OPERATION RE-ENGAGE"**! They have re-engaged 10 trained volunteer facilitators who needed to discontinue their volunteer role sometime in the past due to relocations or other commitments. Welcome back to our new/old volunteers! Virtual programming does have some up sides!

In Their Own Words – A Story Shared by a Grateful Ele's Place Ann Arbor Family

"Ele's Place Ann Arbor support has been a lifeline to us during our time of trauma and grief. Thank you for providing us with a place we feel safe discussing our feelings, and sharing with a group who often has feelings similar to our own. This resource is a value to the community that cannot be duplicated. We cannot express the depth of our gratitude to the people who work and volunteer at Ele's Place Ann Arbor."

YOU fill our HEART – February 2021 Appeal

YOU help heal grieving hearts in our community and **YOUR** gift ensures our peer support groups remain **FREE OF CHARGE!**

Whether in-person or virtual, **Ele's Place Ann Arbor** provides a safe place for grieving children and teens to share their stories and memories, explore their feelings, learn coping skills, and meet new friends who understand them. Children and teens build a "tool box" of skills and strategies to help them express their fears, anger, guilt and sadness while processing their grief.

Generous donors – **AI & Marilyn Gileczek** and **AF Group** – will match **YOUR** donations up to \$10,000!

YOU may support Ele's Place Ann Arbor by **texting "elesplace" to 56651** for a secure donation link –OR– clicking on the button below for our **secure donation webpage!**



Click Here to Heal a Heart TODAY!

Save the Dates! Ele's Place Ann Arbor - 2021 Events!

YOU help heal grieving hearts in our community and **YOUR** support & participation in this year's events ensures our peer support groups remain **FREE OF CHARGE** for grieving children and teens.



Derby Day Soirée @ Your Place
Saturday, May 1, 2021
Virtual Event

Healing Hearts Family 5K Walk/Run

Saturday, June 26, 2021
Hybrid Event (Virtual & In-Person)



**Healing Hearts Society
Fundraising Breakfast**
Tuesday, October 12, 2021
Hybrid Event (Virtual & In-Person)

Interested in volunteering for one of our upcoming events OR event sponsorships? Please contact Stacey Bodner at sbodner1@elesplace.org

VIRTUAL Tours of the Heart

JOIN US for an inspirational opportunity to learn more about Ele's

Place Ann Arbor. For now, we are scheduling remote meetings during which you will enjoy a virtual tour of our program facility, meet our staff, learn about our traditional in-person and current virtual grief support services for children, teens and their families, gain awareness about grief conversations, and find out ways you can help support our mission.

1st Quarter 2021 VIRTUAL "Tours of the Heart" via Zoom!
Thursday, February 18 – 9-10am
Wednesday, March 3 – 4-5pm
Wednesday, March 17 – 9-10am

Please RSVP via email to Lindsay Clark at lclark@elesplace.org, by 5pm the day before the scheduled tour. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the virtual Tour of the Heart via Zoom.

Please note, these tours are not intended for the newly bereaved. If you need assistance or have questions about grief support for children and teens, our Clinical Program Staff is available to help! Please call Ele's Place Ann Arbor at 734.929.6640.



GRANT FUNDERS Supporting Ele's Place Ann Arbor

Community Foundation

FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

Thank YOU to the **Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan!** We were granted an award to support Licensed Clinicians who facilitate grief support groups for the parents or guardians of Ele's Place Ann Arbor children and teens. These virtual adult support groups currently meet Tuesday through Thursday evenings, two weeks per month.

Thank YOU to the **Speckhard-Knight Charitable Foundation!** We were granted an award to support our operations. Grants for operating purposes are often limited. We are grateful to our grant funders who remove restrictions on awards, and understand that during these most unusual times of the pandemic, surviving operationally is PRIORITY #1. We want AND need to be there for the grieving children, teens and families we serve, and operational grants help make this happen!



Are you a grantor organization wanting to learn more about the Ele's Place Ann Arbor mission? Please reach out to Lindsay Clark, Director of Development at lclark@elesplace.org or 734.929.6640.

Thank YOU – Community Partners GIVE BACK



JOIN US LATER TODAY, Thursday, February 4th, from 4-7pm – for a Private Shopping event at **The Write Touch by Leyla!** Buy a special GIFT for your Valentine OR purchase a GIFT CARD! You may ALSO shop on Friday & Saturday, February 5th & 6th. 20% of all proceeds will support the grieving children and teens that Ele's Place Ann Arbor serves.

Thank YOU to our community partner! ♥ **The Write Touch by Leyla** is located at **1608 Jackson Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48103** – PLEASE wear your MASK!



NEW TODAY – THINK PINK! A THROW BACK to the 2019 Derby Day Soirée...it's the "Pink Hearted Pony" canned cocktail! THANK YOU to our community partner, **Ann Arbor Distilling Company**, for GIVING BACK to us AGAIN!

Order your Ele's Place Ann Arbor "Pink Hearted Pony" online for curbside pickup here: https://annarbordistilling.square.site/product/pink-hearted-pony-the-official-cocktail-of-ele-s-place/192?cp=true&sa=false&sbp=false&q=false&category_id=12

This amazing canned cocktail includes: A2DC's Hawthorne Vodka and Water Hill Cranberry Liqueur, with Blood Orange and Lemon Juices and Simple Syrup! This cocktail is perfect year round – including for the SUPER BOWL, Valentine's Day (and at Derby time in May!)

\$5 of every 4-pack supports Ele's Place Ann Arbor, a healing center for grieving children and teens.

Shout out to Marji Wisniewski of Blue Zebra Marketing Solutions for another awesome label design!



ATTENTION ALL KROGER SHOPPERS! Ele's Place Ann Arbor is thrilled to announce we are now a member of the Kroger Community Rewards Program! Please visit <http://www.kroger.com> to register your rewards card today. Once logged into your Kroger account search for **Ele's Place Ann Arbor** either by Name or Nonprofit Number: **LU859** and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a *rewards* card. If you are not already a member of the Kroger Community Rewards program, stop by the customer service desk at any Kroger

to pick up your rewards card and register online today!

REMEMBER, *purchases will not count for Ele's Place Ann Arbor until after you register your rewards card and it is linked to Ele's Place Ann Arbor. Participants must swipe their registered Kroger rewards card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger rewards card when shopping for each purchase to count.*



We are so GRATEFUL to **Ann Arbor Distilling Company** AND all of the "**Red Hearted Julep**" **LOVERS** who purchased the Ele's Place Ann Arbor canned cocktail!

YOUR support and "enjoyment" were AMAZING – Ele's Place Ann Arbor will receive almost \$500 from sales during the month of December! Thank YOU for supporting grieving children and teens in our community



We are very GRATEFUL to **Target** and **everyone who cast their Target Circle votes** for Ele's Place during the 4th Quarter of 2020! YOUR support was AMAZING! The results are in and Ele's Place Ann Arbor and Ele's Place Capital Region will split the donation of \$3,500!

Thank YOU Target for empowering communities to thrive and grow AND thank YOU Target Circle shoppers!

Ele's Place Ann Arbor Servant Leader Spotlight

On January 1st, two of our amazing Community Board Members took on new leadership roles **Mike Halpern**

was named Chair and **Ann Hollenbeck** was named Vice-Chair of the Ann Arbor Community Board! On January 13th, we welcomed three new members to our Community Board. Welcome to **Jeanne Cooper**, **LaSonia Fortè** and **Mishelle Lamarand** – we look forward to your contributions as Board members. We are so GRATEFUL to ALL of our Community Board Members and appreciate their commitment to community outreach, compassionate support of our grieving children, teens and families, and dedicated fundraising service to Ele's Place Ann Arbor.

On January 21st, we were pleased to announce that **Lindsay Clark** was named the Director of Development for Ele's Place Ann Arbor! Lindsay is a development professional with a passion for children's grief support. In addition to her professional fundraising and grant experience, she is also skilled in marketing/communications, event planning, youth work and volunteer management. In addition, Lindsay is a trained facilitator who volunteers with children and teens in our weekly grief support groups. Congratulations Lindsay! To read the complete announcement, click here: https://www.elesplace.org/download_file/344/0

Ele's Place is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization.

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