



A healing
center for
grieving
children
& teens

ANN ARBOR

2020 IMPACT REPORT



**No child or teen
should have to
grieve alone.**



Ele's Place Ann Arbor - Bree Arvai, Director

Dear Friends of Ele's Place Ann Arbor,

Over the past year, day-to-day life changed in Michigan, across the country and around the world; **however, one thing remained the same - Ele's Place Ann Arbor's commitment to our mission and dedication to the grieving children, teens and families we serve.** It is an honor to share our 2020 achievements with YOU – our supportive donors, dedicated partners, committed volunteers, and devoted staff and community board members. We are incredibly grateful for the compassion and generosity we receive from so many in our community. YOU are the HEART of what we do at Ele's Place, and YOU truly help ensure our peer grief support groups remain FREE OF CHARGE!



TOGETHER, we accomplished the following during 2020:

- ♥ We adapted and recreated grief activities for our families and community to do at home during the pandemic, supplying tips and coping skills on how to manage grief feelings, and providing additional grief support through phone calls and emails.
- ♥ We successfully redesigned and launched our virtual support groups via Zoom, offering peer grief support, four nights per week, twice a month, for children, teens and their families.
- ♥ We learned that regardless of in-person or virtual, our program staff and volunteers provide a safe place for grieving children and teens to share memories, explore their feelings, learn coping skills and meet new friends who understand them.
- ♥ We provided support materials to our partner school counselors and virtual Ele's Group participants during this time of remote schooling.
- ♥ And, we hosted two inspiring and successful VIRTUAL fundraising events – our **Derby Day Soirée @ Your Place** (September 2020) AND our **Healing Hearts Society Fundraising Breakfast** (October 2020).

— ♥ —
"We were greeted with so much empathy. It's hard to measure the impact, but it definitely seems as though my daughter truly benefitted and has been able to work through the most difficult emotions and troubling times. I highly recommend Ele's Place Ann Arbor to others. It is an amazing program!"

- A Grateful Ele's Place Ann Arbor Family



Ele's Place Ann Arbor

The need for peer grief support will never go away, and we are alarmingly aware that COVID-related deaths have increased the need for Ele's Place services even more. In 2020, Michigan ranked 18th in the U.S. in terms of highest RISK for childhood bereavement; accordingly, 1 in 13 children in Michigan will experience the death of a parent or sibling by the age of 18. The positive life-long impact peer grief support can have on a young person is truly limitless. Grieving children and teens need access to a supportive environment and compassionate programming. While the need for our services continues to grow, now more than ever, Ele's Place Ann Arbor is committed to ensuring that no child or teen grieves alone.

Our community is so fortunate to have Ele's Place Ann Arbor and WE are so fortunate to have YOU. On behalf of the entire Ele's Place Ann Arbor team and community board, we thank YOU!

- ♥ Thank YOU for your kindness and the many ways you chose to be supportive to those who are grieving.
- ♥ Thank YOU to those who made multi-year commitments to support grieving children and teens.
- ♥ Thank YOU for understanding the importance of the critical work we do and positive, lasting effects it can have on a young person's life.
- ♥ Thank YOU for being an Ambassador for Ele's Place Ann Arbor and introducing us to others. Together we are changing and saving lives, and providing opportunities and hope for a brighter tomorrow.

We anxiously await the day we safely return to our Home for Healing Hearts – thankfully, that day seems closer than it has in such a long time! Until then, please know that Ele's Place Ann Arbor remains **"virtually OPEN" and continues to serve and support grieving families in our community and the surrounding southeast Michigan area.** We are incredibly grateful that YOU continue to stand by Ele's Place Ann Arbor, while we stand by the grieving children, teens and families we serve. TOGETHER we make an impact on those who need us most.

Grief does not stop, and Ele's Place Ann Arbor is not stopping! Take care. Be safe. Be well.

With gratitude,

Bree Arvai
Director
Ele's Place Ann Arbor



"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."

- A Grateful Ele's Place Ann Arbor Family



Ele's Place Ann Arbor

Total Served in 2020:

FAMILY BASED SUPPORT GROUPS - 427
(268 CHILDREN AND 159 ADULTS)



Family based programming, onsite at our facilities (conducted via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.) Provides peer support to children and teens 3-18 and an optional support group for their caregiver.



SCHOOL GROUPS - 189 STUDENTS AT 24 SCHOOL PARTNERS
Peer support groups within the school setting, primarily in Middle and High School. Conducted in partnership with school staff.



CLINICAL CONSULTATIONS - 394 PEOPLE
Phone, virtual or in-person one-to-one grief support, conducted by a licensed Ele's Place staff person. Includes the initial intake appointment for families.

All services are provided free of charge to families, schools and all members of our community.



Wonderful volunteers sending SPECIAL MESSAGES to our families

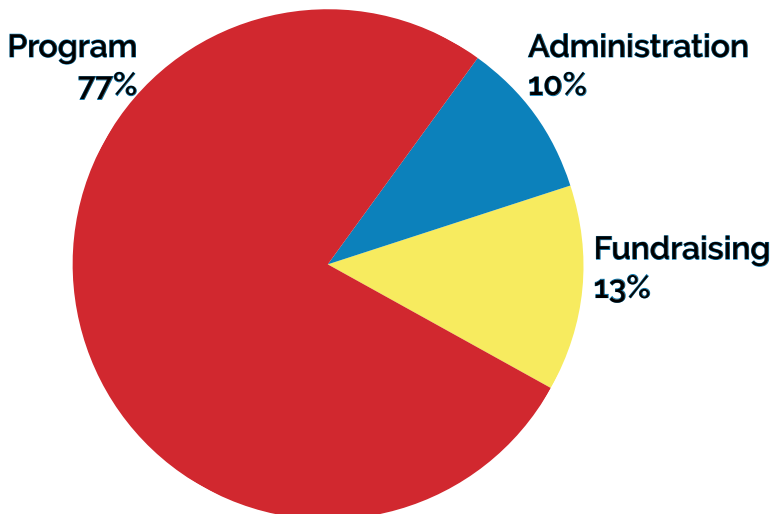


Virtual coffee hour get-together with our Healing Hearts Society Breakfast Sponsors and employees

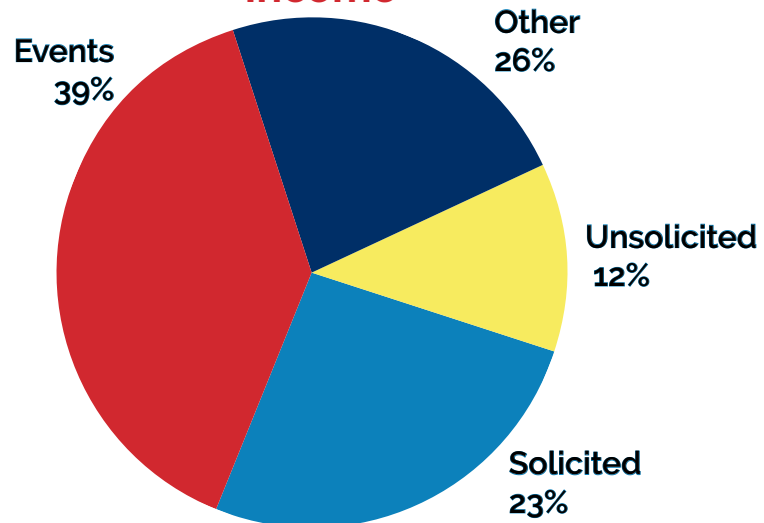


Staff Celebrates Childhood Grief Awareness Day Over Zoom

Ele's Place Ann Arbor Functional Expenses



Ele's Place Ann Arbor Income*



*Additional expenses were offset by a Payroll Protection Program loan and other income



ANN ARBOR

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Thank You to Our Community Sponsors

