

Impact Report

2019

Grief Does Not Wait

1 in 13 Children in Michigan Need Our Services



YOU Make A Difference



It is my honor to share how you impacted Ele's Place families in 2019. Currently in Michigan, one in 13 children will experience the death of a parent or sibling before the age of 18. Our services are provided at no cost to families and schools because of you. Our audit revealed that we continue to hold administrative costs to 17%. Our volunteers provided over 30,000 hours of service. You are making an impact on those who need us most. We are grateful for the time, treasure and talents shared with Ele's Place to help us serve grieving children and teens in our community. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

This is what you accomplished in 2019 at Ele's Place:

- ♥ Served 1837 grieving children and teens.
- ♥ Served 319 students in our school based program, Ele's Group.
- ♥ Provided 568 clinical consultations to families beginning the grief process.
- ♥ Provided clinical support (off-site) to 31 individuals in response to the death of a community member.
- ♥ Provided grief toolkits to every Lansing District school counselor.

Below is feedback we received on the impact of our program:

From a guardian:

"I have seen a huge difference in my grandson since attending Ele's Place. He didn't even have "the words" to express his feelings after his father's death and now I feel very confident that he does.

From teenager when asked, what was most helpful at EP:

- "Being around kids that have gone through what I went through."
- "Getting to hear other kid's stories and opinions."

From a school counselor:

"Our school is a small rural school in a low income area. We have many obstacles to receiving mental health services such as grief counseling, etc. Over the past few years, our district has had many young people die. Many of our students struggled with unresolved grief issues which contributed to truancy, low attendance, substance abuse, etc. Last year, Ele's Place provided free support groups at our school. After receiving the love and support of the Ele's staff and fellow students during the eight-week course, our students improved in attendance and grades and discipline problems declined in the participants. We have filled our slots to overflowing and have more kids longing to be part of a group. We are so thankful for the support and help of Ele's Place. Our teachers have also noticed the difference and are very supportive as well."

From a facilitator when asked to share a statement regarding their experience as a volunteer:

"The pain of grief can sometimes feel insurmountable; the programs that Ele's Place offer are so important. It gives these kids the skills to be in control of their grief and move forward, instead of being a victim to their grief and feel hopeless. I have lived with grief pain for a long time, if I can just help one kid to release some of their grief burden then I will feel successful."

While this report is intended to highlight 2019, I would be remiss not to address current circumstances. Our building remains closed, however as you know; grief has not been canceled. We stand committed to serving grieving families in our community. We've received more than 90 calls from new families since March. Many missed the initial start of the grief process with a small or no funerals. This is a new layer to grief. When our doors closed, we quickly pivoted to continue to serve the community. Initially, we provided weekly grief related projects to our families and recently we restarted our peer to peer support groups via Zoom. We are counting the days until we can safely open our doors, welcome families back into our building however until that time we will serve our families virtually. We are so thankful you stood with us in supporting the more than 1800 grieving children and teens in our community. Death happens every day. With death comes grief. And grief is the price of love.

With immense gratitude,
Kristine Kuhnert
Director

Thank you
for your
time,
treasure,
and talents.

Attending On-Site Peer-to-Peer Bereavement Support Programming



383 Children



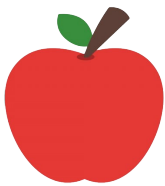
329 Adults



Cost to Families

There is a large need for grief support in our schools. We have found Ele's Place Groups to be a phenomenal resource for our student to be educated about grief, have a safe space to process it, and receive trained support. The grief kits are a welcomed recent addition to the resources Ele's Place offers. Having resources on hand in a time of crisis can be invaluable.

Sarah Baker - Mason High School Counselor



319 Students

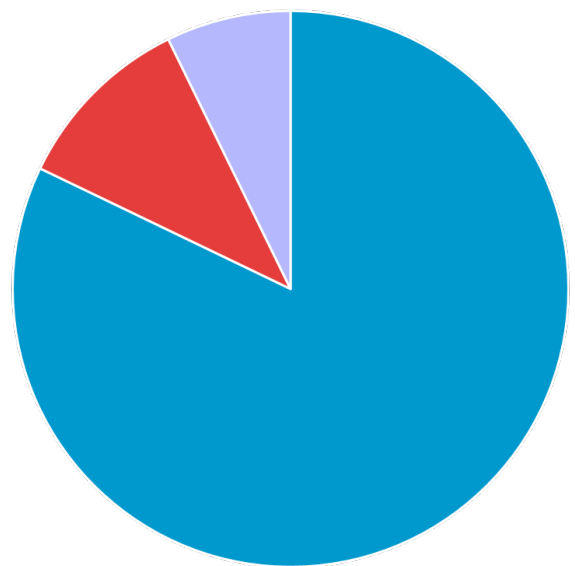
37 School Groups



180 Phone Consultations

146 In Person Consultations

Functional Expenses



- Program: 82.56%
- Management: 10.67%
- Fundraising: 6.7%



Ele's Place Capital Region
 517.482.1315
 1145 W. Oakland Ave
 Lansing, MI 48915
 ElePlace.org
 Facebook: ElesPlaceLAN

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