



A healing
center for
grieving
children
& teens

WEST MICHIGAN

2020 IMPACT REPORT

2020

**A year where
almost everything was
canceled but grief and
♥ love. ♥**

Ele's Place West Michigan - Tammy Squire, Director

Over the past year and moving into 2021, Ele's Place West Michigan experienced a great deal of excitement and change. It is an honor to share our 2021 achievements with YOU – our supportive donors, dedicated partners and committed volunteers, staff and community board members. We are incredibly grateful for the compassion and generosity of so many in our community in these times of uncertainty.

TOGETHER, we accomplished the following during 2020:

- ♥ Implemented two inspiring VIRTUAL events -- Courage, Comfort & Cocktails AND the Healing Hearts Society Breakfast! We highlighted two EPWM Ambassador families' grief stories at the events. We shared how our services really did make an impactful difference in their lives.
- ♥ Redesigned and implemented our support group program in a virtual platform after the pandemic shut down in-person grief support services. We were able to recreate the safe, comforting, and open environment of our Ele's Place support groups in the comfort of our families own homes.
- ♥ Staff remained available to West Michigan families for clinical consultations, resources, and at home grief activities throughout the pandemic. We saw a 25% increase in clinical consultations with families and community agencies in 2020 compared to 2019.
- ♥ We were able to bring our school groups to several school districts in a virtual format to support the grief needs of schools and their students. We implemented a monthly resource email to our school partners to provide grief related resources and activities.
- ♥ Ele's Place staff is currently working diligently to return to in-person services this summer.

The need for peer grief support will never go away. In 2019, Michigan ranked 14th in terms of highest RISK for childhood bereavement in the U.S., and 1 in 13 children in Michigan will experience the death of a parent or sibling by the age of 18. The lifelong impact we can have on a young person who is grieving is truly limitless. Ele's Place West Michigan provides our children and teens with a confidential safe place to share their feelings and memories with peers. We help provide them with the coping skills they need to navigate their grief journey, and discover the strength and courage they possess to be the hero of their own story.



— ♥ —
*"I know Ele's place has made a huge difference in my child's life and his ability to grow through his grief. He has a sense of belonging."
-Mom of Ele's Place kid*



Ele's Place West Michigan

Our volunteers remain critical in the execution of Ele's Place West Michigan programming, and we are grateful that the impact of our work is shared mutually. After the launch of our virtual summer programming, several volunteers expressed how happy they were to re-engage with Ele's Place. One facilitator shared that leading a virtual group was the most "normal" they have felt since the start of the pandemic, while another shared that volunteering as a facilitator is the most meaningful activity in their life.

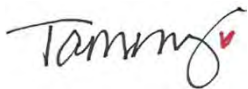
Our community is so fortunate to have an Ele's Place West Michigan and WE are so fortunate to have YOU. On behalf of the entire Ele's Place West Michigan team and community board, we thank YOU!

- ♥ 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 and for being cape-less HEROES for grieving children and teens.
- ♥ Thank YOU for understanding the importance of the critical work we do and lasting effects it can have on a young person's life.
- ♥ Thank YOU for being an Ambassador for Ele's Place West Michigan and introducing us to others. Together, we are changing and saving lives, and providing opportunities and hope for a brighter tomorrow.

We are taking a step closer, with partial re-opening and being back in our Home for Healing Hearts! Until then, know that Ele's Place West Michigan is here and supporting grieving families in our community and the surrounding West Michigan area.

There will always be a need for our services. Death happens every day. With death comes grief, and grief is the price of love. Grief does not stop, and Ele's Place West Michigan is not stopping! Take care. Be safe. Be well.

With immense gratitude,



Tammy Squire
Director
Ele's Place West Michigan



"It has been extremely beneficial to our family by giving my child the ability to identify and express how she is feeling. She has even taught me methods on how to deal with my anger or sadness"
-Mom of 5-year-old Ele's Place kid



Ele's Place West Michigan

Total Served in 2020:



SUPPORT GROUPS - 238 (171 CHILDREN AND 67 ADULTS)

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



SCHOOL GROUPS - 69 STUDENTS IN 9 GROUPS

Peer support groups within the school setting, primarily in Middle School and HS. Conducted in partnership with school staff.



CLINICAL SUPPORT - 604 PEOPLE

Phone, virtual or in-person one-to-one grief support, conducted by a licensed Ele's Place staff person. Includes the initial intake for families to coordinate attending onsite programs.

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



Kristy Ziegler, Administrative Assistant



Claire Pratt, Events & Development

Members of our Team working remotely!



A Happy Pet with His Gift Basket From Courage, Comfort & Cocktails

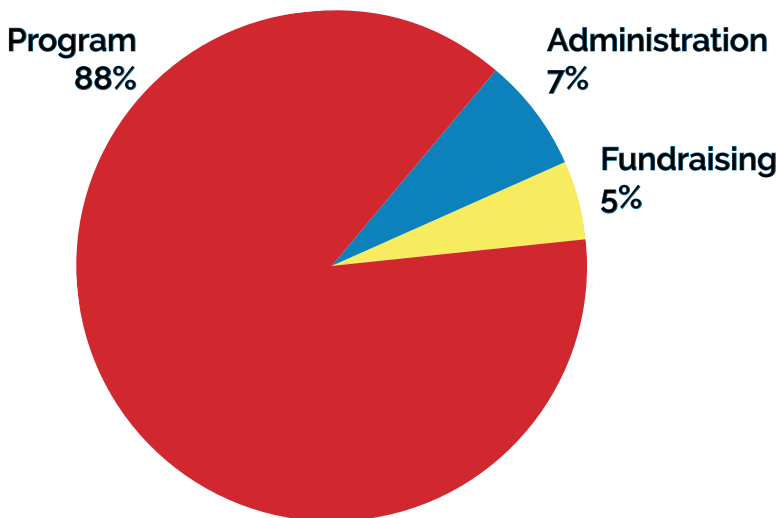


The Yanik Family - Our Ambassadors for the Virtual Healing Hearts Society Breakfast

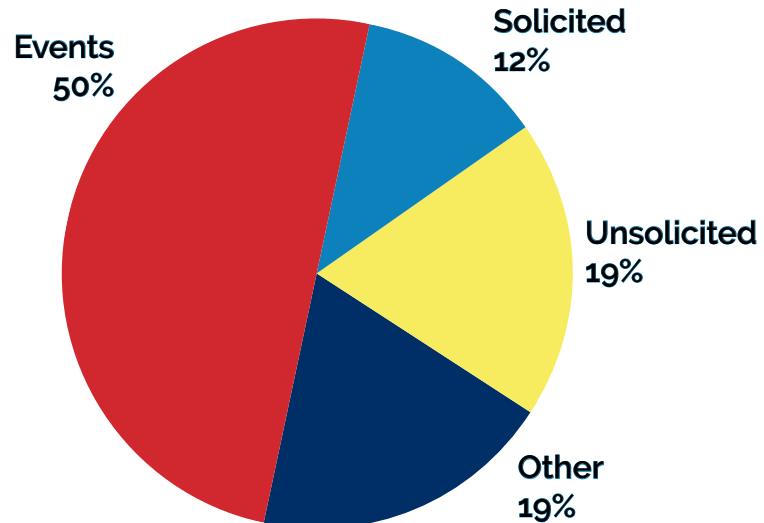


Volunteer Facilitator Virtual Training

Ele's Place West Michigan Functional Expenses



Ele's Place West Michigan Income*



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



WEST MICHIGAN

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Thank You to Our Community Sponsors

