



Ele's  
Place

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

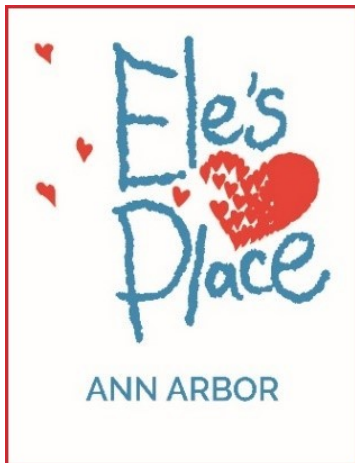
No Child or Teen Should Grieve Alone

## 3rd Quarter 2021 Newsletter

### YOUR Newsletter Includes:

- Peer Grief Support – Program Updates
- In Their Own Words – Quotes from Children, Teens and Families
- Register Today! 2021 Healing Hearts Family 5K Walk/Run - Wrap-Up!
- 2021 Healing Hearts Family 5K Walk/Run - Wrap-Up!
- Virtual Tours of the Heart
- Grant Funders Supporting Ele's Place Ann Arbor
- Community Partners and Friends GIVE BACK
- Ele's Place Ann Arbor Servant Leader Spotlight

### Peer Grief Support – Program Updates



#### Summer Wrap-Up & Fall 2021 Programs

We ended our summer grief support programs at the end of July with virtual bubble releases. Families gathered together via Zoom for this special event, and TOGETHER they blew bubbles into the air and took time to reflect on their wishes or messages to their people who died. While the person who died may not actually receive the bubbles sent to them, this event provides space for everyone to remember their person, and think about what they wish they could say to them.

At this time, it is our intention to return to **in-person evening peer grief support groups** in the fall! We look forward to cautiously and safely welcoming our families, volunteers and staff back into our Home for Healing Hearts. This fall, our evening support groups will meet two weeks per month and serve grieving children and teens ages 3-18, and their adults, **at no cost to the family**. Our peer support group program offers children and teens the opportunity to connect with others that have experienced similar losses. Our groups are designed to provide an emotionally safe environment which encourages trust and sharing. Our children's groups are facilitated by trained volunteers and overseen by licensed Clinical Program Staff. Adult groups for the primary parent/guardians are led by licensed Clinicians.

In addition, as more schools return to onsite schooling, our school-based staff is looking forward to supporting our school partners and their students. We hope to return to onsite **school peer grief support groups (Ele's Group)**, and welcome new partners during the 2021-

## Summer 2021 Volunteer Facilitator Training

Please join us in welcoming our **Summer 2021 training class** to the Ele's Place Ann Arbor volunteer team! This wonderful group of humans bonded during their 20+ hour virtual facilitator training program, and we appreciate the warmth, compassion and dedication they will bring to supporting grieving children and teens. Congratulations to the Summer 2021 training class – we look forward to working with all of you this fall!

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!



## In Their Own Words - Quotes from Children, Teens and Families

### An Ele's Place Ann Arbor Parent shared:

*"We struggle to talk about our loss together, and Ele's Place Ann Arbor provided her a safe space to be with others who know her feelings. I've not yet lost a parent, and can't imagine having lost one at such a young age.  
My child loved having friends she could talk with about him."*

### When asked "What is most helpful to you at Ele's Place?", An Ele's Place Ann Arbor Teen shared:

*"Ele's Place Ann Arbor has helped me feel that I am not alone in my journey in grief. My facilitators and the other staff are always so smiley and happy to see me and talk to me."*

## Register Today!

## 2021 Healing Hearts Society Virtual Fundraising Breakfast



### Ele's Place Ann Arbor

**Healing Hearts Society Virtual Fundraising Breakfast  
Tuesday, October 12, 2021 – 8:00 – 8:45 AM (ET)**

**PLEASE JOIN US** from the comfort of your own home for a beautiful morning filled with bravery, courage and hope, as children, teens, families and special guests share their grief journeys and their Ele's Place stories. There is **NO CHARGE** to attend this virtual fundraising event, however, please register to receive your confirmation and the Zoom link.

Special Guest Speakers (to date): **Molly Dobson, Charles Ramsey, Betsy Stover, former Ele's Place teens and former**

**Ele's Place family – The Ruddy Family.**

**Register Today!**

**What is the Healing Hearts Society?** Members of the Healing Hearts Society are community Ambassadors, who actively share the Ele's Place mission with others, and generously choose to make a significant financial commitment for a minimum of three years. These commitments sustain the Ele's Place Ann Arbor peer grief support programs, and ensure that these programs continue to be FREE OF CHARGE for all who walk through our doors.

Interested in becoming a **Breakfast Sponsor**? Please contact Stacey Bodner, Events Coordinator at [sbodner1@elesplace.org](mailto:sbodner1@elesplace.org) or 734.929.6640, Ext. 2221.

**What is a Breakfast Ambassador?** A Breakfast Ambassador helps to raise awareness of Ele's Place Ann Arbor and the grieving children, teens and families we serve, and invites their network to join us at our Virtual Fundraising Breakfast to learn more about the critical support we provide.

SHOUT-OUT of APPRECIATION and THANKS to the Breakfast Ambassadors who have signed up as of August 13, 2021: **Bree Arvai, Maria Birket, Anita Bohn, Chad & Kate Brummet, Lindsay Clark, Jeanne Cooper, Rick Eder, LaSonia Forté, Jamie Guise, Mike Halpern, Melissa Heinen, Ann Hollenbeck, Hallie & Henry Jewell, Kris Kerns, Dan Layman, Kris Maly, Steve Popper, Emily Sickler, Michael Spath, Beckley Stover, Jessica Stubbs, Ro Tocco-Bradley, Laura Washington, Kathy Wood and Tracy Wraight.**

Interested in becoming a **Breakfast Ambassador**? Please contact Lindsay Clark, Director of Development at [lclark@elesplace.org](mailto:lclark@elesplace.org) or 734.929.6640, Ext. 2220.

## 2021 Healing Hearts Family 5K Walk/Run – Wrap-Up!

In June, we hosted our AMAZING inaugural Ele's Place Ann Arbor Healing Hearts Family 5K Walk/Run! After torrential rain all night, we enjoyed slightly overcast skies and a dry course! Our community came together to honor, celebrate and remember those who have died. We put "one foot in front of the other" to help fund the Ele's Place Ann Arbor peer grief support programs AND ensure they remain FREE OF CHARGE for grieving children, teens and their families TODAY, TOMORROW and ALWAYS.

We are so grateful that Ele's mom and dad, and the founders of Ele's Place, **Betsy Stover and Woody Stover** and many of their children and grandchildren were with us! Thank you Stover family for sharing Ele's beautiful legacy with our community!



THANK YOU to ALL of our GENEROUS SPONSORS! Let's give a HUGE shout out to: **Ann Arbor Running Company, Thomson Reuters, St. Joe's, Domino's, Bunek Dental Studio, Wacker Chemical Company, Plante Moran, McKinley, Farm Bureau Agency – Rick Eder Agency, Edwards & Schaefer Orthodontics, Comcast, Chelsea State Bank, Acoustic Ceiling & Partition, Vanessa Keyes of Guaranteed Rate, Mandy Tousa of Howard Hanna, and Enspire Dental.** We are SO grateful for your generosity and support! YOU stand by us, so we can stand by the grieving children and teens in our community!

THANK YOU to our VOLUNTEERS, our Ele's Place Ann Arbor STAFF and COMMUNITY BOARD, and EVERYONE who participated in our event...current and former Ele's Place families, walkers, runners and "strollers", those who participated virtually and in-person, community supporters from near and far, those who cheered, clapped and laughed! The Ele's Place Ann Arbor community is ONE OF A KIND!

SAVE the DATE

Saturday, June 25, 2022

The Ele's Place Ann Arbor 2022 Healing Hearts Family 5K Walk/Run

An amazing FAMILY-FRIENDLY event!



## Virtual Tours of the Heart

**JOIN US!** Meet our staff, learn about our peer grief support programs for children, teens and their families, gain awareness about grief conversations, and find out ways you can help support the Ele's Place mission.

To sign up for an **Ele's Place Ann Arbor Tour of the Heart**, please [click here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the virtual Tour of the Heart via Zoom. Please register by 5:00pm the Monday prior to the tour date.

### Upcoming 2021 Virtual "Tours of the Heart" via Zoom!

Thursday, October 7th – 9:00-10:00am  
Wednesday, October 20th – 4:00-5:00pm  
Thursday, November 4th – 9:00-10:00am  
Wednesday, November 17th – 4:00-5:00pm

PLEASE NOTE, **these tours are NOT intended for families seeking grief support**. 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 or [annarborinfo@elesplace.org](mailto:annarborinfo@elesplace.org).

**Questions about a Tour of the Heart?** Please contact Lindsay Clark, Director of Development at [lclark@elesplace.org](mailto:lclark@elesplace.org) or 734.929.6640, Ext. 2220.

## Grant Funders Supporting Ele's Place Ann Arbor

We are GRATEFUL for our **GRANT FUNDERS!** Their investment in Ele's Place Ann Arbor helps us accomplish our goals and serve the grieving children, teens and their families in the Ann Arbor community and the surrounding southeast Michigan area. Some of our recent grant awards are listed below.

In July, we were presented with a generous Impact Award from the members of **100 Women Who Care-Chelsea Area!** Our hearts are full and we are grateful – THANK YOU 100 Women Who Care-Chelsea Area!



We are grateful to the **Mericos Foundation!** In July, we received an amazing operating award. THANK YOU Mericos Foundation for helping us make it

happen!

Grateful for ...



a grant award from the  
**Mericos Foundation**

Are you a grantor organization wanting to learn more about the Ele's Place Ann Arbor mission? We LOVE our grantors! Please reach out to Lindsay Clark, Director of Development at [lclark@elesplace.org](mailto:lclark@elesplace.org) or 734.929.6640, Ext. 2220.

## Community Partners AND Friends GIVE BACK

Sending HUGS to our community partner – **Ann Arbor Distilling Company** AND all of the “**Red Hearted Julep**” and “**Pink Hearted Pony**” **LOVERS** who continue to purchase the Ele's Place Ann Arbor canned cocktails! We just received another \$155 from recent sales!

HEADS-UP! Ele's Place Ann Arbor **Canned Cocktail #3** will be available this fall for tailgates and crisp evenings around the fire! Think “AUTUMN” and “HEARTS”! Stay tuned for the BIG reveal!

Community Partner “HUGS”! ♥



Thank YOU!

♥ Ele's Place Ann Arbor ♥



**Eat, Drink and  
Pay It Forward**



**THANK YOU  
for  
supporting a  
local cafe  
&  
Ele's Place  
Ann Arbor!**



Ele's Place Ann Arbor

Thank YOU to **Brewed Awakenings Café** in Saline for PAYING IT FORWARD and GIVING BACK to us in July!! AND, thank YOU to everyone who came out to eat and drink! 20% of all proceeds (\$350) were donated back to Ele's Place Ann Arbor and will support the grieving children and teens in our community! We are so GRATEFUL!



Thank YOU to **The Bouma  
Group – Ann Arbor Real**

**Estate** for your generous \$1,000 100th Home Sales Local Charity Donation! We are grateful for your support of local nonprofit organizations! AND, thank YOU to EVERYONE who voted for Ele's Place Ann Arbor!



Thank YOU to those who hosted Facebook birthday fundraisers to benefit Ele's Place Ann Arbor! We are so grateful for you, AND for your family, friends and colleagues who celebrated YOU so generously! Last quarter, **Cate Goldman** raised \$315 to support grieving children and teens in our community. Thank YOU!



Thank YOU to all of the **Healing Hearts Family 5K Walk/Run FUNDRAISERS** – you are AMAZING! AND, special thanks AND grateful hugs to our TOP fundraiser, **Emily Cooper**! Emily raised \$2,260 in support of Ele's Place Ann Arbor peer grief support programs!



Do you have a 3rd Party Fundraising idea that would support the Ele's Place Ann Arbor mission? We LOVE our Community Partners and Friends! Please reach out to Stacey Bodner, Events Coordinator at [sbodner1@elesplace.org](mailto:sbodner1@elesplace.org) or 734.929.6640, Ext. 2221.

## Ele's Place Ann Arbor Servant Leader Spotlight

On June 26th, **Stacey Bodner**, Ele's Place Ann Arbor Events Coordinator, along with the entire Ele's Place Ann Arbor Development Staff, successfully hosted our inaugural Healing Hearts Family 5K Walk/Run! We can't wait for next year – June 25, 2022!

On August 4th, we welcomed three NEW members to our Community Board. Welcome to **Steven Popper, Jessica Stubbs and Tracy Wraight** – we look forward to working with you, and benefitting from your contributions as Board members.

On August 8th, **Samantha Gumul, LLMSW**, Ele's Place Ann Arbor Program Volunteer Coordinator, along with the entire Ele's Place Ann Arbor Program Staff, successfully completed a virtual training for 21 NEW volunteer facilitators! Way to go!! We love our volunteers!!

Shout-out to our passionate and supportive **donors, sponsors, partners, volunteers, staff and community board members**, who came TOGETHER during a time none of us want to repeat. While the physical doors of our Home for Healing Hearts were closed for almost 10 months during 2020, our bereavement staff and amazing volunteers opened new doors and welcomed everyone to attend peer grief support programming virtually. Every day, the Ele's Place Ann Arbor team is committed to our mission, and dedicated to the grieving children, teens and families we serve. Whether virtual or in-person, the positive impact on those we serve remains the same. [Click here](#) to access the **Ele's Place Ann Arbor 2020 Impact Report**.

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

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## 2021 Healing Hearts Virtual Fundraising Breakfast Sponsors

