



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

4th Quarter 2021 Newsletter

YOUR Newsletter Includes:

- Peer Grief Support – Program Updates
- In Their Own Words – Children, Teen & Family Quotes
- YOU fill our HEART at the Holidays – Year-End Appeal
- 2022 Derby Day Soirée – Saturday, May 7, 2022
- 2021 Healing Hearts Society Virtual Fundraising Breakfast – Wrap-Up!
- “PERSONALIZED” Tours of the Heart
- Grant Funders Supporting Ele's Place Ann Arbor
- Community Partners & Friends GIVE BACK
- Ele's Place Ann Arbor Servant Leader Spotlight

Peer Grief Support – Program Updates



Fall 2021 Wrap-Up

September was an AMAZING month at Ele's Place Ann Arbor! We safely and thoughtfully welcomed families, volunteers and staff back into our Home for Healing Hearts. **We are so honored to serve grieving children, teens and their families IN-PERSON, once again!**

The Ele's Place Ann Arbor evening support groups are meeting 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 programs offer children and teens the opportunity to connect with others that have experienced similar losses, and provide an emotionally safe environment which encourages trust and sharing. The Ele's Place Ann Arbor children's/teen's groups are facilitated by trained volunteers and overseen by our licensed Clinical Program Staff, and our adult groups for primary parents/guardians are led by licensed Clinicians.

As schools return to a comfortable place with onsite schooling, the Ele's Place Ann Arbor school-based staff continues to support our school partners and their students through **Ele's Group, our school peer grief support groups**. Working in partnership with school counselors to provide 8-week peer support groups in many area schools, we remove barriers and meet grieving students where they are – at school.

Winter 2022 Volunteer Facilitator Training

We LOVE our VOLUNTEERS! Starting in January 2022, we will be conducting our Winter 2022 Volunteer Facilitator Training! We are seeking kind, compassionate souls to support children and teens in grief through a peer support group model. Applicants must be at least 19 years of age, able to fulfill a 1-year volunteer commitment and complete all training sessions.

We currently have a particular need for people of diverse backgrounds, males and bilingual individuals, HOWEVER, we welcome all compassionate adults interested in joining the Ele's Place Ann Arbor Volunteer Facilitator Team to apply. [CLICK HERE](#) to submit your volunteer application!



Training Dates – ONLINE & IN-PERSON Sessions:

- Independent Learning: ONLINE Modules launch Thursday, 1/20/2022
- IN-PERSON Session 1: Saturday, 2/5/2022 from 9am-5pm
- IN-PERSON Session 2: Saturday, 2/12/2022 from 9am-5pm
(Safety protocols will be in place during IN-PERSON training sessions)

For more information about becoming a Volunteer Facilitator, check out our [FLYER](#) - OR – [CLICK HERE](#) to visit our “Volunteer at Ele's Place Ann Arbor” webpage. Questions about our **Volunteer Facilitator Training** ? Please reach out to Samantha Gumul, LLMSW, Program Volunteer Coordinator at sgumul@elesplace.org or 734.929.6640, Ext. 2219.



December Schedule

We know grief does not take time off during the holidays, however, the Ele's Place Ann Arbor building will be closed beginning Friday afternoon, December 17, 2021, and will reopen on Monday morning, January 3, 2022. Our Development Staff will be checking mail and voice mails.

If you are in need of assistance or have questions about **grief support for children and teens**. PLEASE leave a message at 734.929.6640, OR call back after January 3rd. Our Clinical Program Staff will return all calls during the week of January 3, 2022. For additional information,

please [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the “Grief Resources” and “Grief Support” sections on our website. Thank YOU and take care.

In Their Own Words - Children, Teen & Family Quotes

Gratitude

In November, a grateful Ele's Place Ann Arbor family shared a special activity with our Program staff, AND provided permission to share it with everyone! Every day during the month of November, a parent and young child practiced gratitude together by leaving each other “Notes of Gratitude!” One morning, the young child **shared her appreciation for Ele's Place Ann Arbor!**



YOU fill our HEART at the Holidays – Year-End Appeal

YOU Make THE Difference – **THANK YOU for HEALING HEARTS at the Holidays!** Ele's Place Ann Arbor provides peer grief support in a safe place where grieving children and teens share their stories and memories, explore their feelings, learn coping skills, and meet new friends who understand them. Most important, they feel heard and realize they are not alone.

YOU may [CLICK HERE](#) to make a secure 2021 online donation. YOU help heal grieving hearts in our community and YOUR gift ensures our peer grief support groups remain FREE OF CHARGE for as long as a family needs!



2022 Derby Day Soirée – Saturday, May 7, 2022



Save the Date!

ANNOUNCING the return to **IN-PERSON (with virtual participation available)** for our Derby Day Soirée! Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 5:00 – 10:00 PM at the Historic Earhart Manor at Concordia University!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - this is an evening of entertainment, engagement, big hats, bow ties and mint juleps, including LIVE coverage of the 148th Kentucky Derby!

TICKETS go on sale Monday, January 10, 2022!

Call for Derby Volunteers!

Looking for a creative and fun VOLUNTEER opportunity that supports our mission? You've found it! The Ele's Place Ann Arbor 2022 Derby Day Soirée Committee Chairs, **Tom & Shirley Randall, and Co-Chairs, Al & Marilyn Gileczek**, have gotten the ball rolling and are recruiting volunteers to serve on the Planning Committees, that include: Auction, Entertainment, Guest Experience, Decor and Logistics!

[CLICK HERE](#) for detailed descriptions of each Derby Day Soirée Planning Committee, and to learn more about the volunteer opportunities available on each committee! **Sign-up TODAY, the Planning Committees will “kick into action” in January 2022!** [CLICK HERE](#) to complete your VOLUNTEER APPLICATION in the “Fundraising Event Volunteer” section of the webpage!

Interested in becoming a **Derby Day Soirée Sponsor**? Questions? Please contact Stacey Bodner, Events Coordinator at sbodner1@elesplace.org or 734.929.6640, Ext. 2221.

Interested in volunteering on a **Derby Day Soirée Planning Committee**? Questions? Please contact Stacey Bodner, Events Coordinator at sbodner1@elesplace.org or 734.929.6640, Ext. 2221.



2021 Healing Hearts Society Virtual Fundraising Breakfast – Wrap-Up!

In October, we hosted our Healing Hearts Society (HHS) Fundraising Breakfast! It was a beautiful morning program filled with bravery, courage and hope, as children, teens, families and special guests shared their grief journeys and their Ele's Place stories. Once again, we thank all of our guests who attended the breakfast and watched the replay of our program.

Most of all, we thank everyone who donated – current and new HHS members who made multi-year pledges, and donors who made recurring and one-time gifts – **TOGETHER** we raised over \$169,000 to 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 come through our doors.



HUGS of GRATITUDE and THANKS to our SPONSORS: Old National Bank, Retirement Income Solutions and St. Joe's!

MANY THANKS to ALL of our Breakfast Ambassadors: Bree Arvai, Maria Birkett, Stacey Bodner, Anita Bohn, Chad & Kate Brummett, Lindsay Clark, Jeanne Cooper, Megan Costigan, Michael Crowley, JPaul Dixon, Rick Eder, Cindy Elliott, LaSonia Forté, Annette Gordon, Jamie Guise, Mike Halpern, Melissa Heinen, Elena Hesse, Ann Hollenbeck, Hallie & Henry Jewell, Kris Kerns, Mishelle Lamarand, Dan Layman, Kris Maly, Keri McDonald, Lauren McGillicuddy, Sarah Miller, Paula Palmer Burns, Steve Popper, Charles Ramsey, Emily Sickler, Jackie Silhanek, Ray Singer, Kristy Smith, Michael Spath, Beckley Stover, Betsy & Woody Stover, Jessica Stubbs, Rachel Tewari, Eileen Thacker, Lori Thomas, Rosalie Tocco-Bradley, Laura Washington, Kathy Wood and Tracy Wraight.

SPECIAL THANKS to our Guest Speakers: Molly Dobson, Rick Eder, Annette Gordon, Sarah Miller, Charles Ramsey, Kristy Smith, Betsy Stover, Rachel Tewari and Laura Washington, former Ele's Place teens AND former Ele's Place family – The Ruddy family.

If you weren't able to join us for the 2021 Healing Hearts Society Fundraising Breakfast, you may still enjoy the **REPLAY** of our program by [CLICKING HERE](#).

SAVE the DATE
Tuesday, October 11, 2022
2022 Healing Hearts Society Fundraising Breakfast

Contact Us!



**to schedule YOUR
Ele's Place Ann Arbor
Tour of the Heart**

“PERSONALIZED” Tours of the Heart

We'd like to “personalize” a **Tour of the Heart**, just for **YOU!** This is an inspirational opportunity to learn more about Ele's Place Ann Arbor, and visit our healing space.

We are able to schedule in-person and virtual tours of our program facility. A **Tour of the Heart** provides **YOU** with an opportunity to meet our staff, learn about our grief support services for children, teens, and their families, and find out ways you can help support our mission.

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.

Questions about a Tour of the Heart? Please contact Lindsay Clark, Director of Development at 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 November, we were presented with a generous operating award from the **Speckhard-Knight Charitable Foundation!** Our hearts are full and we are grateful – **THANK YOU!**

We are grateful to the **Carls Foundation!** In November, we received an amazing grant award to fund an additional bereavement coordinator to further support the amazing healing work of our Program staff. **THANK YOU** Carls Foundation for helping us make it happen!

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 or 734.929.6640, Ext. 2220.

Community Partners AND Friends GIVE BACK

It's. Holiday. Cocktail. Time. Sending **HUGS** to our community partner – **Ann Arbor Distilling Company (A2DC)** – for creating a new canned cocktail (#4!!) to benefit grieving children and teens in our community! The Ele's Place Ann Arbor **“Cranberry Cinnamon Sour”** IS ON SALE NOW! Add this **FESTIVE** canned cocktail to your shopping list! **THANK YOU** to our community partner, Ann Arbor Distilling Company, for **GIVING BACK** to us **AGAIN!**

Purchase at A2DC (220 Felch St., Ann Arbor, MI) – OR – [CLICK HERE](#) to order your Ele's Place Ann Arbor “Cranberry Cinnamon Sour Cocktail” online for curbside pickup. **NOTE** – These cocktails are in high demand and **MAY** be “Out of Stock” for short periods. **Thank YOU** for continuing to check in - Ann Arbor Distilling Company will update their website when they are back in stock!



This amazing seasonal canned cocktail is crafted with: house A2DC Cinnamon-infused Fox River Michigan Whiskey, A2DC Water Hill Cranberry Liqueur, Brown Sugar, Fresh Lemon, Lime and Orange Juices, AND is delicious served over ice! \$5 of every 4-pack supports Ele's Place Ann Arbor, a healing center for grieving children and teens.



Holiday Collaboration Hugs! THANK YOU to the **Ann Arbor Art Center (A2AC)** for partnering with Ele's Place Ann Arbor – AND – to the **Edith S. Briskin/Shirley K. Schlafer Foundation** for their contributions to the ArtBox: Outreach program. This month we've distributed 150 **DONATED** A2AC ArtBoxes filled with ART SUPPLIES to the children and teens we serve in our community - along with grief support activity worksheets! These activities and supplies will provide tips and coping skills on how to manage grief feelings over the long holiday break!

We're ALSO filled with immense gratitude that through December 31, 2021, proceeds from the sale of **EVERY A2AC ArtBox** helps provide Copper Plate Embossing ArtBoxes for our Ele's Place Ann Arbor teens! In January, the teens will use these ArtBoxes to make memory tiles in honor of their person who died. [CLICK HERE](#) to shop online for A2AC ArtBoxes.

We're SO grateful for this holiday collaboration – and remember, **this gift-giving season YOU can support TWO local non-profits when you shop at the A2AC!**



SHOWERING GRATITUDE on the **Kensington Valley Hockey Association Hockey Team – THE REBELS** – for the love and care provided during their SERVICE DAY in October! The teammates, coaches and parents came TOGETHER for a fall clean-up at our Home for Healing Hearts – inside and out! Job well done - thank YOU! We were also presented with a generous donation of \$775 – \$25 for each goal they've made this year (so far!) Thank you Rebels – keep it up!



Thank YOU to **EVERYONE** who contributed to our Ele's Group school-based program's WISH LIST Wednesday on Amazon! Ele's Place Ann Arbor works in partnership with school counselors to provide 8-week peer grief support groups in many area schools! YOUR donations contribute to safe and thoughtful individual supply kits for each Ele's Group participant. [CLICK HERE](#) to access the Amazon wish list!



Thank YOU to those who hosted Facebook birthday fundraisers to benefit Ele's Place Ann Arbor! NOVEMBER was a BIG BIRTHDAY month! Thank YOU to 3 AMAZING humans - **Beckley Stover, Lindsay Clark and Tracy Wraight** - who ALL celebrated birthdays, serve as Volunteer Facilitators AND hosted Facebook birthday fundraisers to benefit Ele's



Place Ann Arbor! TOGETHER, these generous supporters - AND those who celebrated them with a donation – raised over \$3,700 to support grieving children and teens in our community! We are VERY grateful! Thank YOU!



Thank YOU to ALL of the members of the **Hot Rods Motorcycle Awareness and Suicide Prevention Foundation** for presenting us with a \$500 donation to support grieving children, teens and families in our community and the surrounding southeast Michigan area!



Recently, we received a visit from the co-author of the best-selling book “A Widow’s Guide to Healing,” **Kristin Meekhof!** We are so grateful that Kristin donated 20 signed copies of her book to all four of the Ele’s Place branches for families to borrow from our grief libraries! Thank YOU, Kristin!

Do you have a **Third-Party Fundraising Event 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 or 734.929.6640, Ext. 2221.

Ele’s Place Ann Arbor Servant Leader Spotlight

In September, the **ENTIRE Ele’s Place Ann Arbor Program Staff** welcomed our families and volunteers back into our Home for Healing Hearts for IN-PERSON peer grief support evening programs!

In September, the Ele’s Place organization formalized its commitment to providing a safe and welcoming space for grieving children, teens, and their families that respects diversity, equity, and inclusion for all. From this foundation, to the **Ele’s Place Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Journey Statement** was unanimously adopted. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more.

On October 10th, **Bree Arvai**, Ele’s Place Ann Arbor Branch Director, **Peggy Galimberti**, Ele’s Place Ann Arbor Program Director and **Mishelle Lamarand**, Ele’s Place Ann Arbor Community Board Member & Former Family, joined empowerment coach Angela T. Moore on her radio show to highlight our organization’s dedication to creating awareness of and support for grieving children, teens and their families in Ann Arbor AND the surrounding southeast MI area!

On October 12th, **Stacey Bodner**, Ele's Place Ann Arbor Events Coordinator, and **Lindsay Clark**, Ele's Place Ann Arbor Director of Development, along with the entire Ele's Place Ann Arbor Development Staff, and our amazing Breakfast Ambassadors and Community Board members, successfully hosted our 2021 Healing Hearts Society Virtual Fundraising Breakfast! We can't wait for next year – October 11, 2022!

On October 24th, **Mike Halpern**, Ele's Place Ann Arbor Community Board Chair, **Ann Hollenbeck**, Ele's Place Ann Arbor Community Board Vice-Chair, and **Luna Koepping**, Ele's Place Ann Arbor Office & Facility Manager, hosted an amazing Tour of the Heart for the Kensington Valley Hockey Association Hockey Team – THE REBELS – after their SERVICE DAY!

In November, we selected four outstanding Breakfast Ambassadors and awarded them a HEART COASTER for going above and beyond with their invitations, follow-ups, stewardship, and overall contagious enthusiasm for the mission of Ele's Place Ann Arbor! Hats off to all of our 2021 Healing Hearts Society Virtual Fundraising Breakfast Ambassadors, especially **Annette Gordon, Elena Hesse, Lauren McGillicuddy and Sarah Miller!**

On November 18th, **Jessica Stubbs**, Ele's Place Ann Arbor Community Board member, spearheaded WEARING BLUE in honor of Children's Grief Awareness Day at work. We're SO grateful for our community partner, **Chelsea State Bank**, and its employees, for supporting grieving children and teens in our community, our state, and across the nation!

On December 2nd, we announced **Hannah Brown, LMSW**, was named the Program Director at Ele's Place Ann Arbor. Hannah joined the organization as a Bereavement Coordinator in 2013, and from September through November 2021, served as the Associate Program Director. Join us in congratulating Hannah! We also bid a bittersweet farewell to **Peggy Galimberti, LMSW, ACSW**, who has served Ele's Place Ann Arbor since 2012.

Shout-out to **Luna Koepping**, Ele's Place Ann Arbor Office & Facility Manager, for keeping our Home for Healing Hearts safe and clean; for creating the awesome label designs for the Ele's Place Ann Arbor Autumn Hearted Cocktail and Cranberry Cinnamon Sour canned cocktails created by Ann Arbor Distilling Company; and, for always sharing her technology wizardry!

On December 31st, we will bid farewell to **Anita Bohn**, who has served as an Ele's Place Ann Arbor Community Board member since 2008. During her tenure, Anita served as Chair of both our Community Board and the Ele's Place Governing Board. Anita is also a Healing Hearts Society member, a wonderful advocate for the grieving children and teens we serve, and was a Capital Campaign donor. We know Anita won't be far from the action, and will always be a forever friend of Ele's Place Ann Arbor.

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

Follow Ele's Place Ann Arbor on social media:



Ele's Place is committed to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.
TOGETHER WE ARE BETTER

