

No Child or Teen Should Have to Grieve Alone



Ele's Place Ann Arbor  
is here for YOU!



Call us at 734.929.6640



## 1st Quarter 2022 Newsletter

### YOUR Newsletter Includes:

- Peer Grief Support – Program Updates
- In Their Own Words - “HEARTS of EPA2” Stories
- 2022 Derby Day Soirée – Saturday, May 7, 2022
- 2022 Healing Hearts Family 5K Walk/Run – Saturday, June 25, 2022
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### Peer Grief Support – Program Updates

#### Winter 2022 Update

The Ele's Place Ann Arbor evening support groups are meeting Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 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 the death of a person in an emotionally safe environment that supports the sharing of feelings and experiences. 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.



We are also currently offering Monday Family Night programming to families who have completed an intake session and are waiting to join groups. These evenings at Ele's Place Ann Arbor offer families the opportunity to begin exploring their grief together, as a family unit, through guided activities, games and discussions.

The Ele's Place Ann Arbor school-based staff continue to support our school partners and their students through **Ele's Group, our school peer grief support groups, as well as through consultations with school staff members**. Working in partnership with school clinical staff to provide 8-week peer support groups in many area schools, we strive to remove barriers and meet grieving students where they are – at school! While schools are slowly returning to a comfortable place with onsite schooling, we look forward to continuing our partnerships for Fall 2022.

#### Winter 2022 Volunteer Facilitator Training - We Love Our Volunteers!

In February, we welcomed a new class of volunteer facilitators to the Ele's Place Ann Arbor team! During the volunteer facilitator

training, this wonderful group of humans bonded with each other, and further developed their teamwork, group facilitation, communication and empathy skills. We appreciate the warmth, compassion and dedication they have expressed in supporting children and teens through the grieving process.



## Summer 2022 Programming

At Ele's Place Ann Arbor, we know grief does not take a summer break. As we have done in past summers, Ele's Place Ann Arbor will host three Family Nights during the 2022 summer break. Summer family nights are offered to enrolled Ele's Place Ann Arbor families and are designed to support a family in exploring their grief together as a family unit, through guided activities, games and discussions. This open and flexible engagement opportunity aims to support families in communicating about the death of their person(s) and their grief.



## Summer 2022 Volunteer Training

Join our team for a unique opportunity to give back to our community! **Ele's Place Ann Arbor relies on trained volunteers to provide compassionate bereavement support services to grieving children and teens, ages 3-18, through a peer support group model.** Volunteers have an opportunity to support children and teens through the grieving process and build their childhood and adolescent bereavement experience.

We are recruiting **Activity Room Volunteers, Volunteer Greeters, Kitchen Volunteers and Volunteer Facilitators**. We welcome all interested, kind and compassionate adults. We have a particular need for people of diverse backgrounds, including bilingual individuals and male volunteers. [CLICK HERE](#) to submit your volunteer application by **June 30th**! Applicants must be 19 years of age, able to commit to one year of service and complete our training program.

### Required Volunteer Training Program – July 2022 Online & In-Person Sessions:

- Independent Learning:
  - Online Modules launch Thursday, 7/7/2022 **(ALL Volunteer positions)**
- In-Person Training:
  - Session 1: Thursday, 7/21/2022; 5:30–9:00 PM **(ALL Volunteer positions)**
  - Session 2: Saturday, 7/23/2022; 9:00 AM–3:00 PM **(Volunteer Facilitators ONLY)**
  - Session 3: Saturday, 7/30/2022; 9:00 AM–3:00 PM **(Volunteer Facilitators ONLY)**  
**(Safety protocols will be in place during IN-PERSON training sessions)**

For more information about becoming a Volunteer please [CLICK HERE](#) to visit our “Volunteer at Ele's Place Ann Arbor” webpage. Questions about our **Volunteer Training Program**? Please reach out to Meghan Thiel, LMSW, Associate Program Director at [mthiel@elesplace.org](mailto:mthiel@elesplace.org) or 734.929.6640, Ext. 2207.

## In Their Own Words - “HEARTS of EPA2” Stories

In February, we launched a NEW communication series – HEARTS of EPA2! This series is intended to compile little HEART stories shared by Donors, Volunteers, Staff, Former Families, Community Supporters, Board Members and Sponsors. Every shared heart story fills the HEART of Ele's Place Ann Arbor. ♥

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the Ele's Place Ann Arbor “HEARTS OF EPA2” webpage and read stories from those who are sharing their hearts with us!





## Tickets are Almost Gone!

In less than six weeks, we will be back at the Historic Earhart Manor at Concordia University for our 5th Annual Derby Day Soirée. Join us on Saturday, May 7th from 5:00–10:00 PM! [CLICK HERE](#) to purchase your Derby Day Soirée tickets online! ♥

Celebrate Derby Day with Ele's Place Ann Arbor – an evening of entertainment, engagement, big hats, bow ties, mint juleps, southern-inspired food stations, Derby wager raffle, Derby dance party with DJ Nicole Myint, and LIVE coverage of the 148th Kentucky Derby! Emcee Chuck Colby and Auctioneer Jim Alban are returning this year for YOUR entertainment pleasure!

To participate in the Derby Day Soirée Silent and/or Live auction, Paddle Ask or to make a general Donation, you must register and receive a unique bid number. [CLICK HERE](#) to register online!

## Prepping for Derby FUN!

Knowing that the fun and support demonstrated by the Host Committee at the Derby kick-off event will continue, our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Derby Day Soirée is sure to be a stunning success! Thank you to Ann Arbor Distilling Co. – our community partner – for hosting!



On May 7th, join our Derby Committee Chairs, **Shirley & Tom Randall**, Co-Chairs, **Marilyn & Al Gileczek** AND the Host Committee, **Amy & Mark Blaufuss**, **Kathy & Toby Brzoznowski**, **Megan & Tom Costigan**, **Heidi & Rob Ewing**, **Santine & Dave Harlock**, **Beth & Matt Jakubik**, **Hallie & Henry Jewell**, **Kris & Shawn Kerns**, **Kim & Frank La Marca**, **Megan & Kyle Mazurek**, **Brittany & Ryan Muneio**, **Tracey Roy & Michael Williams**, **Amy & Michael Spath**, **Betsy & Woody Stover** and **Marji & Chris Wisniewski**!

YOUR support and participation allows Ele's Place Ann Arbor to continue to provide compassionate peer support to grieving children, teens and their families in Ann Arbor, and the surrounding southeast Michigan area, FREE OF CHARGE, for as long as they need.

♥ Unable to attend the Derby Day Soirée, but want to support the grieving children and teens Ele's Place Ann Arbor serves? PLEASE click on the button below to make a secure online donation today!  
♥

[Donate Now!](#)



## Call for Derby "DAY OF" Volunteers!

Ele's Place Ann Arbor relies on VOLUNTEERS to assist with our support groups, operations AND fundraising events. We could not do what we do without our volunteers! ♥ Join us!

For a detailed listing of all Derby "DAY OF" Volunteer Opportunities AND to sign-up [CLICK HERE](#) to visit the SignUpGenius webpage.

Questions about signing up as a Derby "DAY OF" Volunteer? Please contact Stacey Bodner, Events Coordinator at [sbodner1@elesplace.org](mailto:sbodner1@elesplace.org) or 734.929.6640, Ext. 2221.

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

**2022 Healing Hearts Family 5K Walk/Run – Saturday, June 25, 2022**

Grab your walking OR running shoes and REGISTER to join us for

our 2nd Annual Healing Hearts Family 5K Walk/Run on Saturday, June 25, 2022! **Online REGISTRATION is OPEN** – please [CLICK HERE](#) to register!

**Register EARLY – Registration Fees INCREASE on 5/1/22!**

In-Person – Ages 13+: \$25

Kids (12 & Under) FREE

Virtual – Ages 13+: \$20

Former AND Current Ele's Place families PLUS the ENTIRE community are invited to participate in this family-friendly event to honor, celebrate and remember someone who has died. Put "one foot in front of the other" to help fund our peer grief support programs and ensure they remain FREE OF CHARGE for grieving children, teens and their families TODAY, TOMORROW and ALWAYS.

**NEW COURSE** for 2022 at a sponsor's location: Thomson Reuters Ann Arbor Campus, 6300 Interfirst Dr., Ann Arbor, MI. Thank you, Thomson Reuters!



## YOU HEAL grieving HEARTS February 2022 Appeal – Wrap-Up!



Thank you for HEALING grieving HEARTS! YOU stand by grieving children, teens and their families in our community by supporting Ele's Place Ann Arbor! Your generous gifts during the month of February help ensure that our peer grief support groups remain free of charge. ♥

We exceeded our goal, met our \$25,000 MATCH and raised over \$51,000! **We are forever grateful for you, our Donors – AND – for our amazing friend and Match Donor, Molly Dobson! YOU filled our HEART! ♥**

## Tours of the Heart – Schedule a Tour & Visit Our Peer Grief Support Center

Tours of the Heart are an inspirational opportunity to learn more about Ele's Place Ann Arbor, and visit our dedicated healing space for grieving children, teens and their families.

We are scheduling in-person tours of our program facility. A Tour of the Heart provides YOU with an opportunity to learn about our peer grief support programs, meet our staff, 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](mailto:annarborinfo@elesplace.org).



**Questions? Or, to schedule 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.

Thank you to the **Zatkoff Family Legacy Fund** and the **Frederick S. Upton Foundation** for their generous grant awards during the first quarter of 2022 to support our ongoing operational needs. Our hearts are full and we are grateful! Thank you for helping us make it happen!

## Community Partners & Friends GIVE BACK



Thank you and big hugs to two amazing humans - **Tom Randall and Shirley Randall!** At the end of last year, they MATCHED donations \$-for-\$ up to \$5,000 in the Randall Family Match Fundraiser! TOGETHER, Tom & Shirley, and their generous family members, friends and colleagues who honored them with a donation, raised over \$14,500 to support grieving children and teens in our community! We are very grateful to everyone who donated, with special thanks to The Jack and Ginny Sinn Family Fund.



Even a snow storm didn't keep us from visiting our 2021 holiday collaborator – the **Ann Arbor Art Center!** In January, we picked up 55 Copper Plate Embossing ArtBoxes donated to our Ele's Place Ann Arbor teens, which they will use during peer grief support groups to make memory tiles in honor of their person who died. Thank you to everyone who purchased ArtBoxes from A2AC during the fourth quarter of 2021! YOUR purchases provided us with these gifts and supported two local non-profits!



Thank you **Chuck Colby** and everyone who attended "Up With The Sun" – The Sun Times News Networking Breakfast! We loved meeting everyone and we hope you learned more about Ele's

Place Ann Arbor! TOGETHER, this wonderful group of humans raised over \$400 to support grieving children and teens in Ann Arbor, and the surrounding southeast Michigan area!



Thank you everyone who donated to the **Shaw Family Fundraiser in Memory of Hayleigh!** TOGETHER, The Shaw Family and their wonderful friends and colleagues who honored

Hayleigh raised \$3,000 for Ele's Place Ann Arbor to support grieving children and teens in Ann Arbor, and the surrounding southeast Michigan area!



We LOVE our volunteers! In February, we sent hugs and thanks to this wonderful group of **Saline student volunteers** for "cleaning up" our Home for Healing Hearts! What perfect timing, as we welcomed NEW

volunteers to our building for Part 2 of their Facilitator Training the next day!



Thank you to ALL of the members of the **Fraternal Order of Eagles Van Buren #3996** for hosting a "Charity Fundraiser" on January 29, 2022 to support grieving

children and teens in southeast Michigan! TOGETHER, the Van Buren Eagles #3996 raised over \$7,300 for Ele's Place Ann Arbor!



Jeans Days at **Chelsea State Bank** were a give back for Ele's Place Ann Arbor! Thank you to all of the employees at Chelsea State Bank for wearing blue jeans on Fridays

AND supporting grieving children and teens in Ann Arbor, and the surrounding southeast Michigan area! TOGETHER you raised \$1,700 to support the grieving families Ele's Place Ann Arbor serves!



Thank you **Mishelle Lamarand Photography** for giving back to Ele's Place Ann Arbor on Valentine's Day! You and all of your clients who enjoyed a mini-heart-photo-session with

you filled our hearts in February! TOGETHER you raised over \$750 to support grieving children, teens and their families in Ann Arbor, and the surrounding southeast Michigan area!



We are grateful to **Ann Arbor Distilling Company (A2DC)** and all of the "Autumn Hearted Cocktail" lovers who purchased this Ele's Place Ann Arbor canned cocktail! YOUR "support" and

"enjoyment" are wonderful, and in January, we received another \$75 from recent sales! Thank



Thank you **Hallie Jewell** for sharing YOUR January birthday celebration with Ele's Place Ann Arbor! YOU are Ele's big sister, serve as Volunteer Facilitator at Ele's

Place Ann Arbor, and, you hosted a Facebook birthday fundraiser to benefit Ele's Place Ann Arbor! You, and everyone who celebrated your

you to everyone for supporting grieving children and teens!

support grieving children and teens!

Almost sold out! Our Canned Cocktail #5 – the “sweet-HEARTED-tini” – is very low in stock! This was a “VALENTINE” favorite...and is sure to reappear in February 2023!

Heads-up! Be on the lookout for **Canned Cocktail #6!** Think SUMMER! Think SUNSHINE! Sending hugs to our community partner , A2DC!



Thank you to **The Write Touch** by **Leyla** for hosting a Valentine give back fundraiser in their new store! Thank you to everyone who came out and shopped! 20% of the proceeds (\$500) were donated back to

Ele's Place Ann Arbor and will support grieving children and teens!



Thank you **Betsy Upton Stover** for sharing YOUR February birthday celebration with Ele's Place Ann Arbor! YOU are Ele's mom, serve on the Community Board for Ele's

Place Ann Arbor, serve on the Ele's Place Governing Board, and, you hosted a Facebook birthday fundraiser in love & support of your dear friend, and our Match Donor, Molly Dobson! You, and everyone who celebrated your birthday with a donation, helped us surpass our goal, meet our \$25,000 match and raise over \$51,000 to support grieving children and teens!

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](mailto:sbodner1@elesplace.org) or 734.929.6640, Ext. 2221.

## Ele's Place Ann Arbor Servant Leader Spotlight

In November 2021, Ele's Place Ann Arbor welcomed **KaDerrick Robinson, LLMSW** to the Program Staff as a Bereavement Coordinator. During his graduate studies at Michigan State University, KaDerrick served as a volunteer facilitator for peer support group programs at Ele's Place Capital Region.

In December 2021, Ele's Place Ann Arbor welcomed **Meghan Thiel, LMSW** to the Program Staff as the Associate Program Director. Meghan is very familiar with Ele's Place Ann Arbor, having served as both a volunteer facilitator and an Adult Clinician.

On January 18th, **all Ele's Place Staff around the State of Michigan** participated in the 2022 National Day of Racial Healing hosted by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation . This virtual event provided space for our staff to continually engage in intentional dialogue, to create a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture as we support grieving families in our communities throughout Michigan.

In February, we conducted our Winter 2022 Volunteer Facilitator Training. Congratulations to the **Ele's Place Ann Arbor Program Staff** for a successful training program, and for adding new trained volunteer facilitators to the team!

On February 20th, **Bree Arvai**, Ele's Place Ann Arbor Branch Director, and **Mishelle Lamarand**, Ele's Place Ann Arbor Community Board Member & Former Family, joined TV show co-hosts Dana Denha and Melissa Bondy on “Adventures in Parenthood” – a show on CTN Channel 16 on Comcast (XFINITY) in the greater Ann Arbor Area – to chat about Ele's Place Ann Arbor's dedication to creating awareness of and support for grieving children, teens and their families in Ann Arbor AND the surrounding southeast MI area!

In February, Ele's Place Ann Arbor welcomed **Gail Hullstrung** as our Office & Building Administrator. At the same time, we bid a bittersweet farewell to **Luna Koepping** who has served Ele's Place Ann Arbor since 2018.

During the month of March – National Social Worker Month – we celebrated our compassionate **Ele's Place Ann Arbor Program Staff!** They are committed to our mission, and dedicated to the grieving children, teens and their families we serve. Thank you **Alexa Schrock, Hannah Brown, KaDerrick Robinson, Karen Kohn, Katie Brickman, Meghan Thiel and Samantha Gumul**, your constant contributions are essential to the success of the peer grief support programs we provide!

In March 17th, we recognized and deeply appreciated everyone who supports Ele's Place Ann Arbor – our **Donors, Volunteers, Staff, Former Families, Community Supporters, Board Members, Sponsors and Underwriters!** Our community is so fortunate to have Ele's Place Ann Arbor, and we are so

**L.U.C.K.Y.** to have everyone who stands by us, so we can stand by children and teens who are grieving! **TOGETHER** we make an impact on those who need us most!

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

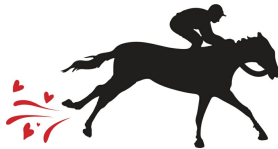
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Ele's Place is committed to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.  
**TOGETHER WE ARE BETTER**



## THANK YOU to the Ele's Place Ann Arbor 2022 Derby Day Soirée Sponsors & Underwriters



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