

Volume 18 #3

Fall/Winter 2018



*a center for grieving
children & families*

6 Poquonock Avenue

Windsor, CT 06095

860-688-9621

www.marysplacect.org

MARY'S PLACE
6 Poquonock Avenue
Windsor, CT 06095-2507

From the Director

In late September, as we usually do, we held our annual Ray of Hope fundraiser; this year, with a new theme - the Celebration Bash. This year's twist on the event included the transformation of our Wine Pull to a Spirit Pull, which was a huge success. We also had dancing, for the first time in a long time, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. As our opening presentation of the evening, to celebrate our milestones and to honor past supporters, staff and volunteers, we thought it fitting to take a trip down memory lane and share our history video.

Many people ask about our history and our founding director, Mary Keane. I regret to say that I have not yet had the privilege of meeting this amazing woman, as she resides in California, but I feel as though I know her, in some small way, through the stories shared with me by others and her writings in previous newsletters. Mary certainly left her mark on the world through her various humanitarian efforts and the countless lives she touched as a former Nun, Oncology Nurse and Bereavement Coordinator. She continues to do so through the legacy that she and the Carmon Family built here in Mary's Place. I recently came across one of the first newsletters, written by Mary, in March of 2002, in which she wrote about her vision for Mary's Place and how we came to be. I'd like to share her words with you all once more:

"Our beginnings were very humble, starting in 1991 with a group of four little girls who had experienced the death of a parent and who met in my living room. This worked quite well until we were joined by more children whose exuberance quickly made it apparent that we had outgrown our space. (Someone once said that children's grief is very noisy, and it's true!). We then moved to Loomis Chaffee School here in Windsor where Evelyn Smith who was Dean of Students at the time graciously made one of the student lounges available to us. Although this worked well for several years, my dream was to have a space that would be designed and dedicated exclusively for the use of grieving children and teens. Thanks to the extraordinary vision and generosity of the Carmon Family, our present space, which was the site of their original funeral home (a great old Victorian house!) became available to us in the summer of 1996 and was dedicated the following spring. We use every inch of the considerable space that is here, and several hundred children, teens and their families have found this to be a safe place as they cope with profound losses in their lives. Their stories tell of incredible courage and resilience, and we who are privileged to journey with these remarkable youngsters and their families are truly blest." – Mary Keane

We continue to be blessed to be a part of the lives of our participants and those who come to us seeking support. We are grateful to be here to provide our services and appreciate all of you who play such an important role in helping us to fulfill our mission. To those who give a gift to our Center in memory of a loved one, to all who attend and support our events and to those who advocate on our behalf, we thank you. The increased awareness of our mission has added a great number of new readers to our mailing list. Whether you are a new reader or one of our long-time friends and supporters, I thank you so much for reading our newsletter and supporting our work.

I continue to be moved by the immense kindness, empathy and compassion of our participants, volunteers and supporters, which I witness in some form or another, on a daily basis. So much happens behind the doors of our little grief center in Windsor. If walls could talk, our walls would sing - of the hope that is found, memories shared and lives that are forever changed through the connections and support discovered here. Thanks to you, Mary's Place continues to thrive and provide essential support to the grieving children and families who come to us.

Warmly,

Brittany Sheehan

FROM ALL OF US AT MARY'S PLACE; THE
STAFF, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, VOLUNTEERS,
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES... WE WISH YOU AND
THOSE YOU LOVE A PEACEFUL HOLIDAY AND
MANY BLESSINGS IN THE NEW YEAR.

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In Honor Of:

"All That You Do!"
Carmon Funeral Home
John Carmon
Abbey Closson
Mary Keane
Dot Pinard



Single-serving size snacks; Pretzels, Graham Crackers, Chips, etc.
Juice Boxes | Paper Plates | Napkins
Copy Paper 8.5x11 | First class postage stamps

Visit marysplacect.org for a complete list of our wishes.



We are grateful to our friends at Swiss Re
for the stapling of our newsletter envelopes!

July, August, September and October 2018 Gifts in Memory of:

Michael Albrizio, Chad Arnold, David M. Barry, Brittany Bassett, Cpl. Stephen Bixler, Leon Brazalovich, Michael Brundage, Jay Capuano, Emma Carlone, Bill Campion, Fayenette Demery-Hashim, DeVito Family, Mary K. Drost, Victor & Peter Dydynd, Meredith Louise Ewick, Anthony Fontana, Marissa Isabel Garcia, Allyson Devi Gillette, Ursula Ginocchio, Martha W. Gracey, Justin Grigely, Jack Hamre, Donald J. Higgins, Ruth Horacek, Jackie Lee Keen, Judith L. Landers, Rene I. Lewis, Frank Lowry, Andrew "Drew" MacNeill, Genevieve Malec, Jim Mason, James Meade, Betty Merovonich, Eugene Mitchell, Frances & Sterling Newell, Anne Marie Peck, Matthew Peck, Maria Peters, Scott W. Polley, Ronald Pratt, Lawrence Ridel, Sr., Lawrence Ridel, Jr., Laura Schwartz, Harriet Shapiro, Devon C. Smith, Paul D. Smith, Frances Silva, Patricia Silva, Helen Smith, Shaun Stebbins, Richard Sutyla, Christopher Torres, Peter Joseph Votto, Stephanie Wall

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Louis Keen
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Ellen Kimball
Mary Jean Kirtland
Maria Klimczak

Special Thanks to our Friends at Loomis Chaffee



Students from The *Loomis Chaffee School* spent their Service Day with us creating beautiful bulletin boards to be displayed in our center.

The *Loomis Chaffee Art Club* hosted a very special "Healing Through Art" night at Mary's Place for our children and families.



"Art speaks where words are unable to explain." - Mathiole

11th Annual Wine Tasting

Saturday, March 23, 2019

**The Riverfront Community Center
Glastonbury, CT**

6:00 PM - 9:00 PM | Tickets \$40

***Delicious hors d'oeuvres, decadent desserts,
wine, beer and more!***

Tea Cup Auction

Music

**Help support this event by attending, sponsoring
or donating food or an auction item!**

Call Mary's Place for more information.

Tickets will be available on our website in late January 2019*



Ray of Hope Celebration Bash

Honoring and celebrating our donors and supporters.

Our thanks to all who attended and supported our 2018 Ray of Hope Fundraiser at The North House on September 28th.

This years benefit raised over \$50,000 for grieving children and their families!



Many thanks to all who made this special evening possible!

A very special thanks to...

Event Chair Nancy Griffin, Deb Roncari and the Committee for all of their hard work

Jim Aldridge of Romantic Entertainment, LLC for the gift of his services and sharing of his talents

Denise D'Ascenzo from WFSB-TV for the gift of her presence & for serving as our master of ceremonies

Sinsigalli Signs for the donation of our poster boards | All of our generous sponsors and donors

Spirit Pull Hosts, Adele Clark & Cathy Stahr | Our friends at Apple for manning ticket sales

Photographer, Brian Pierre | Guest Speaker, Jess Kupec | The staff at The North House

Gifts are often given to Mary's Place in memory of a beloved family member or friend; also, to honor birthdays, anniversaries and special occasions.

We are grateful for each gift and thank you sincerely for your support.

March, April May & June donors continued from previous newsletter:

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Caitlin Alfano
James Allen
Apple, Inc.
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Windsor Lions Club
Matthew Walsh
Valerie Wozniak
Erin Yaeger
Dana Zenick

Behind the Scenes



Many thanks to our friends from *The Hartford* for volunteering at Mary's Place on 9/11, a national day of service and remembrance, to do a deep clean of our Center. We appreciate all of your hard work and passion for giving back. Our Center looks beautiful!

The greatest gift you can give is your time.
#volunteer

Thanks to Our Sponsors

A RAY OF HOPE

"Friends of Mary's Place"

HEALING

Ted & Peggy Crew

COMFORT

Carmon Community Funeral Home

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COMPASSION

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In Loving Memory of Tracee Marcho & Joyce Smith Blodgett

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Donate a Vehicle Today!



Do you have an old car or other vehicle that you don't use or that doesn't run and is just taking up space? That vehicle can make such a difference to Mary's Place! Mary's Place is registered to IAA and the One Car One Difference program to accept the proceeds from vehicle sales as donations.

For more than three decades, the Insurance Auto Auctions (IAA) Donation Division has provided comprehensive processing services for non-profit organizations to sell donated vehicles at auction, providing them with a valuable funding stream.

IAA represents hundreds of most recognized and trusted U.S. charities whose missions are supported by proceeds from the sale of donated vehicles. With more than 160 locations in North America and a strong global buyer base of licensed dealers, recyclers, and exporters, IAA maximizes the sale price of each donated vehicle. Depending on the vehicle's final sale price, IAA's charity partners receive up to 70% of the proceeds.

This trusted, turn-key process is easy for donors.

1. Donor contacts IAA's Donation Division
2. IAA tows the vehicle
3. IAA auctions the vehicle
4. Donor gets sales receipt to file for tax deduction
5. Charity gets the proceeds

To place a donation for Mary's Place with the IAA One Car One Difference Program, please call (888) 205-3420 or visit www.iaa-auctions.com/charity and designate Mary's Place, A Center For Grieving Children and Families as your charity of choice.

All types of vehicle donations

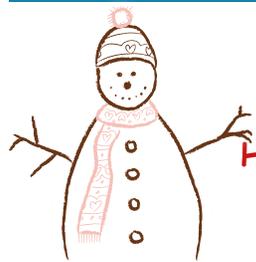
are accepted, including:

- Cars and light trucks
- Semi-trucks and trailers
- Motorcycles and scooters
 - Buses and RVs
- Boats and personal watercraft
 - Agriculture equipment
 - Construction equipment

RECENTLY IN OUR GROUPS...



Our kids have been busy with a variety of projects & creative ways to express themselves- from posters, to pumpkins, to holiday wreaths- honoring their grief experiences and their loved ones who have died.



We wish to thank everyone who donated to our Annual Holiday party & kids gift bags!

Special Thanks to...

Christi Dooley & friends who donated an abundance of gifts and spent their time putting together our kids gift bags.

Karen Clark who graciously hosted a drive at her home and workplace to collect copious gifts and donations.

Joan Trivella & her team at Staffmark for their gift drive and holiday party donations.

We appreciate the kindness and generosity of all who contributed!

Mary's Place is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

Any donations made are deductible according to IRS regulations. If your name has been omitted, or if there is an error, we apologize and ask that you notify us as 860-688-9621 or email: info@marysplacect.org
No fees are charged to participating families and Mary's Place depends upon individual and community support.



Save the Date



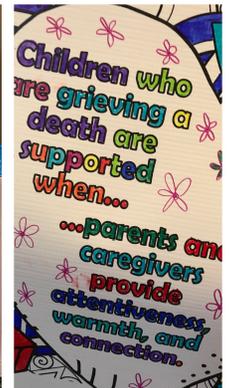
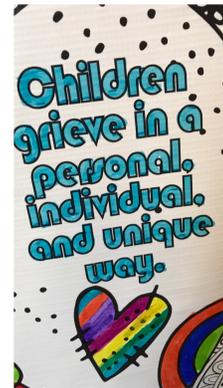
7th Annual Memory Walk Sunday, May 5, 2019 | 9:30 AM Location TBD

Honor the memory of a loved one and help support grieving children, teens, and families by joining us for this **FAMILY FRIENDLY** event.

Registration forms will be available online in April 2019. If you would like to be a T-SHIRT Sponsor (covering the cost of t-shirts distributed to walkers) please contact Mary's Place.

Memories are worth walking for... Come Walk With Us!

Are you interested in volunteering or know someone who is? Ask about becoming a Mary's Place Community Ambassador.



NAGC Annual Symposium on Children's Grief

As members of the The National Alliance for Grieving Children, we were fortunate to attend this years Symposium in July. We returned home with new knowledge, tools and resources to better serve our children and families.