

Volume 18 #2

Summer 2018



6 Poquonock Avenue

Windsor, CT 06095

860-688-9621

www.marysplacect.org



From the Director

Dear Friends,

We have a book in our library called "The Invisible String" by Patrice Karst. The book talks about an invisible string made of love. The string reaches everywhere and connects us with the ones we love no matter where they go. It is a beautifully symbolic example of how, even when a person has died, they will always be with us in our hearts.

Grief has no time limit and each person's experience is unique. The children and families who come to Mary's Place do so at varying times in their grief journey. Many find their way to us soon after the death of their loved one and some do not come until years later. Our program is designed to meet the needs of our participants "where they are". Grief does not take a summer vacation and neither do we. Our groups are open-ended and continue year round. Even after a participant has left our program, they are welcome to return at any time. In fact, this happens quite often with our children, as they continue to revisit their loss and understanding of death as they grow. Thanks to your support, our doors are always open.

As you navigate the pages of this newsletter, I hope you will get a glimpse of the healing work that is done at Mary's Place and the many people whose lives we touch. We offer thanks to our participants for allowing us the privilege of sharing in their grief journey. To know we are trusted in such a sacred way is an honor.

We also offer our thanks to you; our faithful readers, donors and supporters. We couldn't do this important work without you. We are ever grateful for your unwavering compassion and dedication to Mary's Place.

Warmly,

Brittany Sheehan

Family Picnic and Butterfly Release 2018

Being Together | Finding Hope | Sharing Memories | Honoring & Remembering

Special thanks to Roger Nolte, The Windsor/Windsor Locks Rotary Club and the Windsor Police Explorers for helping make this a special day for our children & families.



"It was one of the "best" days I have had in a very long time. It was planned perfectly. I didn't know you were planning on releasing butterflies, which made the day even more perfect! The kids loved it...Everyone was so helpful and kind. I am so glad to have found Mary's Place." - Mary's Place Participant



Thanks to Ryan Pelligrinelli for the beautiful photos of our butterfly release.



Memory Walk | May 6, 2018



The rainy weather didn't stop family and friends from gathering to walk in memory of loved ones who have passed.

MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED THIS YEAR'S MEMORY WALK!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Memory Walk Chair Nicole Battistone

Jim Aldridge–

RomanticEntertainment.com

Apple Employee Volunteers

Florence Barlow

Barbara Capuano

Abbey Closson

Great American Donut, Inc.

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In Memory of Caleb Brown

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Abbey's Story

Mary's Place holds a very special place in my heart and has been a part of my life since I was six years old when my father passed away from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. Not only was my father my primary care taker, but he was also my best friend. I remember him always making me smile.



When my dad died, I remember my first real feeling of being scared, empty, cheerless and alone. I felt like the other kids would not understand me and I felt as if I would continue my grief journey alone. It was then that I found Mary's Place. I remember my first day in the group, and how I felt nervous. I was greeted with a warm smile and hug. After sharing a couple memories, I realized that I wasn't alone at all. All of the other kids and volunteers were there to support me. We were all there to support each other and there was not a doubt in my mind that this was how I was going to get through this tragic event of losing my dad.

I've grown tremendously due to the help and support I have received at Mary's Place. When I turned thirteen, I decided to give back to Mary's Place so I became a teen volunteer in one of the children's groups for a year.

Mary's Place has not only helped me, but it has helped my mother as well. My mother and I built lasting friendships with other people who went to Mary's Place and received much needed support when the grieving process was not easy. Also, I have become comfortable with telling people about my father and about his passing. With the help and encouragement of Mary's Place, I am involved in my community and school through jazz band, theatre, and various clubs and organizations. Because of Mary's Place I have decided that I would like to become a family therapist to help others like myself who have experienced loss.

Without Mary's Place, I am not sure who I would be today or how my grief journey would have been. Words cannot express how truly grateful and thankful I am to have been introduced to this amazing place and group of people.

Losing my dad at such a young age was devastating. At the time, I didn't know how, or if, I would get over his death. I still haven't. No one ever gets over such great loss, you just meet the right people and you learn how to cope with it. Those people for me were at Mary's Place.

Thank you for supporting this wonderful organization!

-Abbey Closson

Ray of Hope Celebration Bash

Join us to support hope & healing...

Friday, September 28th, 2018

The North House 1 Nod Rd, Avon, CT 06001

For more information please call Mary's Place at 860-688-9621

www.marysplacect.com/events

COMING SOON!

Healing Through Art

JOIN US FOR THIS SUPPORTIVE & HEALING EXPERIENCE AS WE USE ART TO EXPRESS FEELINGS AND HONOR AND REMEMBER OUR LOVED ONES.

DATE AND TIME TBD
STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE.

Many thanks to Konica Minolta for many generous years donating the printing of our newsletter!



Help Fill Our Children's Holiday Gift Bags

You can help with our children's Holiday Gathering by choosing from the items below or donating a **new** toy under \$5 for children ages 3 to 12.



Journal Notebook Coloring Books Small Figurine/Dolls

Small Games Small Craft Kits Art Supplies

Crazy Socks Children's Bracelets Fidget Toys



Please call before dropping off items. (Drop off by 10/10 please.)

We already have many stuffed animals, but thank you.

We couldn't do it without our volunteers...



Did you know that our longest volunteer has been with us for almost 20 years?

Our volunteers come to us from a variety of backgrounds and each have a personal reason they are a part of fulfilling our mission. We are grateful for the compassion, dedication and time they devote to Mary's Place throughout the year.

Volunteer Facilitators

Pat Auten
Nicole Battistone
Adele Clark
Judy Devlin
Bridget Diene
Nicole Henry
Grace Imondi
Barbara Karas
Becca Lazarus
Patty Mace
Bruce McCormick

volunteers plant seeds of love
that help countless hearts
to grow...



Board Of Directors

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Roger Nolte

Teen Helper

Troy Artis

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

Behind the Scenes at Mary's Place

Meet Adele...



Adele Clark worked for 33 years as a Public Day Services Supervisor with the Dept. of Developmental Services.

Nearing her retirement she knew she wanted to give back in an extraordinary way. "I knew I wanted to volunteer my time working with children. There was an article in my church bulletin stating that Mary's Place was looking for volunteers. After reading the article it just 'felt right'."

Adele is a Volunteer Facilitator in our little kids group with children ages 3-7. She has been a faithful volunteer since 2015 companioning kids along their grief journeys at Mary's Place.

Q: What are your strengths in working with the children?

A: *"My being present 'in the moment' with the individual/individuals that I'm working with...I hope that in doing so I can bring a sense of validation to that child and their feelings."*

Q: What has grief taught you?

A: *"Grief has taught me to be patient—not only with others, but myself. There is a poem that I think expresses this perfectly." (see below)*

*I had my own notion of grief.
I thought it was a sad time
That followed the death of someone you love.
And you had to push through it
To get to the other side.
But I'm learning there is no other side.
There is no pushing through.
But rather,
There is absorption. Adjustment. Acceptance.
And grief is not something that you complete.
But rather you endure.
Grief is not a task to finish, And move on.
But an element of yourself –
An alteration of your being.
A new way of seeing.
A new definition of self
By Gwen Flowers*

Adele's son Matthew, her dog Jack and reading are among the loves of her life.

Fun fact; she has always wanted to learn how to tap dance.

For more "Behind the Scenes" visit our website at marysplacect.org

Thank you!

*Many vital tasks happen behind the scenes to keep our Center running and thriving.
Many thanks to former staff member Janet Shwayhat for over ten years of dedicated service to Mary's Place!*

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 and June 2018

Gifts in Memory of:

Mattie Acosta, Lindsay Press Barrett, David Barry, Stephanie Barry, Nicholas Bibeau, Dale Bishop, Cpl. Stephen Bixler, Roy & Marjorie Bixler, Scott Bowen, Stanton Brown, Tiffany Brown, Michael Brundage, Elizabeth Ann Camilleri, Jay Capuano, Emma Carlone, Frank W. "Billy" Carmon, III, Kenny Chase, Keith Cox, Dennis Cunningham, Ilan Dexler, Robert Dillon Jr., Robert Dillon, Sr., Devito Family, Mary Drost, Tio Elias, Stephen Elliott, Meredith Louise Ewick, Isabel Garcia, Frances Garvan, Mark Gordon, Martha W. Gracey, Tio Gustavo, James Hall, Jr., Sean Harvey, Fayerette Demery Hashim, Richard & Eunie Hogue, Riena Kaplow, Jackie Lee Keen & Ginger, Edward & Barbara Latham, Shelly & Ivanita Levine, Bob Lougee, Frank Lowry, Jim Marcelynas, Thomas Mawdley & Family, Julia Meglin, Mary Miller, Will Moryto, Austin Nagy, Maria Peters, Robert & Ann Pinard, Anne Pizzi, Lawrence Ridel, Jr., Lawrence Ridel, Sr., Sadie Bea Roy, Patricia Huntington Silliman, Devon Smith, May Soll, Paul J. Sorbo, Richard Sutyla, James Walsh, Edward Wisniewski

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John Carmon's 70th Birthday
Fortier & Fitzpatrick Family
Justin Fortier
Byron Lester's Special Birthday
Jeanette & Leon Rivers
Special Anniversary
Stewart Tinturin
Wavis Washington's Retirement

Mark Your Calendars...

Mary's Place Open house on Children's Grief Awareness Day

Thursday November 15, 2018 | 12pm-4pm

Take a tour of our Center and meet our staff & volunteers.

Learn about our grief programs & other resources.

Children's Grief Awareness Day helps us all become more aware of the needs of grieving children – and of the benefits they obtain through the support of others.

www.childrengriefawarenessday.org

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

November 27, 2018

A global day dedicated to giving back

www.givingtuesday.org

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.