

Healing Hearts



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Dear

Friends,

The two organizations that are most dear to my heart are Bo's Place, where I have the privilege of working every day, and The Junior League of Houston, Inc., where I am a sustaining member and past president.

I remember first hearing about Bo's Place in 1998 when I served on the board of directors at the Junior League. Bo's Place was a tiny little nonprofit for children and families who had experienced the death of a loved one. Several Junior League members - Lucy Kormeier, Susan Harvin Lawhon and Susan Cooley - had gotten involved with this fledgling organization when it was still known as the Grief Center of Texas. In short order, they, along with founders Karen Pennebaker and Cis Dickson, would reach out to fellow League member, Lindy Neuhaus, and her family. As we all know, the organization officially changed its name to Bo's Place in memory of Lindy's son, Bo, who died at the age of 12 of liver cancer.

For the past 25 years, Bo's Place has had the support of the Junior League through virtually every community program it offers - community assistance grants, outside board representatives, and Done in a Day volunteers.

Last year, the Junior League approved Bo's Place as an official placement for League members. We are thrilled to have 11 highly enthusiastic, gracious, and creative members of the Junior League working on Sundays and Tuesdays as kitchen and special project volunteers this year! Megan Ryan, chair of this project, has also arranged for VIEW volunteers to create special items for Bo's Place. Malcolm Rowland, Tea Room Manager at the League, will be providing four holiday meals this coming holiday season.

The Junior League of Houston trains women to be leaders in the nonprofit sector in our community. Active members learn about voluntarism and nonprofit management. Sustaining members use what they have learned to support the community as volunteers, board members and professional staff members.

Junior League sustainers have been an integral part of the fabric of Bo's Place for 25 years. Seventeen League members have served on the Bo's Place board of directors over our 25-year history, including three League past presidents, four former membership vice presidents, and three former financial vice presidents.



Christina Altenau, Junior League member and Bo's Place board member.

It's a match made in heaven: the Junior League doing what it does best - training women to reach out to serve in nonprofits throughout our community, and Bo's Place - offering a mission that resonates with these incredibly talented women.

To the Junior League of Houston, we offer our profound thanks for your support and look forward to a long, strong partnership in the years to come.

Mary
Executive Director

Beth

Staine

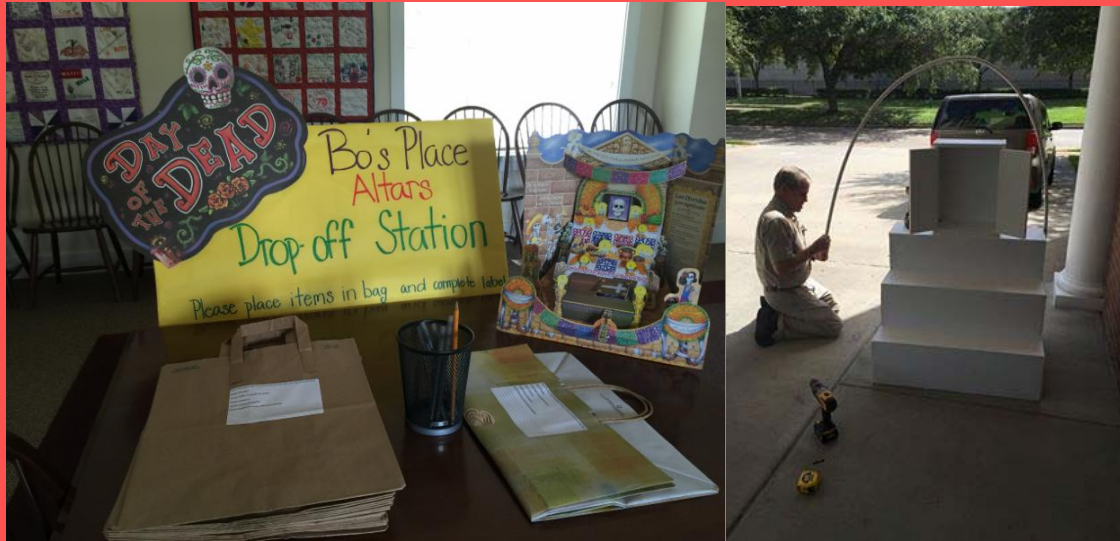


Bo's Place Embraces a New Tradition

For the second year, Bo's Place will participate in Dia de los Muertos or Day of the Dead. A joyful holiday, Dia de los Muertos celebrates the lives of the dead with festivals and parties. One of the most important traditions of Dia de los Muertos is decorating ofrendas, or small altars honoring a person who died. This year, Bo's Place will display two altars built by our very own Ed Goodwin: one to be displayed at Bo's Place and the other at the MECA (Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts) altar exhibit.

Ofrendas are decorated with flowers, candles, photos, mementos, food and

drink. It is believed that the deceased return to indulge in the treats on the ofrenda, which often include the deceased's favorite foods, as well as Pan de Muerto, rice, mole, sugar cane, and oranges. Water is there to quench the deceased's thirst.



While the altars can include up to seven levels, traditionally they have three levels that represent the sky, the earth, and the underworld. Altars also incorporate fire, through candles or lanterns to guide the dead to their homes; an arch decorated with flowers to represent entry into the world of the dead; and paper, or papel picado, to symbolize wind. To guide the spirit into the mortal world, the altars use flowers, including Mexico's traditional flower of the dead, the Cempasuchil flower or orange marigold.

Perhaps the most familiar Dia de los Muertos symbol is the calavera, or skull. Calaveras, which are usually seen enjoying life, represent deceased relatives and illustrate the playful nature of the tradition.

Bo's Place will display our ofrendas at Bo's Place October 12 to November 10 and at the MECA exhibit October 12 to November 20. We hope you will stop by and see them!

Above left: Bo's Place families are invited to bring items for the Bo's Place altar; Above right: Our very own Ed Goodwin building the altars.



We *heart* our Volunteers



Junior League VIEW volunteer Amie Blaschke is a rockstar! She spent August making 18 beautiful, functional, rugged, and original messenger bags for our families at Camp Healing Hearts, using repurposed clothing from her family and a donation clothing store that benefits women. We are so grateful to Amie for donating her time, creativity, and passion.

In her own words, Amie shares her Bo's Place story:

"I met Courtney Reynolds at the Bo's Place office, which upon entering I realized it was not a facility or headquarters as I expected. It is a warm, inviting home! We met in the living room and I shared a prototype of the messenger bag for Camp Healing Hearts. I was concerned about the bag being too hodgepodge or mixed matched. When we sat down in the living room, I immediately felt that my idea aligned with the collective messages and memories at Bo's Place. After a tour, I found myself drawn to the flags on the patio, in particular to a couple directed to 'bab' (instead of 'dad'). Not long ago, my daughter was mixing up her Bs and Ds and I couldn't help but consider what our lives might be like if we lost my husband unexpectedly. The wind blew the flags and the sun reflected off the colorful picnic table murals and I found myself unexpectedly comforted in that moment. Bo's Place must have some magic.

I purchased the materials to re-purpose for the messenger bags from The Cottage Shop, a re-sale shop supporting The Women's Home. After delivering the bags to Bo's Place, I brought pictures to The Cottage Shop, as promised, because after weeks of sourcing cargo pants and T-shirts, many volunteers, residents and staff had heard of my project and seemed to express sincere interest. Just as I was exiting, a lady pulled me aside and shared that she had lost someone very close a month ago. She said that she had completed the initial interview with Bo's Place, but was scared to go to a support group because she didn't think she could handle getting pulled down any lower. My face lit up as I shared how comforting, supportive, surprisingly cheerful and magical Bo's Place can be. We shared a long hug and I left her with the encouragement that whenever she is ready, Bo's Place will be there to help her heal."



Repurposed clothing from Amie's family turned into messenger bags



Life & Death... Let's Talk About It



“Grief is a process.

**It happens in stages and eventually
you come to a new normal.”**

Created by Houston photographer Karen Sacher, *Life & Death...Let's Talk About It* brings together photographs and stories of Bo's Place families to show the hope, healing, and transformation that is possible despite experiencing a great sadness. The exhibit includes tips on how to support the bereaved and explains how participating in support groups at Bo's Place can be helpful. The exhibit also aims to inspire discussion around death, dying, grief and bereavement. This month, *Life & Death...Let's Talk About It* will be on display at Galerie Spectra in Memorial City Mall (September 10-October 8), Landauer Art (October 18), and Memorial Drive United Methodist Church (October 24-November 1). For more information, view our [calendar](#).

Tuesday, October 6, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM at Galerie Spectra

Experience some of the activities Bo's Place offers to families during the *Life & Death...Let's Talk About It* exhibit at Galerie Spectra. The event will include "Activity Corners" to allow guests to explore memories and feelings by participating in some of the activities of Bo's Place group nights. Guests will learn about the Bo's Place experience and create a small memento to take home.



Sunday, October 18, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Landauer Art

Join us at Landauer Art for an open house to view a beautiful hand-selected photograph from the *Life & Death...Let's Talk About It* collection. Guests will also have the opportunity to contribute to a community art piece that will hang at Bo's Place. Please join us and bring others who may be interested.

For more information, please contact Courtney Reynolds at 713-942-8339 or at courtneyr@bosplace.org.



After the Fashion Show, It's the After Party!

This year, we are offering After Party tickets for "Una Notte in Italia!" These tickets get you in the door at 10PM, after the runway show, for drinks and dancing with some of our "celebrity" models. Our fabulous DJ and cocktails by Circulo Tequila will keep you dancing into the night!

If you have already purchased a ticket or table for the event, the after party is included in your benefits. To purchase after party tickets, click [here](#).

We hope to see you on the dance floor!



A Note from Coach Jason

As one of the "Coaches" for Team Bo's Place, I'm looking forward to running the marathon this year with all of the other dedicated runners on our team! Raising money to support Bo's Place gives the marathon special purpose and motivates all of our runners to achieve their personal goals.

You don't have to run the half or full marathon to be a part of Team Bo's Place! The race weekend also includes the ABB 5K, which is 3.1 miles. If you are considering running for the first time, I encourage you to participate in the 5K. The Bo's Place Board of Directors is even offering "scholarships" to Bo's Place families that would like to run the 5K!

One training program that is great for beginning runners can be found [here](#). There are also many apps that can help you train.

What are you waiting for? Sign up today! If you have questions about how to sign up, please contact Teri Howell at marathon@bosplace.org.



Happenings

On September 11, local Member Artists at **Galerie Spectra**, in conjunction with the Bo's Place ***Life & Death...Let's Talk About It*** exhibit, welcomed around 100 guests for an inspiring and informative reception.



On September 12 and 13, the **National Charity League, Heart of Texas chapter**, prepared several projects for Camp Healing Hearts in November.

PBK Architects provided a delicious meal for families on September 16.





On September 21, Bo's Place welcomed 29 new volunteers when the fall **Bo's Place Volunteer Facilitator Training** concluded!

On September 22, the Bo's Place board of directors gathered for the annual **Board Retreat** to assess progress and develop new goals and strategies for the next five years.



Big thanks to our **generous food donors** for our August/September **Volunteer Facilitator Training** program. Our new volunteers enjoyed your delicious contributions!



Bo's Place Grief Support Services

At Bo's Place, we believe that enabling grieving families to share their experiences with each other helps these families navigate the grief journey and move towards hope and healing. We offer free Grief Support Groups in English and Spanish to families and individuals.

If you or someone you know would like information about Bo's Place Grief Support Groups for children, families, and adults, [click here](#) or call 713.942.8339.

Bo's Place exists to enhance the lives of those who have experienced the death of a loved one.

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