

Healing Hearts



Bo's Place

E-Newsletter // August // 08.01.15



Dear

Friends,

One of the most inspiring things about working at Bo's Place is having the opportunity, on a daily basis, to walk down the hallways and look at the quilts that adorn our walls. Over the last twenty years, volunteer quilters have taken quilt squares decorated with care by the family members who attend our grief support groups and lovingly made these quilt squares into two hundred thirty quilts. Collectively, those quilts contain thousands of "love notes" from family members to their loved ones who have died. Here are just a few of the sentiments you can read on our quilts:

"We keep the best of you in our hearts."

"When all our tears have reached the ocean...we do and will always remember you."

"You are forever in my heart."

"Some people dream of angels, we had the chance to hold one."

"You will always be remembered, a new chapter has started."

"Memories last forever. I love you sister."

"I love you and miss you so much, Daddy."

"Always on my mind, forever in my heart. You have the amazing ability to be in two places at once."

"You held my hand for a while, you hold my heart forever."

"Love you, Mommy."

"For my daddy, I will always be strong."

"Daddy's little girl."

Two hundred thirty tapestries memorializing the love that binds families together forever.

This is Bo's Place - with love, there is hope.
Mary Beth Staine
Executive Director

Note - We currently have quilt squares for 12 quilts waiting for a loving quilter to take home for assembly. If you are interested in being a volunteer quilter for Bo's Place, please contact Carla Bagalay, Volunteer Coordinator, at carla@bosplace.org or 713-942-8339.



Special Recognition for Bo's Place Program Director at National Alliance for Grieving Children Symposium



At the Founder's Breakfast during this year's National Alliance for Grieving Children ("NAGC") Symposium, Marian Mankin, Bo's Place Program Director, received special recognition for her service and leadership while she served as a board member and as former president of the NAGC Board of Directors.

Andy McNeil, CEO of the NAGC, shares the following about Marian's tenure: "It was a delight to serve on the NAGC board with Marian. During her tenure as Secretary, Vice President, and President, she managed a group of strong minded individuals with grace, wisdom, and strong leadership. Her decisive, yet diplomatic approach provided the necessary landscape for the NAGC to further develop its mission and vision, laying a solid foundation for the future of our organization. I am proud to call Marian a colleague and friend in this important mission to provide support to children and

teenagers grieving the death of someone in their life."

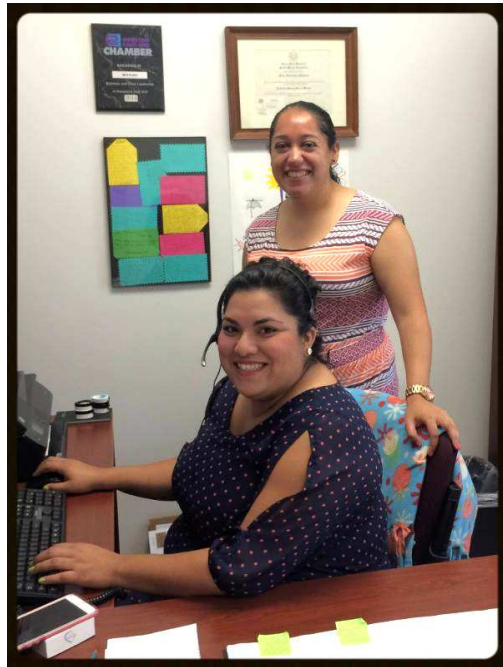
We, too, are proud to call Marian a colleague and friend.



Developing Grief Support Programs for Spanish Speaking Families

Flor Guebara, Spanish Outreach Manager, and Cristina Flores, Bilingual Ongoing Groups Manager, are on a mission to enhance and expand programming offered to Hispanic/Latino families who come to Bo's Place for grief support services.

In addition to modifying the times and places we offer Spanish-language support groups based upon feedback from the families attending our groups, they helped launch a school-based support group program targeting Hispanic/Latino children who face challenges getting to Bo's Place family support groups. They also ran our first Camp Healing Hearts (Retiro Sanando Corazones) in Spanish and have planned a iFiesta en Bo's Place! to mirror our annual summer Family Fun Night.



Flor and Cristina presented a workshop on **A Bo's Place Grief Support Group Program for Spanish-speaking Children, Families, and Adults** at this year's National Alliance for Grieving Children Symposium held in Portland, OR. In their presentation, they openly shared the opportunities and challenges they have faced in their work. During the Q&A portion of the workshop, attendees expressed a desire to find a way to continue the dialogue. Flor and Cristina communicated this suggestion to the NAGC staff who initiated a monthly Spanish-speaking Programming Forum to be facilitated by Flor and Cristina. Thirty-three NAGC members have signed up to participate in the monthly phone calls.

In their work with our Spanish-speaking families, Flor and Cristina have recognized the challenges faced by volunteer facilitators and clinicians in finding the most appropriate Spanish words to use in discussing issues/themes related to grief and bereavement. They are working on Grief 101 - Los Basicos del Duelo to offer as a workshop for Spanish-speaking volunteers and clinicians in Spring 2016. The workshop will be provided en Español!

Stay tuned to learn more about what Cristina and Flor are planning! To learn more about our Spanish-language support service or our school-based group offerings, contact Flor Guebara or Cristina Flores at info@bosplace.org or 713-942-8339.



Bo's place is expanding and hiring staff for new full-time positions!

Accounting Manager - Responsible for all aspects of the accounting cycle and related financial reporting. Learn more [here](#).

Grants and Program Evaluation Manager - Responsible for all aspects of procuring, managing, and reporting on all grants totaling \$700,000 annually and tracking program data for reporting purposes. Learn more [here](#).



Looking for a Teen Volunteer Opportunity with Kids? Bo's Place needs Teen Playground Monitors!

Bo's Place is recruiting teenagers, ages 13-18, who would like to be a Playground Monitor during mealtime when our grief support groups are meeting. Help watch children who arrive early for group while they play basketball, jump rope, or create an artistic chalk masterpiece on the sidewalk before dinner.



Playground Monitors are needed from 5:45 to 6:45 PM Monday through Thursday evenings, and from 12:30 to 1:30 PM on the first and third Sunday of the month. Former group members are encouraged to apply, as well as teens who have not been in a group at Bo's Place.

For more information and an application, contact Carla Bagalay, Volunteer Coordinator, at carla@bosplace.org or 713-942-8339.



A Night in Italy

It's hard to believe that "Una Notte in Italia", to be held on Friday, November 6th is just over THREE MONTHS away! This year tables are selling quickly, so call us at 713-942-8339 to reserve your second (\$5,000) or third (\$2,500) row table today or reserve online [here](#). Come find out why this is truly one of the most fun events on the fall social calendar!



We've already secured a wonderful lineup of men to walk the runway, great live auction items, like the one featured in July, and are hard at work on all the other details. This year, along with our live auction, we are featuring a silent auction with a select group of only 10 to 15 premier packages. You'll enjoy a chance to bid on prized wines, dinner out on the town or weekend getaways! So get a couple of friends together to buy tickets or a table and plan to be there for all the excitement!



Recruiting Parties - Ready Set BO!



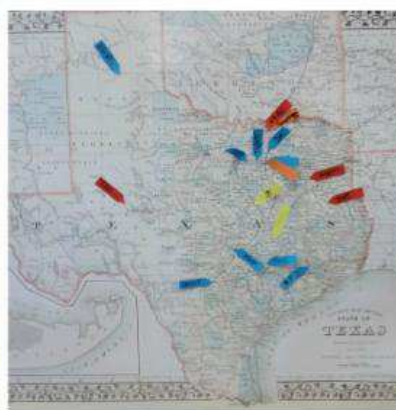
TEAM BO'S PLACE - Join us on **Saturday, August 29 from 10AM-Noon at Bo's Place** to learn more about how you can be involved with TEAM BO'S PLACE and participate in the Chevron Houston Marathon, Aramco Half or ABB 5K! Already signed up? Come meet fellow runners, learn how to set up your fundraising page, and share best practices for training. We will have breakfasts, beverages, and moonwalks! Friends and family are all welcome! Please RSVP to our Marathon Coordinator, Teri Howell at marathon@bosplace.org.

BO'S BUDDIES - Our Young Professionals group needs your help to grow and flourish! On **August 29 from 10AM-Noon**, we will also host a recruiting party for our Bo's Buddies Young Professionals group so prospective members can learn more about this program and how to become a member. Bo's Buddies is a great way to get involved with Bo's Place through opportunities to volunteer and hold leadership roles. Come learn more about Bo's Buddies and how you can be a part of something special! Let us know you'll be coming and if you will be bringing a friend. Please RSVP to our Development Director, Andrea Sivells, at andrea@bosplace.org.



Collaborating Across Texas

Bo's Place participated in the 6th Annual Bluebonnet Council hosted by The Warm Place in Fort Worth, Texas on July 17. This gathering of bereavement centers from across Texas (and, this year, included our friends from Erin's House from Ft. Wayne, IN) gives participants a chance to share ideas and resources, as well as to support and inspire each other in the important work we do with grieving families.



We look forward to collaborating with the Bluebonnet Council here in Texas,

and with the National Alliance for Grieving Children at the national level to help raise awareness about how to support grieving children and families. Many thanks to all the wonderful folks at The Warm Place for their stellar hospitality, and to all who attended the Bluebonnet Council for all the work that you do to help grieving children- you've got hearts as big as Texas!

Guess who will be hosting next year's gathering? That's right, Bo's Place!



Happenings

Another big thank you to **PBK Architects** who sponsored a fabulous lasagna dinner on July 14 for the final group night for our Tuesday LIGHT program. The volunteers from PBK are always enthusiastic and continue to support our families with donated meals throughout the year!



On July 15, staff members from **Erin's House**, a bereavement center in Fort Wayne, IN, visited Bo's Place for a day of learning and collaboration.

Julie Kaplow, PhD and Director of UT Trauma and Grief Center for Youth ("TAG Center") presented a workshop entitled "**Understanding Grief in Childhood: A Multidimensional, Theory-Driven Approach**" at Bo's Place on July 16. Bo's Place is working in collaboration with Dr. Kapow and the TAG Center on a Grief Needs Assessment Project.



On July 23, Bo's Program Director Marian Mankin presented a workshop entitled "Understanding a Young Child's Experience of Grief" at the **Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference**. Preschool providers learned about Bo's Place's Little Friends Program for 3-5 year olds how children that age understand and express grief and how to support them in their

bereavement.



Bo's Place Grief Support Services

Bo's Place grief support programs are based on the idea that sharing experiences with others in grief helps individuals navigate the grief journey and move towards hope and healing. Grief Support Groups are available in English and Spanish and are free-of-charge.

If you or someone you know would like information about Bo's Place Grief Support Groups for children and their families, adults, and young 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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