

Healing Hearts



Bo's Place

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April is Volunteer Appreciation Month. There are not enough words to express the gratitude we feel for our volunteers at Bo's Place. We can throw a party, write notes of thanks or give a small appreciation gift, but none of these token gestures can sufficiently acknowledge the magnitude of the gift that our volunteers offer to this organization - the ability to provide our services free of charge to our families. Without the time, energy, and love that our volunteers offer every day, Bo's Place literally would not exist.

When you speak with a volunteer at Bo's Place, you will quickly learn that they do not return day after day for the praise or tokens of appreciation. They return to

see the day when a support group member smiles for the first time since the death of their loved one. It is in those special moments that you know the healing has begun. And there is no way to thank someone for providing that gift to another human being.

But we will try....

"Even when faced with moments of great sadness, Bo's Place volunteers are able to hold on to hope; and even if a group participant may not be ready to believe that things will get better, our volunteers trust the process and help guide the group members so they can support and inspire each other as they find their way on their grief journey. It is very powerful to witness all that our volunteers do to support our group members and support each other in their volunteer roles. We feel privileged to work with so many caring and committed people, who give their time freely so that others can have a place to heal."

-Marian Mankin, LCSW, Program Director

"We love our volunteers because they are always enthusiastic, hands on, and selflessly giving of their time for our grief support groups and other special programs so that we can give every family the perfect environment to experience hope and healing. We could not provide the grief support programs that we do without the many individuals who volunteer for Bo's Place."

-Courtney Reynolds, LCSW, Special Programs Manager

"Some volunteers bring families together for dinner by helping with meal times. Some create the quilts that line the walls...allowing Bo's Place families, past and present, to exist in unity under one roof.

Some are former Bo's Place participants whose grief journey has led them back to us.

Some have walked 500 miles at camp.

Some sit comfortably through silence and remain steady through intense moments of raw emotion.

Some drop in for special projects, ready and willing to help in any way they can.

Some could easily get jobs as Tornado room referees, if there were such a thing.

And ALL of them, in one way or another, help heal hearts."

-Lori Bokone, LCPI, Katy Program Manager

Thank you, from the bottom of all our hearts.



Camp Healing Hearts & Retiro Sanando Corazones



On the weekend of March 17-19, Bo's Place families, volunteers and staff ventured to Camp for All in Burton, Texas to participate in Camp Healing Hearts, our camp for English speaking families, and Retiro Sanando Corazones, our camp for Spanish speaking families. It was a weekend full of fun, adventure, love, laughter, hope and healing, and amazing dancing.

Both camps had the same Dr. Seuss inspired theme of "Oh the place you'll go," which gave us a framework for participants to explore the places they have been on their grief journey and their hopes and goals for building the life they want for their future. Activities included s'mores around the campfire, arts and crafts, horseback riding, a scavenger hunt, physical challenges on the ropes course, family portraits, a dance party and a talent show. Families made special new memories together and gained new friends.

Many thanks to the Hamill Foundation for their generous underwriting of both camps, and to all the volunteers who put so much love, time and energy into making the weekend a great success.



Ayúdenos a sanar corazones en Bo's Place

"It is so unbelievably rewarding to see smiles return to people's faces. To know that just by showing up, I am helping make a difference in these peoples' lives."

-Bo's Place volunteer facilitator

It takes a special person to be a volunteer facilitator at Bo's Place. To be present with the bereaved as they face the questions, struggles and sorrows of life after the death of a loved one is difficult, but the satisfaction of seeing lives change through the support of others is tremendous.



For Spanish speakers who would like to help us heal the hearts of those who have experienced the death of a loved one, please consider joining us for our upcoming volunteer facilitator training on April 29-30 for bilingual volunteers. The training will be conducted in Spanish, with written materials provided in English.

Learn more [here](#).



THE INAUGURAL
HATS, HEARTS & HORSESHOES
BENEFITTING BO'S PLACE

As the trumpet call quickly approaches for the inaugural Hats, Hearts & Horseshoes, it is safe to say you won't want to miss out on our party on race day! Our Chairs, Megan and Luke Hotze and Hannah and Cal McNair, have been putting together an amazing party for guests to enjoy an afternoon lawn party on May 6!

Guests will enjoy Mint Juleps and a bevy of other beverages, divine food stations curated by Landry's and the best two minutes in sports, The Kentucky Derby! Dress in your Derby finest to compete for bragging rights for the most stylish ensemble! Then stroll along the lawn to engage in our big board, heads or tails, lawn games, racing wall, live music and more!

Ready to join us at the starting gate? Purchase your tickets [here](#).

Special thanks to our Triple Crown Presenting sponsors: The Robert & Janice McNair Foundation and Cal & Hannah McNair.



Make a Difference

Each year, Bo's Place has an annual campaign to raise funds that support our mission and enable us to continue to provide our grief support programs free-of-charge. Gifts of all sizes help us to reach our goal, and we hope you will consider a gift to the annual campaign. The end of our fiscal year is June 30 and we have just \$10,000 left to achieve our goal for the "Where Hearts are Healed" campaign.

Please click [here](#) to make a gift today and help heal hearts! If you have already supported, please share this with your friends, as we would love to see gifts made in honor of those who give so generously of their time, talent and treasure.



You make the **difference** for Bo's Place.



"Good Grief" training presented exclusively in Spanish

Bo's Place bilingual clinicians will present this workshop to address the grief journey within the Latino culture and in the community. An emphasis on the vocabulary used when talking about grief in Spanish will make this a unique offering for Spanish-speaking mental health professionals. The entire workshop will be presented exclusively in Spanish.

Los Basicos del Duelo
Friday, April 7
9 a.m. to noon
Bo's Place Training Room

For more information or to register, click [here](#).

Please see our [Spring/Summer 2017 Workshop Schedule](#) for information about additional training opportunities.



Happenings

"**Go Texan Day**" (March 3) was a special treat at Bo's Place. Staff supported Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo by dressing the part, chowin' down on BBQ



and participating in cowboy-themed fun and games. From finding the "most wanted" to singing "Deep in the Heart of Texas", it was a rowdy good time!

On March 5, **St. Martin's Episcopal Church** held their annual Outreach Day and invited their members to participate in projects to benefit local charities, including Bo's Place. Thanks to their generous volunteers, we have "Bags of Hope" for our program participants.



On March 30, the **Institute of Spirituality and Health**, along with Bo's Place, presented "The Colors of Mourning: A Panel Discussion - Death Rites and Rituals across Spiritual Traditions."



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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