

Healing Hearts



Bo's Place

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Our hearts are full

Thank you to our generous sponsors who provided holiday meals in November and December. We are so grateful for your support!

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METRO Blue Santa makes a stop at Bo's Place!

METRO Blue Santa paid a visit to Bo's Place again this year to serve a delicious meal and spread holiday cheer to volunteers and families! Twenty METRO volunteers arrived at Bo's Place on December 11 to serve food, play basketball with families, and hand out toys and books from Blue Santa.

Blue Santa himself shared with us: "I have played the role of Blue Santa for almost three decades, and every single time I see the children's faces light up when I deliver gifts, it makes me feel good," said MPD Lt. Ted Naradovy. "The children we visit are often facing major life challenges, and it means a lot for the team and me to bring smiles and joy to them."

This is the second year that METRO Blue Santa has visited Bo's Place, led and organized by MPD Sgt. and Blue Santa President Michael Buggs. "I genuinely enjoy being part of the Blue Santa team because it unifies colleagues and outside organizations and brings joy to both volunteers and the families we are serving," said Buggs. "We specifically seek out and support organizations like

Bo's Place that are in the frontlines helping heal children and families every day." For us at Bo's Place, it was wonderful to see returning volunteers from last year, in addition to some new faces.

Throughout the night, families were delighted by the opportunity to take pictures with Santa and enjoy a delicious meal. "It's heartwarming to bring a tiny bit of magic to a grieving family. Bo's Place is doing good work, and METRO Blue Santa wants to support that," said Mary Sit, MPD Blue Santa Board member and Corporate Communications manager.

With full hearts, we say thank you to METRO Blue Santa, for being a friend to Bo's Place!





Racing to our Goal

You can help Team Bo's Place reach our goal for the Run for a Reason program. Visit the team homepage to scout out our runners and [make a donation](#) to help us get to the finish line.

Race weekend is just around the corner and you can support the team by being at our HOOPLA station on Sunday, January 20, 2019 to cheer on Team Bo's Place! Our station is at approximately mile 5.5 of the course at Beck's Prime on the corner of Kipling and Kirby. We will provide coffee, donuts, noisemakers and signs and you will bring the energy to cheer on our runners! HOOPLA station starts bright and early around 5:45 am. Please email marathon@bosplace.org if you would like to attend and we will send specific details about the location.



Upcoming Trainings

Good Grief for Helping Professionals
Friday, February 1
9 am - 3:30 pm

So often when we speak with professionals working with the bereaved, they feel ill-equipped to offer the support needed when a client is grieving. It is common to feel uncomfortable with the painful emotions being expressed after the death of a loved one, even with training in a helping role. Through *Good*

Grief for Helping Professionals, participants are able to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to encourage healing after a death through various types of interventions.

Bo's Place clinicians have fine-tuned the signature *Good Grief* workshop specifically for helping professionals (and will offer a workshop tailored specifically for school professionals this fall), with updated information and a client support plan designed for implementation in practice. If you are seeking tools and resources to support your work with the bereaved, please consider attending. Lunch will be provided and 6 CEUs are available for social workers and professional counselors.

REGISTER NOW

Volunteer Facilitator Training

Saturday, February 16 - Sunday, February 17
9 am - 4 pm

If you are looking for a way to make a meaningful impact with the families of Bo's Place in 2019, consider becoming a volunteer support group facilitator. Our Volunteer Facilitator Training weekend will be held on February 16-17 and we are looking for volunteers who are interested in companioning children, families and adults on their grief journey. If you're ready to learn more about the role of volunteer facilitator, contact our Volunteer Manager to schedule an Interview and Tour. Following your interview, qualified candidates will be invited to attend the two-day training in February.

To learn more about this opportunity or schedule a date for your Interview and Tour, please email Rina Ocampo at volunteer@bosplace.org.

LEARN MORE



hearts of hope
BO'S PLACE LUNCHEON 2019

Our annual Hearts of Hope Luncheon is just over one month away, on **Tuesday, February 12, 2019** at the **Royal Sonesta**. Join Co-Chairmen Courtney & Jeremy Brynes and Claudine & David Hartland for a wonderful program where they will kick off the luncheon sharing their own stories. Bo's Place will honor **Kathy O'Neil** with the **Robin Bush Award** for the remarkable impact she has had on the lives of children in our community. And, we'll hear

from this year's guest speaker, Will Reeve, son of Christopher and Dana Reeve, about his own experience after the death of his parents before he was a teenager.

Join us for this treasured Bo's Place tradition and support the bereaved in our community, by purchasing your ticket or table now.

PURCHASE TICKETS



Happenings



On December 1, **PetSmart** donated stuffed animals for our children to enjoy. Each child who attended Kids Night Out later that week received one. We appreciate their contribution towards spreading holiday cheer!

On Friday December 7, **University of Houston's Kappa Delta Pi fraternity** treated children in our programs to a **Kids Night Out**. Kids enjoyed delicious dinner, games and movies during the evening. We also had a special guest, **Houston Texan Greg Mancz**, who spent time with the children and posed with them in the Bo's Place photo booth!





On December 9, some of our families attended the Texans vs. Colts game, thanks to Houston Texan Greg Mancz (#65) and the **Texans All Community Team** program. We *heart* #65! Thank you, Greg, for such a fun opportunity!

Boxes of Blessing, which contain food for the holidays, were delivered to families on December 9. Our heartfelt thanks to **Christ the King Presbyterian Church** for generously donating these for our group participants.



On December 10, our Development Director, Andrea, and her mother, **Gale Green**, spent the day in our kitchen baking **holiday cookies** for the staff and families to enjoy! Thank you, Gale - what a treat!

Our annual **Staff Holiday Luncheon at the Junior League of Houston Tea Room** was on December 12. It was a cheerful and delicious way to celebrate the upcoming holidays with our amazing colleagues!



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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