

# Healing Hearts



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## The Magic of Camp, @ home!

This summer, Camp Healing Hearts and Campamento Sanando Corazones, will be offered as Camp @ home experiences. Building on traditional camp activities, clinicians have created opportunities for families to spend time together through activities such as a scavenger hunt, grief puzzle, memory lantern, and campfire conversations. This special project would not be possible without the help of our volunteers, donors, and the St. Martin's Daughters of the King, who sponsored the memory lantern activity. Thank you to everyone who helped us create this opportunity to heal hearts @ home!



## National Alliance for Grieving Children's Annual Symposium on Children's Grief

On June 16, the National Alliance for Grieving Children (NAGC) hosted its annual symposium online for 720 attendees, the most ever. Every member of the clinical staff at Bo's Place participated.

The three-day Symposium included sessions on children's grief, diversity and inclusion, program development, grief activities, self-care for clinicians, fundraising, and grief support models. Attendees learned about the latest research and clinical developments with regard to grieving children and teens, and engaged in dialogue with other colleagues, clinicians and



researchers.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Julie Hennington

Julie Hennington has served as a group facilitator at Bo's Place for more than two years. With a background in social work focused in domestic violence and foster care, Julie says that grief was something she "felt afraid of." However, this changed when Julie began working at Texas Children's Hospital, where she learned about Bo's Place and began to refer her clients there.

Julie describes Bo's Place as a place that gives children and adults a safe, supportive space to walk through their grief journeys. While everyone's journey is different, Julie believes that Bo's Place helps to foster the comfort and safety that comes from knowing that others have experienced grief too.

Julie has remained active with Bo's Place throughout the pandemic, facilitating virtual groups. Julie reminds her middle schooler group members that they can share freely, without judgment, and that others have been through similar situations. She loves the "magic" that happens on the virtual screens at Bo's Place.



Julie currently works for Child Advocates in Houston, assessing the needs of children in foster care. When Julie is not working, she spends time with her two boys and husband, traveling, and as an active member of her church. Despite her busy schedule, Bo's Place holds a special place in her heart. She says Bo's Place teaches volunteers to listen with a healing and a supportive presence.

Thank you, Julie, for all that you do for Bo's Place!



## Run with Heart this January

Team Bo's Place is looking for runners for the We Are Houston 5K, Aramco Houston Half Marathon and Chevron Houston Marathon in January 2022. Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the marathon with us as we run (or walk!) together in person after a year of being apart! Funds raised by Team Bo's Place help us provide free grief support and resources for the bereaved in the greater Houston community. Many of our runners choose to run in memory or honor of a loved one to make their runs even more meaningful.

Sign up with Team Bo's Place today and start running for a reason with us! Contact [marathon@bosplace.org](mailto:marathon@bosplace.org) with any questions.



Sign Up Now



## Happenings

We were honored to have **Spindletop Charities** join us on June 11 to paint rocking chairs! Twenty-six volunteers repainted 14 chairs with colorful designs that our families are sure to love. Thank you, Spindletop, for your hard work in support of Bo's Place!



On June 11, Kristen and Travis Cowan, founders of the **Smilin' Rylen Foundation**, presented Bo's Place with a \$5,000 gift from the Foundation's annual raffle. Named in honor of Rylen Cowan, who died at 13 months after a battle with Bacterial Meningitis, the Smilin' Rylen Foundation promotes awareness about organ donation and assists families in crisis. Through organ donation, Rylen saved five lives. Bo's Place is honored to partner with this organization as it pays tribute to the life and legacy of sweet Rylen.



Thank you to everyone who came out to **Kendra Scott** in Highland Village on June 12 for Bubbles, Baubles, and Bo's! Shoppers raised \$364 for the families of Bo's Place. We appreciate your support and loved seeing you in person!



For the first time in 15 months, **Bo's Place staff** gathered in person to celebrate the end of the fiscal year! On June 23, we spread out in the dining room for lunch and games. It was a great way to start off a new fiscal year!

Bo's Place attended the launch party of **Superheroes and Sprinkles** on June 27. Tara Thompson and Emily Polansky founded this organization after experiencing the death of each of their brothers. Their mission is to





sprinkle the hope of an attainable life full of love and laughter by working with the community to abolish the stigma associated with mental healthcare. They invited three nonprofits, including Bo's Place, to the launch to show their support for the work that we do.



## Bo's Place Grief Support Services

At Bo's Place, we believe that grieving families heal when they share their grief with each other. No one should grieve alone.

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

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

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