

Healing Hearts



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What a Year – 2020-2021 Highlights

The fiscal year for Bo's Place runs July 1 through June 30, so each July we take some time to reflect on what we have achieved in the last year. What a year this past year has been!

The pandemic radically changed how we offered our services and deeply impacted the community we serve. We were able to convert to online and virtual groups and programs for support group participants and by the end of the year we served 1,285 individuals, a 5% increase over prior year. Both our online Adult Groups and Little Friends groups expanded significantly, making it clear that online groups allow Bo's Place to reach people that might not be able to attend in person groups.

During the pandemic, Bo's Place has helped connect our community to bereavement support and resources at an unprecedented level. Through our Information and Referral program, mental health professionals responded to 4,184 inquiries with support, resources and referrals, a 22% increase in inquiries from our previous high of 3,430 inquiries in FY 2018-2019.

We are incredibly grateful for the hard work and dedication of staff and volunteers that allowed Bo's Place to continue to meet our mission of enhancing the lives of those that have experienced the death of a loved one during a time of worldwide collective loss and difficulty. Your commitment is an inspiration! If you know of a bereaved individual or family in need of grief support, there is a place that they can go for help and that is Bo's Place. We will continue to provide online and virtual grief support services and will begin phasing back in in-person groups in September.



Volunteer Spotlight: Megan Rech

Growing up in Houston, Megan Rech often heard about Bo's Place, but felt encouraged to get involved while teaching several students who had experienced the deaths of loved ones and needed resources. At the time, Megan sought an opportunity to continue meaningful work with children and adolescents outside the classroom, and Bo's Place was the perfect fit!

Volunteering at Bo's Place for almost four years, Megan has served as both an in-person and online support group facilitator for many

families. She explains that while Zoom groups were undoubtedly an adjustment, she is glad to continue supporting and staying connected to Bo's Place.

A graduate of Rice University with a STEM background, Megan taught 7th-grade science as a Teach for America Houston corps member. She then transitioned into a genetics lab at Baylor College of Medicine, where she helped students examine rare neurological disorders. Megan currently works at the Menninger Clinic as a research coordinator, primarily working with adolescent patients. This fall, she will be starting her Ph.D. program in clinical psychology at the University of Houston. With her busy schedule, volunteering has helped her put the small, everyday inconveniences into perspective, serving as a powerful reminder of what is truly important.



Megan encourages others to become involved with Bo's Place, explaining that the organization is filled with some of the best, most kind and welcoming people she has ever met. There is so much camaraderie among the families and positive energy, which creates a sense of "magic."

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



Corporate Sponsorship Opportunity with Team Bo's Place

The 2022 Houston marathon season is underway and Team Bo's Place is grateful for our Corporate Partners that have joined the team so far! We would like to thank **Morgan Stanley**, **Norton Rose Fulbright** and **Russell & Smith Automotive Group** for partnering with us as we run for a reason. Corporate partners are an integral part of Team Bo's Place each year, helping us raise much needed funds for the grieving children, families and adults we serve.

In addition to supporting Bo's Place financially, corporate partners receive marketing and advertising benefits with the Chevron Houston Marathon. Some benefits include logo placement on the Chevron Houston Marathon website and app, logo placement on the participant hoodie, features in the marathon newsletter and on social media leading up to race weekend.

We are looking for additional corporate partners to join our team as we train for the race in January 2022. Email marathon@bosplace.org if you are interested in learning more about this meaningful opportunity!

Morgan Stanley



Help Us Prepare for Family Support Groups

Our support groups will be resuming both online and in person this September and we could use your help replenishing supplies for our Family and Little Friends groups. Please check out our Amazon Wish List if you would like to contribute.



If choosing items on our wish list or shopping for yourself, when you shop through the Amazon Smile program, your shopping can benefit Bo's Place if you select us as your favorite charity. To date, over \$3,000 has been donated to Bo's Place from Amazon, because our friends have participated in the smile program.



Amazon Smile



Calling All Fishermen and Fisherwomen

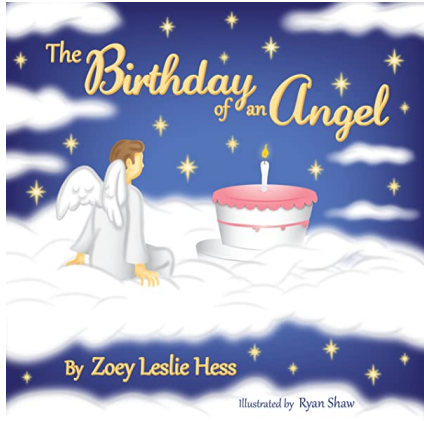
Bo's Place is grateful to be a beneficiary charity for the annual CJ Strnadel IV Memorial Fishing Tournament. This year, the tournament is being held in San Leon, Texas. We would love for you to join us for a weekend of friendly competition on the water!

For entry and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Lauren Keeble at lauren@bosplace.org.



Happenings

Our staff is so happy to once again be **together!** As of July 6, all staff have returned to the building, with safety protocols in place. Some employees may occasionally work from home as online programming may require, but the building is once again buzzing with excitement. The remainder of the summer will be filled with projects to get the building in tip-top shape as we welcome families back in September!



We were fortunate to have Zoey Hess, a rising senior at The Emery/Weiner School and long time friend of Bo's Place, join us this summer as a special project volunteer. Zoey is a published author, and over the past several years she has given talks about and generously donated copies of her book "**The Birthday of an Angel**" to Bo's Place. This summer, Zoey spent 3 days volunteering on a number of projects including writing book reviews for social media posts and newsletter articles.



On July 19, Bo's Place mental health professionals provided a 3 hour "Good Grief for School Professionals" online workshop for 34 school counselors and teachers from **Lamar Consolidated ISD**. This training provides attendees an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of their student's experience of grief and obtain tools and resources to support their work with the bereaved, including guidelines to develop a school support plan ready for implementation with students.



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.

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

