

# Healing Hearts



e-Newsletter | October | 10.01.21

## In This Issue

- Día de los Muertos
- Volunteer Spotlight: Renee Mathez
- Hearts of Hope 2022: Save the Date
- Young Donor Spotlight: Sophie Blitz
- Run for a Reason: Marathon 2022 Kick-off Event



## Día de los Muertos

Día de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead, is celebrated throughout Mexico and parts of Latin America on November 1 and 2. During Día de los Muertos, family and friends gather to remember those who have died by creating ofrendas, or altars with photos, mementos, food and other items that the loved one enjoyed.

Día de los Muertos is a cherished, complex holiday celebration where we celebrate, honor, and remember the lives of those who have died. The common principle for this holiday is "whatever pleased our loved ones in life, they are to have again." Día de los Muertos decorations include calacas and catrinas (skeleton statues that are almost always portrayed as enjoying life, often in fancy clothes), calaveras (skulls often made of sugar and decorated), paper marigolds, and paper flags.



At Bo's Place we will celebrate Día de los Muertos by creating an ofrenda honoring the lost loved ones of our Bo's Place families. If you would like someone to be honored, please send their picture to [ofrenda@bosplace.org](mailto:ofrenda@bosplace.org) by Wednesday, October 20. The altar will be displayed at Bo's Place and on social media. We will also include Día de los Muertos activities in our support groups and our Facebook page November 1-7.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Renee Mathez

Renee Mathez, born in Argentina, moved to Houston from Spain nine years ago. She soon began volunteering, which she says helped her learn more about American culture and society while fulfilling her vocation of service. As a group facilitator at Bo's Place, Renee values the opportunity to learn from every encounter, and to give and receive in a setting where everyone learns to share grief and love together. One of her most memorable experiences was when a child in her group asked her for a bigger heart to color for the group activity. "The heart that remains," he said, pointing to the last drawing on the table, "is too small compared to how much I love my mother."

Renee's husband, Manuel, and two sons, Roberto and Javier, are the most important people in her life and encourage her to keep growing. At 50, Renee began to study Psychology. She now works as a life coach, using mindfulness techniques to support those in crisis. Renee also works online through "Estrategias & Bienestar", an initiative through Facebook where participants share articles about mental health and wellness.

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



## Save the Date: Hearts of Hope 2022

Co-Chairmen, **Daisy and John White, Niccole White Greeley, MD, and Christopher Greeley, MD** and **Jacqueline White Arribas and Alfredo Arribas, DDS**, invite you to join Bo's Place for the annual Hearts of Hope luncheon on **Thursday, February 10, 2022**, at the **Westin Galleria** Houston.

At the event, Bo's Place will honor **Rebecca and Christyn Taylor** with the **2022 Robin Bush Award** for their work through Rebecca's Wish, an organization they founded to help children suffering from pediatric pancreatitis. The Robin Bush Award is given annually to those who make a marked difference in the lives of children.



This year's speaker will be **Ann Christensen**, the first woman to chair the English Department at the University of Houston. Ann's husband, architect Reagan Miller, was killed in a plane crash in April 2019 while traveling to a work site. With her irreverent wit, Ann will read from the memoir she is writing, tentatively called "One-Woman Show," which explores her grief, acceptance of the loss of her husband, widowed motherhood, aging, and gratitude.

We look forward to seeing you at the luncheon! Contact Rachel Daniels, Special Events Manager, at 713-942-8339 or [heartsofhope@bosplace.org](mailto:heartsofhope@bosplace.org) to reserve your table today!



## Young Donor Spotlight: Sophie Blitz

Seventh grader Sophie Blitz recently donated \$1,000 in art supplies to Bo's Place for families to use as part of our programming. Sophie collected the art supplies as part of her Bat Mitzvah service project. Thank you, Sophie, for this amazing gift!



## Run for a Reason: Houston Marathon 2022 Kick-Off Event

On Wednesday, September 22, Bo's Place runners and staff attended the Houston Marathon Training and Kick Off

event at Buffalo Bayou Park. The weather was cool and the air was filled with excitement as we gathered to celebrate the start of a new season for the Chevron Houston Marathon, now in its 50th year!

It's not too late to join Team Bo's Place! Learn more below!



Team Bo's Place



## Bo's Place Grief Support Services

At Bo's Place, we believe that grieving families heal when they can share their experiences with each other. 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, 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.*

