Connecting hearts. Connecting hope.

BO'S PLACE ANNUAL REPORT | 2020 - 2021
Our community needed Bo’s Place more than ever this past year. Sadly, the Covid-19 pandemic has taken the lives of thousands of Houstonians, leaving many grieving families struggling to make sense of their loss. The long periods of social isolation also brought about fresh waves of grief for those still working through their healing journeys. Although we had to replace our in-person support groups with online groups last spring, Bo’s Place remained committed to fulfilling our mission, maintaining a connection not only with our bereaved families, but also with our staff, volunteers, and the Greater Houston community.

Renowned researcher and professor (and former Hearts of Hope luncheon speaker) Brené Brown put it this way: “Connection is why we’re here. It gives purpose and meaning to our lives.” Connection is also why Bo’s Place is here. We have always operated on the belief that it is helpful and healing for grieving children and adults to share their stories, memories, experiences, thoughts, and feelings with those who can understand their journey. We have also operated with the commitment to provide grief support services free of charge, in both English and Spanish, throughout our community.

The 2020-2021 Annual Report details how we stayed connected to those who needed us this past year and how we met the increased demand for our services. The report also shows how supporters such as you stayed connected with Bo’s Place, offering hope and healing to grieving children and families.

Ava Grace, a Bo’s Junior Buddy Volunteer, asked her mother what it meant for the city to shut down. She explained that it meant businesses would close unless they provided “essential services necessary to save lives” such as hospitals and police services. Ava Grace responded, “So Bo’s Place will NOT shut down. Bo’s Place IS an essential service...it saves the lives of people who are so sad.”

Thank you for believing in our lifesaving mission and helping us stay connected with those that needed our essential services. We are grateful for your generous hearts and remain hopeful for the next year.

With gratitude,

Mary Beth Staine, Executive Director

Bo’s Place exists to enhance the lives of those who have experienced the death of a loved one.
Year in review

March 2020
In-person support groups suspended with city-wide closure.
Bo’s Place @ home online portal launched with home-based grief support activities in English and Spanish.

May 2020
Virtual hugs offered to help stay connected during physical distancing.

June 2020
Family Activity Nights go virtual on Facebook Live with doorstep delivery of Family Activity Boxes for all participants.

July 2020
Online support groups for adults launch after successful pilot.

August 2020
Online support groups for families launch in addition to video series for Little Friends.

October 2020
Online support groups for pregnancy loss launch.

November 2020
Children’s Grief Awareness Month recognized with Virtual Día de los Muertos and an online screening of Speaking Grief documentary.

December 2020
Monthly inquiries to the Information & Referral Line are up 60% from December 2019 level.

January 2021
“Healing Hearts” Grief Resource Book Bags distributed to school counselors.

April 2021
Bo’s Book Club launches with grief literature delivered to families at home.

June 2021
Monthly inquiries to the Information & Referral Line are up 123% from June 2020 level.

April 2020
Monthly inquiries to the Information & Referral Line are down 72% from April 2019 level.

May 2020
Virtual hugs offered to help stay connected during physical distancing.

June 2020
Family Activity Nights go virtual on Facebook Live with doorstep delivery of Family Activity Boxes for all participants.

October 2020
Online support groups for pregnancy loss launch.

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GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

Grief Support Groups at Bo’s Place are designed to give bereaved adults, children, and families a safe place to express their thoughts and feelings with others on a similar journey. From July 2020 through June 2021, all grief support groups were available safely online, including adult groups, family groups (English and Spanish), a Little Friends video series, school groups, and pregnancy loss groups (English and Spanish).

Total Served
340 families
572 children
713 adults
1,285 individuals

Through the online Participant Evaluation Survey, Bo’s Place measures the impact of our support group programming.

Fiscal year 2020-2021 support group participants report:

95% have a strengthened support system and do not feel as isolated or alone in their grief.

93% have an increased sense of possibility for the future and see the potential for experiencing joy again.

87% have acquired new healthy coping skills and are better able to face future challenges in their grief journey.

100% would recommend Bo’s Place support groups to other bereaved individuals.
INFORMATION & REFERRAL
Clinicians answer calls and inquiries on our Information & Referral Line (713-942-8339) from those who have experienced a death, as well as from family, friends, co-workers, and other concerned individuals who want guidance on how to support the bereaved.

Total Information & Referral Inquiries
4,184 inquiries

Total Zip Codes Represented
351 zip codes

COMMUNITY EDUCATION & TRAINING
Bo’s Place offers community education and training opportunities to help professionals and volunteers working to support those who are grieving. Workshops and trainings, conducted by clinical staff and/or field experts, are customized for a variety of audiences including medical and social service professionals, school personnel, faith-based practitioners, and community organizers.

Total Community Education Workshops
36 community education workshops

Total Professionals Trained
1,990 participants

Total Viewers of Speaking Grief Documentary
180 individuals

Total Participants in Documentary Panel Discussion
199 individuals

VOLUNTEERS
Bo’s Place is grateful for its dedicated team of volunteers whose generous hearts provide hands-on healing!

196 Volunteers

61 Volunteer Facilitators

4,083 Volunteer Hours

$107,924 Volunteer Value at $26.43 per hour

“My favorite thing about Bo’s Place is that it is a proven program that gives resources, tools and a structure to the grieving process after losing a loved one, and it’s all done in a loving, safe, and fun environment.”

Adrienne Isaac, Volunteer
## 2021 Operating Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>$246,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$1,076,883</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>$631,110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>$115,696</td>
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<td>Organizations</td>
<td>$39,834</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Special Events</td>
<td>$778,405</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Investments</td>
<td>$77,460</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$14,809</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,980,997</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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## 2021 Expenses

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<th>Expense Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising Expenses</td>
<td>$428,845</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General Expenses</td>
<td>$278,165</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Functional Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,057,442</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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### Connecting to Grief

Writing letters to grief is one of the many ways support group participants work towards healing at Bo’s Place. Chris, an Adult Group Member, shared his letter on the six-month anniversary of his daughter’s tragic death.

**Dear Grief,**

I am tired of you. You have taken over my life. It started with the hole you drilled in my heart. Then you took away my sleep, even today, you continue to invade my sleep. Every time I close my eyes you bombard my mind with thoughts of my beautiful daughter, our time together, the times I missed out on, the things I could have done and should have done. You make me feel inadequate, lost, and hopeless, night after night after night. You are unrelenting.

During the day attacking me at times when I am the most vulnerable. When I need to be at my best, there you are, making me at my worst. When I need to be happy, you show up unannounced and make me sad. When I need to be steady, your attacks make me unable to continue.

However, over time, I have learned a lot from you. I now know that you will not stay forever. I know I can find a path away from you. I can live without you.

Because of you, I am getting stronger and better every day as I work to find a way to live without you continuing to hurt me.

Whatever that day may come, I look forward to the day that you do not come to visit me.

Chris

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**Total Net Assets as of June 30, 2021:**

$6,729,738
### Gifts

Bo’s Place gratefully acknowledges the foundations, corporations, civic and faith-based organizations, and individuals who believe in our mission and allow us to provide the highest quality of services for the bereaved in our community through their generous contributions.

Our thanks to the following thoughtful donors who made gifts between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021.

### Corporations, Foundations, and Organizations

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Donors</th>
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<td>$100,000-$220,000</td>
<td>The Brown Foundation, Inc. The Hamill Foundation</td>
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<td>$35,000-$99,999</td>
<td>CFP Foundation New York Life Foundation The George Foundation</td>
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<td>$15,000 - $24,999</td>
<td>George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation John P. McGovern Foundation M.D. Anderson Foundation</td>
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<td>$1,000-$2,999</td>
<td>Burnett and Company, Inc. dba GBE International Markets Fidelity Charitable Trust Houston Pi Beta Phi Foundation Hufﬁngton Foundation Macy’s Network for Good St. John the Divine Episcopal Church Strake Foundation The Albert &amp; Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation The Benevolity Community Impact Fund The Crain Foundation The Hot Sky Charitable Fund The Jackson Foundation The Smlin’ Ryleen Foundation The Vaughn Foundation</td>
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<td>$15,000 - $50,000</td>
<td>Individuals Anonymous Helyn Blodsoe Chelsea and Jordan Winterfeld Anonymous Helyn Blodsoe Chelsea and Jordan Winterfeld Anonymous Helyn Blodsoe Chelsea and Jordan Winterfeld Anonymous Helyn Blodsoe Chelsea and Jordan Winterfeld Anonymous Helyn Blodsoe Chelsea and Jordan Winterfeld</td>
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<td>$5,000-$14,999</td>
<td>Stephanie and Drew Anderson Ginny and Dennis Cahill Jared Curless Karen and Marc Del Tatro Cody Edgeworth, Jim Edgeworth, and Andrew Varrer Amanda and Mark Eichenbaum James D. Gray and Francel C. Gray Lauren and Rob Gray Terez and Alexander Hanhan Angela Hsu and Daniel Lai Ethel and Chap Hutcheson Lauren K. and Chris Iconos Jeremy Kennedy and Dr. Kara Marler-Kennedy Tony and Angela King Mary and David Klein Fred G. Marshall Bobby Martinez Nick Nolan Debbie and Rocky Robinson Mrs. Tracey Rogan James M. Smith Alpine Family Patricia Briggs Shavonna Callaghan Peggy and Bill Clayrey Melissa and Key Collie Allison and Dan Connally Laurie Corona Bruce W. Derrick Cathy and Ed Frank David Harold Cynthia Lam Steven Mach Holly Mason</td>
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Connecting to community

Bo’s Place recognized the need for enhanced support within the community and distributed grief resource book bags for elementary, middle, and high school students. Designed to be checked out through school counselors, grieving families were able to easily access support in the form of age-appropriate books with discussion guides. As the beloved puppies and bags of hope have become integral to its grief support model, Bo’s Place also distributed Welcome Boxes to new children and families enrolled in its online family support groups. And at the beginning of each new support group, participants receive a box in the mail with all of the handouts and supplies necessary to participate in projects at home. Our steadfast volunteers have been instrumental in packing these boxes with love so that each of our participants can feel the Bo’s Place magic from their own home.
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Our gratitude to Kelli and John
Weinzierl for chairing the 2020 Hats,
Hearts & Horseshoes event and for
the support of Paige Ferrilta, Megan
and Luke Hotze, Hannah and Cal
McNair, and Hannah Vanderhider as
Honorary Chairs. We also are so
grateful for these generous donors
who, despite the event being
cancelled due to the pandemic,
generously raised over $228,000
to support the ongoing work and
mission of Bo’s Place.

$10,000
Hannah and Cal McNair
Hallie Vanderhider

$5,000-$9,999
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Connecting to giving hearts

At the 2021 Hearts of Hope Virtual Event, Bo’s Place honored the Hamill Foundation with the Robin Bush award, given to those who have markedly improved the lives of children in our community.

Founded in 1969 by Claud and Marie Hamill, the Hamill Foundation strives to continue the philanthropic legacy of the generous couple and is among the ten largest foundations in Houston. For more than 15 years, the Hamill Foundation has helped sustain grief support services at Bo’s Place, making a lasting impact on the bereaved children and families served by Bo’s Place. This past year, in addition to making a gift for general operating funds, the Hamill Foundation made special gifts to support new training room technology at the campus, greatly expanding Bo’s Place ability to train professionals to provide grief support throughout the Greater Houston area and to support hiring additional bilingual mental health professionals.

“We have been delighted to support Bo’s Place, as they provide a healing, safe place for families who have lost a child or parent.”

Tom Brown,
Grants Director, Hamill Foundation

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Gay Stricklin
Jan Sudduth
Courtney Sutherland
Tyrone Tate
Sedrick Thomas
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<td>Jeff and Jeryl Golub</td>
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<td>Nancy and Jim Gordon</td>
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2021 Hearts of Hope Virtual Event

Our gratitude to Dorothy and Ronny Cuenod, Cindy and Harry Holmes, and Lynn and Mike Smith for chairing the Hearts of Hope Virtual Event and thanks to the following generous donors who helped Bo’s Place raise over $494,000 to support the ongoing work and mission of Bo’s Place.

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Texas Children’s Hospital
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Westside & Northside Lexus
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<td>$500-$999</td>
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<td>Sallie and George Alcorn, Lucia Alejand, Anonymous, Jenna and Paul Atwood, Kari Beck, Walter M. Bering, Martha and Sam Bowen, Tracey and Frank Brown, Courtneyt Brynes, Dana Burke, Liz and Jimmy Burke, Danna and Tim Burkett, Angel Butler, Alice R. Calvin, Rodrigo Cafredo, Carl Carameros, Tay Carey, Crissy and Todd Clarke, Erin Craig, Emily Crosswell, Jana and Louis Danna, Carol and Brad Deason, Linda Debrovner, Katherine and Ken Delorenzo, Donnelle and Hill Dishman, Ann and Leslie Doggett, Lisa and David Doherty, Deborah Dunlack, Laura A. Easton, Julie and Blaine Edwards, Ramsay M. Elder, Julia Glasgow Engelbrinck, Samantha and Stephen Eustis, Natalie Harris, Kayt and Clyde Hays, Alexx and Monica Heckner, Stacey Henningens, Johnson Family, Susanna and Gee Kane, Heidi Kelsey, Cindy Kemble, Kate Kirkland, Caroline and Fred Knapp, Mr. and Mrs. William Larkin, Kristen Olson Lyons, Karen and Trey Magee, Melissa and Michael Magee, Lee and Scott Mann, Christiana and Luke McConn, Mr. and Mrs. Michael S. McInany, Dana and Don Miller, Yvette Mirabal, Patricia and David Moore, Graham and Ed Neuhaus, Miki Norton, Sara and Robert Paine, IV, Dylan Parker, Anne and Joe Romano, Merrill Rome, Maggie Saether, Emily Wolf Schaffer, Andrea and Jason Sivells, Lois and George Stark, Rebecca Sledman, Jennifer Steeg, Timothy Stephens, Tom Stephens, Allison and John Straw, Betsy Garlington Striegler, Alicia Summers</td>
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<td>John and Harvin Lawhon, Desroches Partners, LLP, Marty and Mrs. Dan Silvestri, Mary Beth and Ross Staine, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Stock, Donna and David Stone, Todd and Bonnie Stovall, Erika and Matt Benz, Jane Dabney, Elia Gabbannelli, Debbie and Mark Gregg, Helmie-Shaw Foundation, Inc., Kirsten and Roger Herrscher Houston Trust Company, Jenny Elkins, Nicole and James Lassiter, Alissa and Kevin Maples, Morgan Stanley, National Christian Foundation, Susan and Fayeze Sarofim, Michelle and Al Smith, Caroline and Scott Sullivan, Jenny and Einar Suter, Sarah and Duncan Underwood, Hallie Vanderhider, Erin and Frank Verducci, Kelli and John Weinzierl, Morgan Stanley, Albemarle Foundation, Bonner and George Ball, and the following generous donors who helped Bo’s Place raise over $300,000 to support the ongoing work and mission of Bo’s Place.</td>
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<td>Julia and Einar Suter, Sushma and Haresh Yalamanchili, Tim and Tracy Zuniga, 2021 Hats, Hearts &amp; Horseshoes event and for the support of Paige Fertitta, Megan and Luke Hotze, Hannah and Cal McNair, Haliee Vanderhider, and Kelli and John Weinzierl as Honorary Chairs and the following generous donors who helped Bo’s Place raise over $300,000 to support the ongoing work and mission of Bo’s Place.</td>
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Connecting to hope
After support groups had to close last spring, Bo’s Place found new ways to connect with the bereaved, as grief could not wait to meet in person. The Bo’s Place @ Home portal launched within months of citywide closures with self-care videos and family activities created specifically for Bo’s Place families to complete together at home. Last June, Bo’s Place went online with virtual support groups for adults and families, in addition to an innovative video series for Little Friends. The pivot to online did have a silver lining, as many individuals enjoyed the convenience of online groups and the video series allowed young children to receive immediate support. As a result, Bo’s Place will expand its service offering with a hybrid model of online and offline grief support even after we are fully back in person.

\[ \text{Connecting to hope} \]

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A family of four from the Ongoing Family Group attended a virtual check-in call from the cemetery where they were celebrating their deceased son’s birthday. They wanted their Bo’s Place family with them on this important day — a moment only possible during this time of physical distancing and virtual check-in calls. To be able to share and be “present” with the family was a gift for everyone!

IN HONOR OF

Cristina Aitlenau
Lila Sharifian
Judy Andrews
Carla and Mac Northington
Fady Armanious
Ellie Francisco
Chris and Merrell Alton
Susan and Will Penland
Erika Benz
Connie and Steve Benz
Lori Bokone
Kathy Bokone
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IN MEMORY OF
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Stephanie and Drew Anderson
Christine Antonio
Chis Antonio
Bill Arnold
Jane Osborne
Margaret Bandy
Juanita and Garney Griggs
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Don Bartusiak
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Joyce Chacko
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Chloe Carlson
Vicki and John Lange
Chloe Carlson
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Sita and George Skaria
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Pam and Jim Harris
Travis and Kristen Cowan presented Bo’s Place with a generous $5,000 gift from the Smilin’ Rylen Foundation named in memory of their son, Rylen Cowan. The Smilin’ Rylen Foundation promotes awareness about organ donation and assists families in crisis.
Bo’s Place makes every effort to record all donations received correctly. We apologize for any errors and ask that you contact us at 713-942-8339 or give@bosplace.org so that we can make the appropriate corrections.

Make a donation
At Bo’s Place, we envision a world in which no one has to be alone in their grief. There is a place they can go for support and resources and that is Bo’s Place. To help care for the bereaved in our community, please contact our Development Department at 713-942-8339 or give@bosplace.org.
Tips to Support Grieving Families

Many of us struggle to find ways to support grieving families and friends. Though we care deeply, it can be hard to find ways to connect, especially when we must stay physically distant. Small acts of kindness help connect us and give hope.

Schedule a regular virtual “coffee” or “happy hour” with a small group of friends.

Get together for a “walk & talk” in your neighborhood or at a park.

Deliver a card or a care package, especially on significant days like holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries.

Celebrate special memories or places. For example: send pictures of their loved one from a special occasion.

Set aside a specific time each week to text or call the bereaved. Creating a routine can provide comfort.