

































onnecting hearts. Connecting hope.

BO'S PLACE ANNUAL REPORT | 2020 - 2021



## Jur Mission.



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



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

May Both Stains



## Dear 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.

172% DROP IN INQUIRIES

**April 2020**Monthly inquiries to the Information &



#### 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.



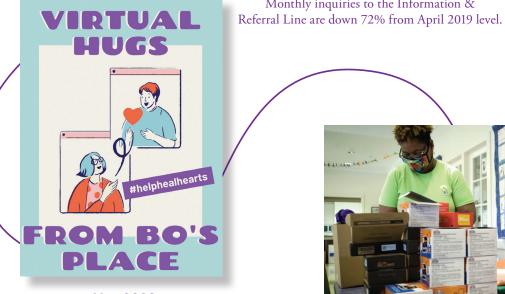
#### **November 2020**

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



#### **July 2020**

Online support groups for adults launch after successful pilot.



#### 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.



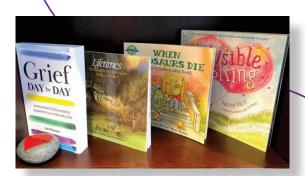
#### **December 2020**

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

## 123% RISE IN INQUIRIES

#### June 2021

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



#### **April 2021**

Bo's Book Club launches with grief literature delivered to families at home.



#### January 2021

"Healing Hearts" Grief Resource Book Bags distributed to school counselors.

# Orogram Julcomes Jul

#### **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).

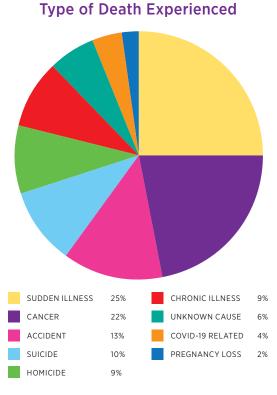
#### **Total Served**

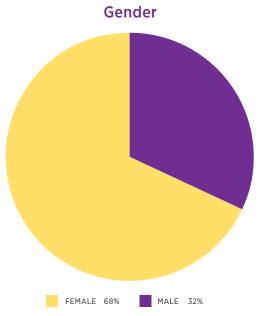
340 families

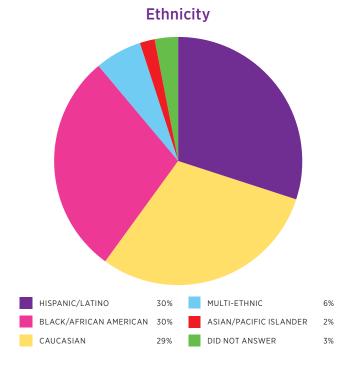
572 children

713 adults

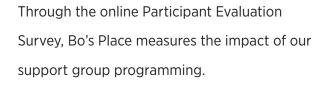
1,285 individuals







Family Income



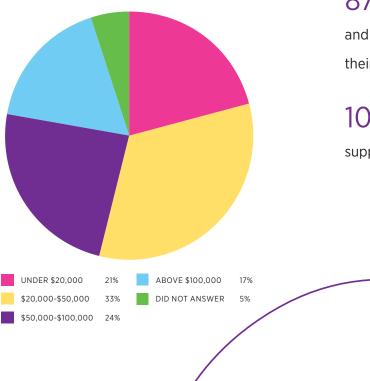
Fiscal year 2020-2021 support group participants report:

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.



# Orogram Julcomes Julcomes

#### **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.

 ${\small {\rm 76 \ community \ Education \ Workshops}}$ 

Total Professionals Trained 1,990 participants

Total Viewers of *Speaking Grief* Documentary 180 individuals

 $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Total Participants in Documentary Panel Discussion} \\ \textbf{199} \ \textbf{individuals} \end{array}$ 



#### **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

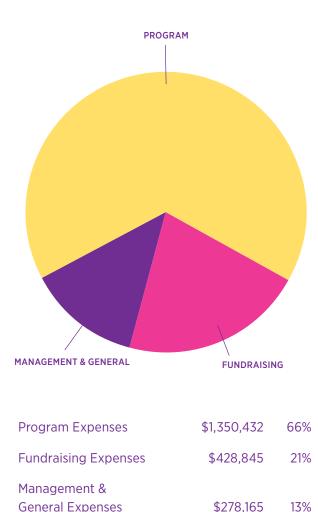


# Financial Information

#### 2021 Operating Revenue **FOUNDATIONS** GOVERNMENT OTHER **NET INVESTMENTS** INDIVIDUALS **NET SPECIAL EVENTS** CORPORATIONS ORGANIZATIONS Government \$246,800 8% **Foundations** 1,076,883 36% Individuals 631.110 21% Corporations 115,696 4% Organizations 39,834 1% **Net Special Events** 778,405 26% **Net Investments** 77,460 3% Other 14,809 1%

Total Operating Revenue \$2,980,997

## 2021 Expenses



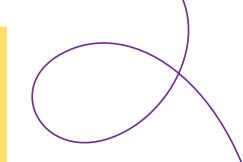
\$2,057,442 100%

**Total Functional Expenses** 

Total Net Assets as of June 30, 2021: **\$6,729,738** 

## 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, my mind with thoughts of my beautiful daughter, our time together, the done. You make me feel inadequate, lost, and hopeless, 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 strong, you sneak up and make me weak. When I need to be happy, you show up unannounced and make me sad. When I 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.

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

Chris

# 

#### 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**

\$100,000-\$220,000

The Brown Foundation. Inc. The Hamill Foundation

\$35,000-\$99,999

**CFP** Foundation New York Life Foundation The George Foundation

\$25,000 - \$34,999

**Greater Houston Community** Foundation Greater Houston COVID-19 Recovery Fund jointly led by the United Way of Greater Houston and the Greater Houston Community Foundation Houston Marathon Foundation, Inc. John S. Dunn Foundation The Cullen Trust for Health Care

The Florence and William K. McGee. Jr. Family Foundation Valero Benefit for Children Houston

\$15.000-\$24.999

George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation John P. McGovern Foundation M.D. Anderson Foundation



Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church Merced Foundation Ruth Jones McDonald Charitable Trust St. Martin's Episcopal Church The Blackbaud Giving Fund The C.T. Bauer Foundation The Elkins Foundation The Fllwood Foundation The W.T. and Louise J. Moran Foundation The William Stamps Farish Fund Vivian L. Smith Foundation

\$10.000-\$14.999

H-E-B Tournament of Champions Charitable Trust Morgan Stanley Gift Fund PM-Hot Sky Charitable Fund II Sterling-Turner Foundation The Gayden Family Foundation The Jacobson Family Foundation The Lyons Foundation

\$5.000-\$9.999

Albemarle Foundation Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund

Burnett and Company, Inc. dba QBE 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 & Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation The Benevity Community Impact Fund The Crain Foundation The Hot Sky Charitable Fund The Jackson Foundation The Smilin' Rylen Foundation The Vaughn Foundation

\$3.000-\$4.999

KPMG Gives c/o Bergen County's **United Way** SK Foundation St. Paul's Methodist Foundation of Houston The Junior League of Houston, Inc.

\$1.000-\$2.999 Alvin A. Klein and Roberta A. Klein Trust American Endowment Foundation Ann and Tom Estus Fund Anonymous Don Sanders and Kathy Butler Charitable Trust **Duncan Genesis Foundation** Elva J. Johnston Foundation Grea Mancz Donor Advised Fund Impact Deposits Corp. Insurance Industry

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Up to \$499 Albertsons Safeway Anonymous Ari Kaplan Advisors ARS National Services, Inc. Bank of America Charitable Foundation Campbell M. Lange Family Charitable Fund Christiana and Luke McConn Family Charitable Fund CREW-San Antonio David and Anne Morley Fund

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T. Rowe Price Charitable Texas Children's Hospital The Walden School United Way of Greater St. Louis, Inc. Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

**Matching Gifts** 

Payne Foundation

ConocoPhillips - Matching Gifts ExxonMobil Foundation Matching Gift Program Marathon Oil Company PAC Matching Gifts Program New York Life Company Shell Oil Company Foundation Matching Gifts

**Individuals** \$15,000 - \$50,000

\$5,000-\$14,999

Rick Smith

Anonymous Helyna Bledsoe Chelsea and Jordan Winterfeld

\$1.000-\$4.999 Stephanie and Drew Anderson Ginny and Dennis Cahill Jared Curless Karen and Marc Del Tatto Cody Edgeworth, Jim Edgeworth, and Andrew Varner Amanda and Marc 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

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\$500-\$999

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Friend of Bo's Place Fullenweider Family Trey and Cary Fyfe

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Lisa Gibson Laura Goehrs

Goeringer Family - Kurt. Patricia, Madi & Alex

Roberta Golden Ilene Goldfine

Gail and Kenneth Goldstein Lauren and Alan Gordon

Nancy Schroeder Grant Mrs. Graves' First Grade Class

Mr. Tim Gray Jolvn and Mark Green



### 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.

Cathy Grossman Beatriz Elena Hawk Keith Hall Miriam Hall The Honorable Andrew S. Hanen Terry and Bill Harmon Jody and Mike Harrington Judve and John Hartman Lvl and Andrew Harvin Mary and Bill Haves Amy Heaton Kay and David Hedges, Jr. Catherine Stewart Heidrick Robert Henderson Marilyn Henley Janis and Randolph Henry Lida B. Herring Sharon Hirschy Patty Hoban Christine Hoeller Gavle and Scott Hoffer and Family llene Hoffman Julie Hogg Anne Hooper Sally and John Hopper Mr. Bruce Howard Fllen Howard Mr. and Mrs. John F. Howell, Jr. Pam and Peter Howell Nancy Hudgins The Huffs

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Amy and Chris Rollo



Marilyn and Chris Winters Wittenmyer Family Robin and John Wombwell Elizabeth and Bryan Woods Suzanne and Timm Wooten Connie and Tommy Wright Wendy and Lloyd Wright Emma Yee Tom Young Cristina Zambrano Lauren Ziff

### 2020 Hat, Hearts & Horseshoes: A Kentucky Derby Affair

Our gratitude to Kelli and John Weinzierl for chairing the 2020 Hats, Hearts & Horseshoes event and for the support of Paige Fertitta, 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 Jenny and Todd Abbott The Albemarle Foundation Ayco Charitable Foundation Bracewell LLP

Emily Crosswell
Greater Houston Community
Foundation
Debra and Mark Gregg
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Erin and Frank Verducci

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Sue Smith and Craig Brown
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Jenny and Einar Suter
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Avison Young Houston LLC

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#### Up to \$999

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Michelle Barratt
Meredith and Patrick Chastang
Milane Duncan-Frantz
Gale Green
Susan Hoak
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Kelsey and Joshua Wright

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Cynthia Lam
Karen and Kevin McCarthy
Folko Mueller
Diane Rech
Susan Rodriguez
Lexie Rose
Judy and Bobby Shackouls
Lynn Smith
Elizabeth and Alan Stein
Lynda Lighthouse Transier
Mary Vestewig
Bradley Weiner

## Houston Chevron Marathon

Our thanks to all who helped Bo's Place raise over \$59,000 to support the ongoing work and mission of Bo's Place through participation in the Virtual Houston Chevron Marathon.

\$10,000 - \$25,000 Houston Marathon Foundation Superior Energy Services

\$5,000-\$9,999 Norton Rose Fulbright

\$1,000-\$4,999
Lisa Cobb Alexander
Bank of America Charitable
Gift Fund
Matula, Stubbs & Winkler Advisors
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Mary Beth Staine

Up to \$999
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Kirsten Herrscher

Audra Hiemstra

**Emily Hobaugh** 

Rae Hill



Matthew's Garden, created in loving memory of Matthew Bishop Gray, is a multi-sensory space where young children learn about the natural cycles of life that can be observed in a garden.

Kate Hogan Julie Hogg Lamark Holland Warren Holleman Gary Howell Dominic Hull Mimi Irvin Torsha Johnson Robin and Brandon Kinard Mick Klein Jamor Klopfenstein Keely Langkowski Donna Lanham Cassie Leaman Debbie Leder Shepard Leder Kendrick Leggins Elizabeth Loeschman Susie Lowry Leslie Mallory Wendy Maybruck

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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.

#### \$30,000-\$50,000

Greater Houston Community
Foundation
The Marie M. and James H. Galloway
Foundation

\$15,000 - \$29,999
Cuenod Families
Cindy and Harry Holmes
Janice S. McNair
Lynn B. and Michael G. Smith
T. Rowe Price Program for
Charitable Giving
Walter Oil and Gas Charitable Fund

Jenny Elkins
Sarah and Doug Foshee
Houston Trust Company
Jack H. and William M. Light
Charitable Trust

\$10.000-\$14.999

Charitable Trust
John P. McGovern Foundation
Liz and Ned Schwing
Sue Smith and Craig Brown
The Ellwood Foundation

#### \$5,000-\$9,999

Susie and Joe Dilg
Fidelity Charitable Trust
Shari and Tom Fish
Nan and Bob Franklin
Lauren and Rob Gray
Debbie and Mark Gregg
Mrs. Melinda B. Hildebrand
Houston Endowment, Inc.
Houston Jewish Community
Foundation
Invesco Investment Services, Inc.
Susan Harvin Lawhon
Morgan Stanley Gift Fund
Lindy and Larry Neuhaus
Jackie and Al Richey

#### \$3,000-\$4,999

Stephanie and Brad Tucker

Jenny and Todd Abbott
Dorothy and Mickey Ables
Christina and Matt Altenau
Drs. Matt and Erika Benz
Minnie and Ed Cappel
Sylvie Crum
Terry and Billy Harmon
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Ellen and Charles Sheedy
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Mrs. Deborah Smith
Aimee and Wynne Snoots
Aimee and Jeff Springmeyer
Mary Beth and Ross Staine
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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.

Ellie and Geoff Gray Melanie Gray and Mark Wawro Amy and Mark Hammer Julie and Victor Harris Marian P. Harrison David Hartland Caroline and Larry Heard Charlotte and Patrick Hickey Gayle and Richard Hightower Starlett and Ben Hollingsworth Megan and Luke Hotze Marjorie and Palmer Hutcheson Beverly and Blake Jackson Evelyn and Bob Jewell Lucy and Vic Kormeier Florence and Tom Langford Debbie Leder Robin and Jim Livesay Kathy and Charlie Lusk Odette and Bob Mace Joan and John Mauel Flo McGee

"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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#### 2021 Hats, Hearts & Horseshoes: A Kentucky Derby Affair

Our gratitude to Alissa and Keven Maples, Millette and Haag Sherman, and Christie and Mark Sullivan, for chairing the 2021 Hats, Hearts & Horseshoes event and for the support of Paige Fertitta, Megan and Luke Hotze, Hannah and Cal McNair, Hallie 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.

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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.



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"Thank you, Bo's Place. Even though we are living through this pandemic, you didn't forget about us."

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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!



## Tribule Gifs

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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.

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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.

Christie and Mark Sullivan

Gary Valentine. Jr.

**Tony Vallone** 

Kallie Valentine

#### 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**.

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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.

