

VOLUME 18 #1
Spring 2018



*A Center for Grieving
Children and Families*

**6 Poquonock Avenue
Windsor, Connecticut 06095**

**860-688-9621
www.marysplacect.org**

MARY'S PLACE
6 Poquonock Avenue
Windsor, CT 06095-2507

From the Director

Dear Friends,

This May marks my two year anniversary with Mary's Place. As I look back over the past two years I think about all of the amazing people I have had the privilege of meeting. From our participants to our volunteers, board members and supporters, I have witnessed countless acts of kindness and seen so much love shared within our walls, all of which keep our doors open, our center thriving and our mission fulfilled.

Grief is a lifelong journey and each person walks their own path, therefore our groups are always changing. At this current time, our groups are rapidly growing. Since January, over 60 applications have been sent to families who have children and teens looking to join our programs. The need for support is great and thanks to your generosity and dedication, we are able to be here to provide it.

As many new children have joined our groups, understandably, we have many new parents and guardians in need of support and guidance. To meet this need we hosted a "Parenting While Grieving" workshop series in April. I'd like to thank long-time volunteer facilitator, Molly Sexton Read, for once again hosting this much needed series, which provided education to our new families.

With our growing group numbers our volunteer needs are also increasing. We are looking for compassionate people to join our already amazing group of dedicated volunteer facilitators. We hope to host a new volunteer training session in July.

We have been very fortunate to receive support in various forms which you will learn about as you navigate through this newsletter. All of the gifts we have received have assisted us tremendously in meeting our current needs and have prepared us for continued growth.

My deepest appreciation to all of you who continue to support our mission in so many ways.
You are a great gift to us.
You make what we do possible.

Warmly,

Brittany Sheehan
Executive Director

There's no end to
my grief journey
because there's
no end to my
love for you.

J.S. Golubich

Deborah Orth
Sharon Overbaugh
Janice Panella-Banning
Stephen Parent
John Payant
Jennifer Peck
Laurence Peck and Nancy Pratt
Gerald Pelletier
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Mario Zavarella

In Honor Of:

Anna
Kathleen Audette
Susan Bowman's Birthday
John Carmon's 70th Birthday
Matt Carmon
Frank DiBacco & Family
Irene & Peter Fortier
The Fortier Family
Cheryl & Douglas Jourdan
Mary Keane
Erica Mace
Patty Mace
Roger Nolte
Valerie O'Keefe
Jen & Isiah Peck
Lisa Peluso
Peg Reduker
Tim & Sue Reynolds Wedding
The Roncari Family
Wilson Branch Library

Wish List

- ♥ First Class Postage Stamps
- ♥ Copy Paper; 8.5 x 11
 - ♥ Toilet Paper
- ♥ Toner for Canon Faxphone L100
 - ♥ Snacks for our groups

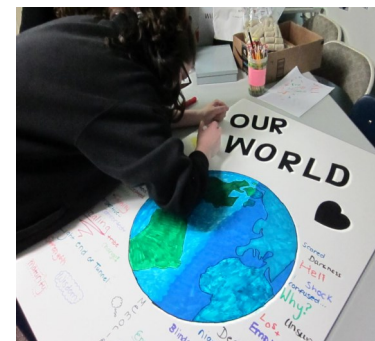
Please call the center if you have a wish list item to donate :)

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 Emily O'Brien
 Thomas O'Donnell

Our World

Our talented and wise group of teen participants created posters which were displayed at our annual Wine Tasting fundraiser describing how Mary's Place has changed their lives. Pictured here is "our world" showing their lives and feelings before and after Mary's Place. Words such as "alone" and "darkness" are used. The other side shows the friendship, hope and healing that they have found at Mary's Place...It was described as *"A light at the end of the tunnel."*



Mary's Place Awarded NY Life Foundation Grant

Mary's Place was awarded a capacity building grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the New York Life Foundation. The funding will help us grow and update our technologies, including new computers and new fundraising software. "We are incredibly grateful to the NAGC & NYL Foundation for choosing Mary's Place to receive this grant. It will be a great help to our organization as we continue our mission to help the many grieving children and families who come to us. Efficient technology and software will also allow us to reach more children and families in need of grief support." - Brittany Sheehan, Executive Director



Memory Blankets



Photo courtesy of @atrisk4hd

"Do you still have their clothes?" is one of the very tough questions that can arise in the lives of those who are widowed. For some people, keeping the clothes of their deceased spouse is too painful. For others, it is a great comfort from which they may never part. Those who wish to take a more creative approach can look to services such as Project Repat, a Massachusetts based company that will turn old t-shirts into a blanket, creating an everlasting keepsake.

<https://www.projectrepat.com/> Get a 25% discount when you use coupon code: **MarysPlace**

Have A Heart

Many thanks to our participating businesses and to all who donated toward this year's Have A Heart Fundraiser! Over \$5,000 was raised to support our center and services.



The First National Bank of Suffield presents Mary's Place with a check for donations raised of nearly \$1,800!

THANK YOU

The First National Bank of Suffield

Geissler's Supermarkets

Windsor Federal Savings

Simsbury Bank

Fitzgerald's Market

Windsor High School

Therapeutic Solutions

Loomis Chafee School

AD's Pizza

Catering For a Cause

Many thanks to **Nat Hayden's Real Pit BBQ in Windsor** for generously catering our Partners in Grief Lunch in March!

Grief centers from MA & CT were invited to join us at our center to connect and share about the good work we do. We are so grateful to have the support of Nat's and other local businesses.



Gifts are often given to Mary's Place in memory of a beloved family member or friend; also, to honor birthdays, anniversaries and special occasions. We are grateful for each gift and thank you sincerely for your support.

November, December 2017 and January, February 2018

Gifts in Memory of:

Michael Albrizio, Ann Amodio, Chad Arnold, Theresa Baraglia, David M. Barry, Roy and Marjorie Bixler, Cpl. Stephen Bixler, Norma Bowen, Scott Bowen, Faye and Johnny Campbell, William Campion, Jay Capuano, Emmy Carlone, Bill Carmon, Delores Caruso, Joe Civitillo, Monique Colletti, Marge and Tony DeNino, Devito Family, Pedro Espinoza, Meredith Louise Ewick, Daniel Fitzpatrick, Ernie Fournier, Melissa C. Galka, Martha W. Gracey, Janet Graves' cousin Elaine, Brian Green, James Hall Jr., Jack Hamre, Hrivnak Family, Jill Harper Iracleanos, James Joseph, Jackie Lee Keen, C. Kelly, King Family, Zack Kittredge, Richard and Georgette Koopman, Jonathan Kronick, Katie Kupec, Barbara Latham, John F. Leitao, Wen and Ming Li, Frank Lowry, Mark Maher, Ted Maher, Jim Mason, Marian Calva Mason, Steve Nadolny, Nikki Nicholas, Bert Nunes, AnneMarie Peck, Matthew Peck, Maria Peters, Bob and Anne Pinard, Plunge Family, Lindsay Presz Barrett, James J. Reynolds, Wanda Reynolds, Lawrence Ridel Jr., Lawrence Ridel Sr., Olga H. Soja, Richard F. Sutyla, Barry Towers, Jean and Lawrence Tryon, Jennifer Vernali,

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Ray of Hope Gala

Save The Date

Friday, September 28, 2018

The North House in Avon, CT



Let us Honor and Remember

We offer our prayers and sympathy to members of the Mary's Place family on the passing of their loved ones...

To staff member Janet Shwayhat and her family on the passing of Janet's father, Pedro Espinoza.

To volunteer facilitator Mary Pakulski and her family on the passing of Mary's daughter, Andrea Hinde.

Wapping Community Church in South Windsor, CT has been a great supporter of Mary's Place since our founding in 1996. We were recently invited to visit and share about our work and the services we provide. Board Members Irene Fortier and Nancy Griffin shared their personal stories about how they became involved with Mary's Place. We are grateful to have been invited and for the unwavering support of WCC!

Save the Date & Tee Up for the...



4th Annual Michael Hastillo Memorial Golf Outing & Banquet.

It is a 4 Person Best Shot (Scramble) golf tournament located at Rolling Meadows Country Club in the fine city of Ellington, CT. The event is set to play on June 8, 2018. Proceeds to benefit the Jacob Roger Poulin Foundation (JRPF.org) More info: <https://cmhfund17.wixsite.com/michaelhastillo>

Mary's Place Open House | Tuesday May 8th 6-7pm

Has a loved one died and your looking for support?
Meet our staff and learn more about our groups and other resources.



We are now sending updates via e-mail. Please send back the enclosed donation envelope with your name and e-mail address to stay up to date or simply send an email with your information to info@marysplacect.org. We would also love to know how you heard about Mary's Place and became involved. Getting to know you is important to us. Please include any information you would like to share!

Mary's Place is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.
Any donations made are deductible according to IRS regulations.
If your name has been omitted, or there is an error, we apologize and ask that you notify us at 688-9621 or e-mail: info@marysplacect.org
No fees are charged to participating families
and Mary's Place depends upon individual and community support.



Mary's Place 6th Annual Memory Walk

Sunday, May 6, 2018
9:30 am | Northwest Park



Registration forms and sponsorships are available online:
www.marysplacect.org/memory-walk

Honor the memory of a loved one and help make a difference in the lives of grieving children, teens and families by joining us for this year's walk!
We welcome you to register the morning of the walk, and extra t-shirts will be first come, first served.

Memories are worth walking for . . .



Volunteer facilitators...

- ♥ Are compassionate with children experiencing grief.
- ♥ Have a few hours on Sundays free to facilitate a group.
- ♥ Can commit for at least 1 year.
- ♥ Will go through an extensive, free training before you begin.
- ♥ Have support and guidance from our program director.
- ♥ Will undergo a background check for the children's safety.
- ♥ Will be one of the most important pieces of the Mary's Place community.

Call us at 860-688-9621 to apply to become a volunteer!

Training date TBD. Please get in touch by 6/1/18



10th Annual Wine Tasting

March 24, 2018 | Glastonbury

Thank You to our Sponsors

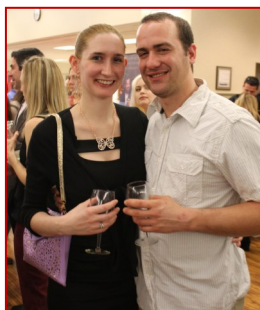


Mary's Place friends and supporters gathered for a fun evening at our 10th Annual Wine Tasting. Thank you to all who attended this wonderful event to support Mary's Place!

Special Thanks to:

Wine Tasting Chairs Corinne DiBacco & Christi Dooley
The Wine Tasting Committee
Emcee, Rachel Lutzker
Photographer, Jenny Nolte-Freitas

Live music from Bruce and Louanne Romaneck of "BruLou Tunes"
The Mary's Place Teen group for the creation of posters displayed at the event
Our many prize donors



Many thanks to our food and beverage donors!

Angelos Restaurant, Spicy Green Bean, Berkins Blend Café, Little Mark's BBQ, First & Last Tavern, Ascot Catering, The Daniel J. Griffin Memorial Foundation, Mary's Place Board of Directors, Sammy's Buyrite Liquors, Berkshire Brewery, Slocum and Sons, Alan S. Goodman Sterling, Alan S. Goodman Century, Alan S. Goodman, Latitude Beverage Co., Thimble Island Brewing Co., New England Wine and Spirits, Monsieur Touton, Piufacile Import, Carolina Wine Company, Hartford Distributors, Boondoggle Beers, Brescom Barton Beer, Brescom Barton Wine, Brescom Barton Liquors, Ace Distributing, WorldWide Wines, & Connecticut Distributors, Inc.

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The Hartford



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