

VOLUME 17 #3
Fall/Winter 2017



*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

Letter From the Director

Dear Friends,

The generosity I have seen this year has been overwhelming, to say the least. The donations made to our Center both monetarily and in the form of snacks, books on our wish list, gifts for our kids holiday gift bags, volunteer hours from our facilitators, board members and others have been abundant. I cannot express enough our gratitude for your kindness.

As the holidays are upon us and the gift-giving frenzy begins, let us be reminded to give thanks for our most precious gifts; the gifts of our loved ones. Let us also remember the many children and families of Mary's Place who are grieving the loss of their loved one this holiday season. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the number of recent tragic events in the world that have affected so many. The Las Vegas shooting, hurricanes in Puerto Rico, Florida and Texas as well as the church shooting in Texas are only a few of the devastating events that have shaken our world and left so many in grief. Our hearts go out to the victims and their families as well as to all those mourning a loved one.

Thanks to your ongoing support, we continue to have the opportunity to help the many children and families who come to Mary's Place. Your support also gives us the resources to continue to spread the word about our mission and reach more families. We recently gave a presentation to the volunteers of a local hospice organization. Our new fundraising system has allowed us to reach a more digital crowd via our e-mail updates. We attended a human services conference in October and connected with over 100 local human service professionals. Mary's Place was recently in an article in Parade Magazine as the featured charity of Connecticut. We have had a tremendous response from our *Messages From The Heart* program, explained in detail in our last newsletter, which has been called "the missing link" by one school. This program has allowed us to share our services with entire school communities and offer support to the bereaved outside of our doors. It has also guided grieving families to our doors. We remain grateful for every opportunity to spread the word about the work we do in the hope that no child or family will be without support.

I encourage you to reach out to those you know who are grieving and to mention Mary's Place or other helpful resources you know about. The holiday season can be an especially tough time of year. What can help ease the pain a bit is the love, understanding, compassion and support of others. It can start with you and continue at Mary's Place.

May this holiday season be a time of many blessings for you and your families. Our sincere thanks to you all for your support which makes such a difference in the lives of so many.

Warmly,

Brittany Sheehan
Executive Director

Paul Pirozzi
Lucille Pirruccio
Kimberly Pisco
Janice Provost
Barbara Putt
Meredith Reid
Responsible Recycling Charitable Fndn`.
Timothy Reynolds
Gloria A. Ridel
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Rinaldi
Mike Rinaldi
Carl Rivers
Nigel Roberts
Carolyn Rogers
Corey Rogers
Jeremy Rollins
Deborah Roncari and Paul Murdock
Barbara Roohr-Karas
Anthony Rosati
Timothy Rourke
Cynthia Ryan
Margaret Ryglisyn
Joe Salonia
Dr. and Mrs. Collin Sanford
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Sawyer
Margaret Schock
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Seaha
Molly Sexton Read
Brittany Sheehan
Shop Rite
Duane Shaw & Mary Calcasola
Mr. & Mrs. Sahel Shwayhat
Nick Simpson
Linda Singer
Sinsigalli Signs
Gordon Smith
Kristin Solloway
Marian Sorbo
Beverly Spence
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Stahr
Mark Sternat
Gary Stevens
Cheryl Sutyla
Leonard Swade
Nancy Swanson
Margaret Taravella
Mr. & Mrs. Shane Taurinski
Matt Tevelde
David Tranghese
TheaterWorks
Michael Theriault

Dan Thibault
Roland Thibault
Richard Thurz
Total Wine & More
Mike Trantolo
Mr. & Mrs. Marcia True
Gershon Tucker
Greg Turansky
Unitarian Universalist Society: East
Mr. & Mrs. Dominic Viglione
Voya
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Wagner
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wallace
Jeff Welch
Mr. & Mrs. Sheri Whiting
Brian Whitlow

In Honor of:

Danielle Capuano
Nan C. Carmon
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Fortier
Joanne Kelly's Birthday
Connie & Richard Knowles 50th Anniversary
Jenny Nolte & Jason Freitas Wedding
Lisa Peluso
Deb, Robin, and Alicia Roncari



Barnes Aerospace Donation Drive

Many thanks to Barnes Aerospace in Windsor for their donation of snacks and supplies to our Center. Your kindness is truly appreciated!

Daniel J. Griffin Memorial Golf Tournament

Our sincere thanks to the Daniel J. Griffin Memorial Foundation for donations made to Mary's Place from their annual golf tournament.

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.

July, August, September and October 2017 Continued

Drs. Paula & Hema DeSilva
 Donna Diduk
 Cynthia Dimmock
 Shawn Donaldson
 Rob Donegan
 Mr. & Mrs. Alan Dornan
 Carol Dupuis
 David Eichorn
 Ellsworth Medical
 Jim Ericson
 Shelly Fasano
 Tom Fearney
 Bryan Fontaine
 Norm Forster
 Dave Forte
 Robert Fortgang
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Fortier
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Freitas
 Eleanor Frye
 Mr. & Mrs. Patrick J. Gallagher
 Barbara Gancarz
 Dr. & Mrs. John Gannatti
 Laura Gayton
 General Federation of Women's Clubs
 Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Giddings
 Nick Vakakas Gordon
 John Gracey
 Janet Graves
 Tamara Gray
 Jill Grieson
 Allan and Nancy Griffin
 Jacquelyn Gustafson
 Roberta Hamre
 HarperOne
 Julie Harrison
 Abigail Hastillo
 Sara Hawran
 Janine Hermann
 Marcia Hinkley
 John Hoffman
 Rita Holby
 Susan Hooker
 Human Services Community Service Group
 Charles Iadaresta
 Iris Photography
 Jennifer James
 Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Johnson
 Jonnie Kane
 Jen Kearney
 Donald Keinath
 Julia Kelly
 Tom Kieselevich
 Ellen Kimball
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert King
 Mr. & Mrs. David Kostyk
 Kyle Kravchuk
 Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Kupec
 Law Offices of Mark E. Salamone & Morelli

Nikki LeBrun
 Mr. & Mrs. Darryl LeFebvre
 Mr. & Mrs. George Lesko
 Lucille Lillibridge
 Mr. & Mrs. John Litter
 Lori Lowry
 John Macomber
 Mr. & Mrs. Philip Margolis
 Mr. & Mrs. Victor Masi
 Marsha Mason
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Masotti
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. McAndrews
 Spenser McElhoney
 Jen McGoldrick
 Dean McLeod
 Dale Meck
 Nellie Meglin
 Mr. & Mrs. Grant Melnick
 Scott Merrell
 James Mindek
 Mr. & Mrs. William Miskavitch
 Mohegan Sun
 Victor Morando
 Dan Morrissey
 John Moutafis
 Steve Muhlberg
 Ben Murphy
 Mike Murphy
 Latoya Muzzulin
 Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Myers
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Neary
 Jennifer Nolte
 Roger Nolte
 Mr. & Mrs. Roy Normen
 Jan Novack
 Martie Novack
 Pat O'Connell
 Jeff Olender
 Mr. & Mrs. Tiffany Omicioli
 Noel Osowiecki
 Sharon Overbaugh
 Lois Pabst
 Anna Pagnano
 Bob Pakenham
 Mary Pakulski
 Andy Palumbo
 Mike Pantuosco
 Mr. & Mrs. Steven Paquette
 Taylor Patrick
 Nathan Patrylak
 Paypal Charitable Giving Fund
 Jennifer Peck
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Peluso
 Ralph Peters
 David Pezzino
 Nate Philippi
 Brian Pignone
 Allen Pinney

Therapy Dog Visit

Our middles group recently had a visit from our friend Sunny, a beautiful Golden Retriever who is a certified therapy dog. Sunny visits our groups to bring cuddles, comfort and companionship to our kids.



Artistic Exploration & Expression

As children grow, they continue to revisit their grief and their understanding of death. Our littles group recently created a collage to explore the question, "what makes a living thing alive?" Projects such as this help foster communication and expression. Creating an atmosphere of trust in which children feel comfortable to ask questions and explore their feelings is the essence of what we do at Mary's Place.

Toast To Katie



Mary's Place staff and board members had a wonderful time at this year's Toast to Katie, honoring the life of Katrina M. "Katie" Kupec. Our heartfelt thanks to Katie's Foundation, Inc. for choosing Mary's Place as one of the recipients of funds collected.



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@marysplacet.org. We would also love to hear 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!



2017 Ray of Hope Gala

Our 13th Annual Ray of Hope Gala took place on September 22 at the Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford.

The evening began with the viewing of a beautiful DVD, showcasing the participants whose lives we touch and the healing that happens at Mary's Place. Many thanks to Jim Aldridge of Romantic Entertainment, LLC for the creation of the DVD and for his services as our DJ.

Our wine pull was a success again this year as were our silent and tea cup auctions. Our special live auction of "puzzle art" created by the children of Mary's Place was also enjoyed by all.

We were very happy to present this years Ray of Hope Award to Irene and Peter Fortier, past participants and long time supporters of Mary's Place who give so generously of themselves in every way they can.

Special guest Jenny Nolte Freitas shared her story of her time as a participant at Mary's Place after the death of her mother and how she returned as a teen volunteer and was later inspired to return as a board member. Many thanks to Jenny for bravely sharing her story and touching all of our hearts.

Many thanks to all who helped make this years Gala a success. Thanks to Nancy Griffin, Deb Roncari and the Gala Committee, as well as all of our generous sponsors and donors. Many thanks to the staff of the Holy Family Retreat Center. We are grateful to Denise D'Ascenzo from WFSB-TV for gracing us with her presence and serving as our master of ceremonies.

Thanks to Sinsigalli Signs for the donation of our poster boards. Thanks to Alicia Roncari for setting up our beautiful wine pull. To everyone else who made this night possible— We sincerely thank you!

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.

July, August, September and October 2017 Gifts in Memory of:

Michael Albrizio, Chad Arnold, Bailey, Hon. David M. Barry, Stephanie Barry, Marjorie Bixler, Roy Bixler, Cpl. Stephe Bixler, Michael Brundage, Jay Capuano, Emmy Carlone, Kenneth Chase, Art Closson, Mary E. Crosson, DeVito Family, Bob Diduk, Aaron Joseph Dornan, Meredith Louise Ewick, Karen Schock Fortier, Ernie Fournier, Rebecca Ganci, Helen Gostyla, Martha W. Gracey, Jack Hamre, Dorothy Hansell, Donny Harmon, Jane Hoffman, Carol Katz, Harry J. Lillibridge III, Frank Lowry, Laurie Margolis, Jim Mason, David McClosky, Mary Miller, AnnMarie Peck, Matthew Peck, Maria Peters, William Pie, Michael Raimo, Lawrence Ridel Jr., Lawrence Ridel Sr., Brooklyn Suppich, Richard F. Sutyla, Mark True, Mary Wenner's mother, and All those who died in the Las Vegas shooting

Donors:

Aetna Foundation
Airways Golf Course
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Albright
American Online Giving Foundation
Anas Auto Detailing LLC
Stephen Anderson
Thomas Apanovitch
Archbishop's Annual Appeal
Jeff Arn
Peter Arnold
Mr. & Mrs. David Avezzie
Linda Ball
Earl Bancroft
Mr. & Mrs. David Baram
Mr. & Mrs. John Barberie
Mr. & Mrs. James Barlow
Barnes Aerospace
Gina Barresi
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Barry
Jim Bartle
Mr. & Mrs. Lisa Beck
Mr. & Mrs. P. Douglas Beerbower
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Benard
Marie Bendzans
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Berman
Bin 228
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bixler
Jo Ann Bourquard
Mr. & Mrs. James Bowden
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Brazalovich
Shirley Breuer
Joan Brundage
Jesse Buck
Davey Buckets
Bethany Buckholz

Sarah Burlhis
Barbara Capuano
Cosmo Carlone
Frank Carmon IV & Taryn Carmon
Mr. & Mrs. John Carmon
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Carmon
Wanda Carmon
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Caron
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Carpenter
Gail Chase
David Chisolm
Vivian Cicero
Dan Civco
Evelyn Clark
William Clark Jr.
Richard Clark
Steve Cline
CMH Fund
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Colletti
Debbie Collier
Connecticut Funeral Directors Association
Josh Connelly
Mr. & Mrs. David Corliss
Lou Corsino
Catherine Cosgrove
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Cournoyer
Mr. & Mrs. William Crosson
Patricia E. Curtis
Mr. & Mrs. Emile Cyr
D'Agata Granite & Bronze, LLC
Nick D'Amato
Daniel J. Griffin Memorial Foundation
Pat DeAngelis
Day Hill Dental
Kurtis L. Denison

10th Annual Wine Tasting

Saturday, March 24, 2018

The Riverfront Community Center, Glastonbury, CT
6-9 PM Tickets \$40

Delicious Hors d'oeuvres & decadent desserts
Dozens of Wines, Beers & More
Tea Cup Auction
Live Music



Help support this event by...
Attending | Sponsoring | Donating
Call Mary's Place for more information

Tickets will be available on our website in late January 2018

Thank You To Suffield High School For Donations

Each term the students of Special Education Teacher Laurie Zielinski at Suffield High School choose an organization to support and provide random acts of kindness. Mary's Place is grateful to have been chosen! We were presented with water, snacks, gifts for the kids holiday gift bags and books on our wish list.



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



Let us remember and honor the life of...

Ernie Fournier, the brother of Irene Fortier
James Reynolds, the father of Tim Reynolds
Theresa Baraglia, the mother of Lisa Peluso



We are grateful to you and your families for choosing Mary's Place as the recipient of memorial donations.

We are most grateful for Konica Minolta bizhub image center

For the printing of our newsletters.



Ray of Hope Gala Sponsors



A RAY OF HOPE

"Friends of Mary's Place"

HEALING

Ted & Peggy Crew

COMFORT

Carmon Community Funeral Homes

Louise & Joe Colletti

Daniel J. Griffin Memorial Foundation

COMPASSION

Antonacci Family Foundation
John & Linda Carmon



EMPATHY

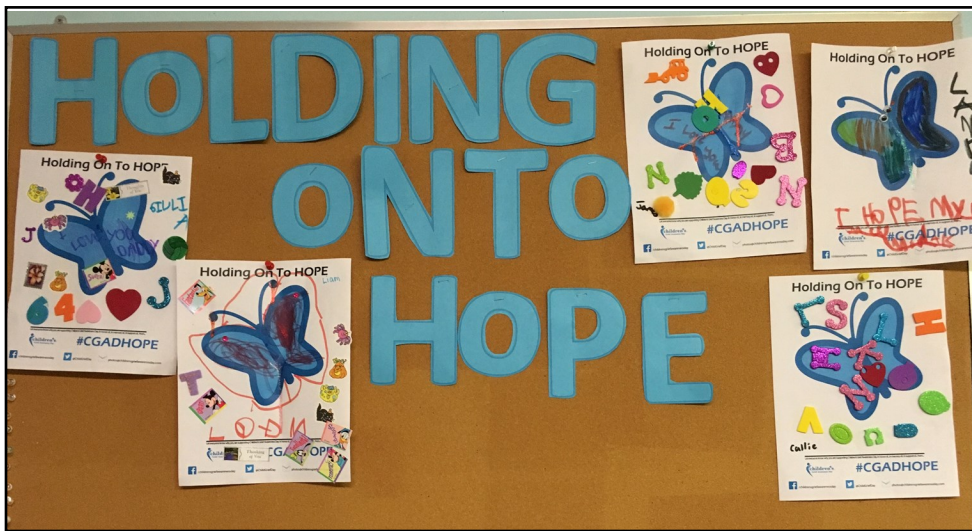
Blum Shapiro
Elmcap Wilbert
Rob & Karen Fortgang
Peter & Irene Fortier
Lauren E. Avezzie
Charitable Foundation
Vic & Theresa Masi
Craig & Laura Radocy
Santander Bank
Camerota & Sons, Inc.
The First National Bank of Suffield
The Simsbury Bank
South Windsor Rotary
Webster Bank

LOVE

Brown & Brown of CT, Inc.
Taryn & Frank Carmon
Corporate Translations, Inc.
The Machon Family
Terrence Meck
Windsor Federal Savings
Young Widows & Widowers
of Mary's Place

SUPPORT

Bob's Discount Furniture
David Roncari Construction
Services
Day Hill Dental
Geissler's Supermarkets
Mr. & Mrs. Bernie Horovitz
Jerry's Artarama of CT
Jess & Jennifer Kupec
Richard & Christine Masotti
John H. & Anita Miller
Lisa & Michael Peluso
Robin Roncari
Vantis Life Insurance Company
Viola, Chrabascz, Reynolds &
Co. LLP



Children's Grief Awareness Day Nov. 16, 2017

Children's Grief Awareness Day seeks to bring attention to the fact that support can often make all the difference in the life of a grieving child. This year our participants colored a blue butterfly to show that they are Holding On To Hope.



Messages From The Heart

Students from the Loomis Chaffee School spent their Service Day with us creating new Messages From The Heart boxes. Our program places the boxes in a school where a faculty member, student or student's loved one has died so they can receive supportive messages from the school community. Do you know of a school that could benefit? Please contact us so we can reach out.

Roger Nolte Wins Patriots Volunteerism Award



Congratulations to Roger Nolte on winning the Patriots Difference Maker of the Week Award! Roger is our longest tenured volunteer and has been donating his time and efforts to Mary's Place for over 20 years.

Save the date for our...6th Annual Memory Walk



**Sunday, May 6, 2018
9:30 am**



Honor the memory of a loved one and help support grieving children, teens, and families by joining us for this **FAMILY FRIENDLY event.**

Registration forms will be available online in April 2018

**If you would like to be a t-shirt sponsor
(covering the cost of t-shirts distributed to walkers)
please contact Mary's Place.**

Memories are worth walking for...come walk with us!

Good Luck Danielle!

Danielle Capuano came to Mary's Place at a young age after the death of her father. After ending our program as a participant, she decided to give back as a teen volunteer facilitator. She was also the Chair of our Memory Walk Fundraiser. As she departs as a volunteer to start a new chapter of her life and begin college at UCONN, we wish her the best of luck on her new adventure!

