

Volume 22 #1

Winter/Spring 2022



6 Poquonock Avenue

Windsor, CT 06095

860-688-9621

[www.marysplacect.org](http://www.marysplacect.org)

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



# From the Director

Dear Friends,

***Our purpose is to provide an atmosphere of trust in which children and families who are grieving a death share their experiences, receive support and find comfort.***

Have we been successful in achieving our mission? I can say with every fiber of my being that we are successful on a regular basis, because I see it. I am honored to serve in a capacity where I witness the fulfillment of our mission in so many ways. Success is had with each phone call, each meeting, every opportunity to be there for our participants and to connect them with one another.

Times of celebration and times of sorrow are enriched when we are together. The reassurance that we are not alone is a powerful thing. It can and often does carry us through the darkest and heaviest times of our lives. In 2021 we supported hundreds of individuals through direct support in our programs, confidential phone support, meetings and referrals to other resources. Within our walls thousands of memories, stories, fears, feelings and hopes have been shared and countless connections have been made. It is each one of these opportunities and experiences that plant seeds that take root and allow growth, healing and hope to blossom in the lives of our participants.

I hope that if you are able to, you will join us at our next **Open House on Thursday April 28, 2022 4-6pm**. We welcome every opportunity to share more about our important work and to get to know those of you who make Mary's Place possible.

Thank you for for taking the time out of your day to read our newsletter and for your unwavering support. We are a community and a support system of people helping people. You are very much a part of our community- it couldn't exist without you.

Warmly,

Brittany Sheehan

**To join us on 4/28:**

**RSVP @ [marysplacect.org/openhouse](https://marysplacect.org/openhouse)**



*Some children have experienced the death of a loved one due to illness. Our hospital station provides an opportunity to engage in creative play to express feelings using items often seen in a medical setting.*

Heather Oatis  
Sharon Overbaugh  
Mary Pakulski  
Colleen Paliwoda  
Michael and Lisa Peluso  
Jennifer Peck  
Chanier Pemberton  
PeoplesBank  
David and Mary Lou Peters  
Constance Peterson  
David and Patricia Porteous  
Janice Provost  
Mari-Anne Quigley  
Kent and Kathleen Quirk  
Laura Radocy  
Jason and Tricia Raiti  
Peggy Reduker  
Anne Reiher  
Karen Regan  
Responsible Recycling Charitable Foundation  
Timothy Reynolds  
Raymond and Lynette Robitaille  
Karen Rodriguez  
Robin Roncari  
Deborah Roncari and Paul Murdock  
Linda Roohr  
Barbara Roohr-Karas  
Rose Family Foundation  
Marjorie Ross  
Norman and Laure Ann Roy  
Kevin Rurka  
Marg Rushton  
Margaret Ryglisyn  
Nana Safo-Darko  
Saint Damien of Molokai Parish  
Keith Salamon  
Doug and Sandy Salvatoriello  
Thomas and Linda Scanlon  
Paula Schaffer  
Donna Schuurman  
Wayne Schwartz  
Richard Scinto  
Brittany Sheehan and Alfredo Morales-Rios  
Phyllis Shepard-Tambini  
Shimkus, Murphy and Rosenberger, P.C.

Wallace and Karen Shipp  
Gene Shipp  
Robin Shlosser  
Kelly Simone  
Consuela Smith  
Marie Smith  
Paul Broxterman and Laura Soll-Broxterman  
John and Carolyn Soltis  
Marian Sorbo  
South Windsor Community Women's Club  
Sally Speer  
Michael Sponzo  
John and Justine Stagon  
Richard and Cathy Stahr  
Sarah Steffanci  
Bob and Joan Strickland  
Cheryl Sutyla  
Leonard Swade  
Roy Szoka and Mary-Lynn Kinney  
The Owenoke Foundation  
Cynthia Thompson  
Richard Thurz  
Marsha Tomlinson  
Michele Tougas  
Town Fair Tire Foundation, Inc.  
Lee Tryon  
Gershon Tucker  
United Way of Central and Northeastern CT  
United Way of Southern Maine  
Paul Vagnini  
Valley Collector Car Club, Inc.  
James and Gail Viola  
Wabi-Sabi Yoga and Wellness Center  
Gary Whitaker  
Naomi Willard  
Eliot and Susan Williams  
Steven Wilson  
Windsor Garden Club  
William and Jeanette Winger  
Mary Woodhouse  
Corey Wry  
Colette and Bob Yeich  
Sheila Yellen  
YHB Charitable Endowment  
Dave Ziner

## Donations received in honor of:

The Bednarz Family Christmas, Ashley Bergeron, Stephanie Orlando Brown, Mason Everett Halek, Jim Hayden, Irene Fitzpatrick Fortier, Chris Kervick, Mary's Place Staff and Volunteers, Atty. Vincent Oswecki, Sean Simone and Michael R. Valente.

**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 if there is an error, we apologize and ask that you notify us as 860-688-9621 or email: [info@marysplacect.org](mailto:info@marysplacect.org).**

**No fees are charged to participating families and Mary's Place depends upon individual and community support.**

*Save The Date For our biggest fundraising event of the year!*  
*Saturday August 6, 2022*  
*Tickets available for purchase 6/1/22 at [marysplacect.org](https://marysplacect.org)*

Karen Dillon  
 Lynn Dobrowsky  
 Wayne and Evelyn Dombkowski  
 Michael Donoghue  
 Helen Doyon  
 Joseph and Mary Duggan  
 Dunlop Silsby Family Foundation  
 East Granby Congregational Church  
 Scotti Easton  
 Peggy Ehrhardt  
 Enfield Pediatric Dentistry, LLC  
 Iris Fanning  
 Farooque Family  
 Theresa Faucher  
 Virginia Ferlan and Timothy Machon  
 Keith and Diane Forney  
 Peter and Irene Fortier  
 Robert and Carolyn Fowler  
 Jason and Jennifer Freitas  
 Roberta Frick  
 Kathleen Furie  
 Alison George  
 Nick Vakakas Gordon  
 Michael Gothers  
 John and Lois Gracey  
 Gene Grasso  
 Janet Graves  
 Jeremy and Jill Grieveson  
 Allan and Nancy Griffin  
 Wendell Grigely, Jr.  
 Irene Guman  
 Roberta Hamre  
 Hartford Hospital School of Nursing Alum Assn.  
 Jenny Hawran  
 Sara Hawran  
 William Hodges  
 Katherine Hogan  
 Mark and Rita Holby  
 Richard Hudlow, Jr.  
 Charles Iadaresta  
 Paul and Judy Iannone  
 Linda Iannone  
 Dorothy Johnson  
 Scott and Sheila Jones  
 Irene Jopeck  
 Jo Ann Judd  
 Sarah Kagan  
 Sarah Karas  
 Louis Keen  
 Gordon and Betsy Kenneson  
 Kenneth and Paula Munson CLAT  
 Ellen Kimball  
 Eric and Sharon Kloter  
 Dennis and Linda Kollmorgen  
 Trice Koopman and Mark Freund  
 David and Sue Kostyk  
 Elaine Kovach

Allen and Judith Kronick  
 Maureen Krygowski  
 Gerald and Sharon Kumnick  
 Elena Landry  
 Bruce and Lori Lawler  
 Kevin Learned  
 Rachel Leclerc  
 Janis Lehman  
 George and Carolanne Lesko  
 Charlene Li  
 Genie Lomba  
 Lori Lowry  
 Connie MacLeod  
 Patricia Mahon  
 David and Emily Maker  
 Patricia Malone  
 Dean Marchessault  
 Marec Heating & Air Conditioning Co., Inc.  
 Philip and Susan Margolis  
 Katie Marie  
 Louise Marinone  
 Donna Marshall  
 Vic and Theresa Masi  
 Rich and Christine Masotti  
 Gary and Sharon Mather  
 Cody and Jaime McClave  
 McCoy Family Charitable Fund  
 Patricia McCabe  
 Steve and Mary Ellen McGoldrick  
 Angela McKelvey  
 Tim McLaughlin  
 Ryan McNamara  
 Joan McVey  
 Dale Meck  
 David Mendlowitz  
 Margaret Michelson  
 Paul and Ann Marie Mikkelson  
 Kathryn Miller  
 MJB Corporation  
 Michael and Karen Molta  
 Dan Morrissey and Rob Donegan  
 Bruce and Cheryl Morse  
 Harold Moskowitz  
 Bertcelis Morales  
 Michael Muia  
 Ruth Murphy  
 Walter Nolte  
 Peter Nolte  
 Dan Nolte  
 Jean Nolte  
 Roger Nolte  
 Stephanie Nolte  
 Roy and Nancy Normen  
 Beverly Norton  
 Susan Nunes  
 Mary Lou O'Connor  
 Sharon O'Sullivan



# Happy Holidays

*In lieu of our annual holiday party this year we held a drive thru event for our families and made special deliveries to those who could not attend. In addition to a personalized gift basket, families enjoyed cocoa-to-go, goodie bags and a surprise visit from Santa!*



*Thank you to all who assisted in basket deliveries and at the drive thru event; Cathy, Molly, Adele, Christi, Sue, Emilea John and Deb. A special thank you to Nancy Griffin for her dedication and hard work putting together over 130 baskets!*



## 8th Annual Memory Walk

On the beautiful sunny morning of Sunday, September 26th, over 80 people gathered at Northwest Park to walk and honor the memory of cherished loved ones. Deepest appreciation to all who attended and supported this special event.

### Thanks to Our Sponsors

#### Presenting Sponsor

Katie's Foundation, Inc.

#### Corporate

The Hartford

Friends of Mary's Place

Carmon Community Funeral Homes

Brown & Brown of Connecticut, Inc.

Antonacci Family Foundation

John & Linda Carmon

South Windsor Rotary Club



#### In Memory of...

Jimi Barlow, Carolyn Baldwin Barz, Louis Bell, Jennifer Desrosiers Calkins, Nan Carmon, Ajay Chakrabarti, David Dealba, Ray Dowding, Mary Fournier, Daniel J. Griffin, Andrea M. Hinde, Frances Janeczek, Vernon H. Johnson, Joyce & Tracee, Michael Loney, Matt Miskin, Sam & Alice Mondana, Gary P. Paliwoda, Ann L. Pizzi, Craig Radocy, Sadie Bea Roy, Gregg Secor, Bunny & Joe Setian.

We hope you will join us for the 2022 Memory Walk!

Sunday May 15, 2022 | 9:30am | Northwest Park- Windsor, CT

Register or sponsor online at: [www.marysplacect.org/memory-walk](http://www.marysplacect.org/memory-walk)

*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 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021**

#### Gifts in memory of:

Michael Albrizio, Tommy John Alferi, Agaton and Mary Apanovitch, Chad T. Arnold, Margaret Barberie, Stephanie Barry, Thomas Barry, Michael Bakx, Joshua Bakx, Siobhan Beas, Nancy DeMarco Baker, Cpl. Stephen Bixler, Roy and Marjorie Bixler, Boller Family, Michael Braun, Leon Brazalowich, Michael Brundage, William Campion, Anna Marie Carmon, Kenny Chase, Michael S. Cohen, Maureen Cox, Kerry Cyr, Denise D'Ascenzo, Bob Diduk, Michael Ferlan, David Fowler, Claude Gagnon, Melissa C. Galka, Martha W. Gracey, Richard Graves, Justin Grigley, Mason Everett Halek, Jack Hamre, Fred Hesketh, Andrea Hinde, Carroll Hughes, Sally Ivaldi, Juli Jensen-Derrig, Henry Jopeck, Ginger Keane, Mary Keane, Jackie Lee Keen, Marjorie Tryon King, Richard Koopman, Georgette Koopman, Bob Kristoff, Diane Kristoff, Jonathan Kronick, Barbara Latham, Edward Latham, Frank Lowry, Lori Margolis, John Marvin, Masi Family, John Dennis McAuliffe, Mikey McCray, Andrew David Meeker, Will Moryto, Roger Nolte, Donald Norton, Frank Orofino, Lawrence Ridel, Sr., Lawrence Ridel, Jr., Patty Roohr, Richard Skizewski, Jr., Tommy Sponzo, Richard Sutyla, Chung Van Truong, Jean Tryon, Lawrence Tryon, Linda VonHact, Fredrick Bud Wessel, Arlene Wessel, Donna Wheaton and Craig Winter

#### Donors:

Airways Golf Course  
Melissa Adler  
Greg Allen  
James Allen  
Apanovitch Family  
Archbishop's Annual Appeal  
Peter Arnold  
Patricia Auber  
Tim and Erin Baisley  
Karen Ball  
David and Paula Baram  
John Barberie Jr.  
James and Florence Barlow  
Thomas and Debra Barry  
Sandy Barry  
Rudolf Barz  
Karen Bastille  
Matthew Bednarz  
Rachel Baugher  
Robert and Kathy Benard  
Berkshire Bank  
Robert and Phyllis Berman  
John Bernadini  
Richard and Linda Bixler  
Kate Bowman  
Francis and Mary Brady  
Lisa Bress  
Shirley Breuer  
Stephen and Sally Brown  
Robert and Toni Brzozowski  
Peter and Mary Carlisi  
Dorothy Carlson  
Richard and Chris Carmon  
Wanda Carmon

Richard and Bonnie Case  
Nicole Cassidy  
Gail Chase  
Elizabeth Clark  
Richard Clark  
Deborah Clifton  
Jackie Cogswell  
Louise & Joseph Colletti  
Catherine Cosgrove  
Steve Courtright  
Barbara Connolly  
Linda Coscore  
Costco  
Kristen Coxon  
Chuck and Carol Cramer  
Susan Crawford and Lois Luddy  
William and Alberta Crosson  
John Crow  
Kathleen Cunningham  
Patricia Curtis  
D.A.S. Distribution, Inc.  
D'Agata Granite & Bronze, LLC  
Nancy Dagenhart  
Barbara Davis  
Laura Dealba  
Donald and Christine Delaney  
Mary Delaney  
Matthew Delucia  
Andrew Demake  
Glenn Deming  
Judith Devin  
Donna Diduk  
Maureen DiMatteo  
Michael and Ann Dion



## THANK YOU!

**We couldn't do what we do without our amazing volunteers...**

### Support Group Facilitators

Pat Auten  
Adele Clark  
Bridgett Diene  
Nicole Henry  
Barbara Karas  
Patty Mace  
Bruce McCormick

Mary Pakulski  
Patricia Porteous  
Molly Sexton Read  
Cathy Stahr  
Marie Walker  
Suzanne Willette

### Board Members

John Carmon  
Taryn Carmon  
Irene Fitzpatrick Fortier  
Robert Fortgang  
Nancy Griffin  
Julie Harrison  
Vic Masi  
Richard Masotti  
Ryan McNamara  
Timothy Reynolds  
Deb Roncari

### Thank you for sharing your time and gifts with us!

*A special thank you to Theresa Masi who has stepped down from the Board. We appreciate your many years of service to Mary's Place.*

*Wishing a warm welcome to our new Community Ambassadors Nancy Beaudoin, Miriam Byroade and Rosemary O'Loughlin.*

### In Memory of Roger Nolte

Roger is the longest serving volunteer in the history of Mary's Place. Kindness, love, generosity, humility, dedication and compassion were abundant in Rogers presence and evident in all he did for his community and for Mary's Place. We were fortunate to call this amazing man our friend for over 26 years.

***Roger, There will not be a memory walk, family picnic, holiday party or other event that passes that we will not miss you and remember you.***

***You will live on in our hearts forever.***



## We are in search of volunteer facilitators!

*Do you want to make a difference in the life of a child? Call us at 860-688-9621 to apply to become a volunteer! Volunteer facilitators...*

- ♥ Are compassionate with children experiencing grief.
- ♥ Have a few hours on Sundays free to facilitate group.
- ♥ Can commit for at least 1 year.
- ♥ Will participate in an extensive, free 35 hour training in June.
- ♥ Will undergo a background check for the children's safety.
- ♥ Are one of the most important pieces of the Mary's Place team.

***\*Please get in touch to begin the application process by late April\****

***Interested in joining our team in a different capacity?***

***We are also searching for Board Members and Community Ambassadors. Please get in touch!***



## 8th Annual Memory Walk Thanks to Our Sponsors

### Platinum

Lauren E. Avezzie Charitable Foundation  
Daniel J. Griffin Memorial Foundation  
Taryn & Frank Carmon  
Louise & Joe Colletti  
Vic & Theresa Masi  
Irene & Peter Fortier

### Gold

Lisa & Michael Peluso  
In Memory of Joyce & Tracee  
S. Camerota & Sons, Inc.  
Windsor Federal Savings & Loan

### Silver

In Memory of Joyce & Tracee  
In Memory of Bunny & Joe Setian

### Bronze

James & Florence Barlow  
In Memory of David Dealba



### Endless Gratitude To:

All our volunteer facilitators, board members and friends who assisted.  
A special thank you to photographer, Doug Salvatoriello & drummer, Mark Zarillo.



# In Memory of Mary Keane, Founding Director of Mary's Place 1937 - 2021



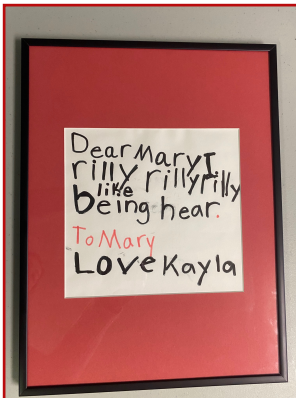
*We are deeply saddened by the passing of our beloved founding director, Mary Keane.*

*Mary lived a life of service and dedication to others. Her legacy will live on forever through the many lives she has touched and through the work which she started and we continue at Mary's Place.*

"In 1996, with the support of the Carmon Family Foundation, Mary established "Mary's Place", A Center for Grieving Children and Families, located in Windsor, CT. She created Mary's Place as a safe environment for children to grieve in whatever way they wanted or needed to and not be judged. Having a safe place where children could interact with other children who had a shared experience helped ease their isolation and let them know that they were not alone. Mary loved all the ways that kids expressed their emotions, and one of her favorites was a poster that read, "Dear Mary, I rilly, rilly, rilly like coming hear." Mary's Place was the culmination of her life's work, and prior to her retirement in 2006 she said, "I have so much admiration for the courage these families possess. It is an incredible privilege to journey with these children and adults through this painful passage in their lives and to see the healing. I draw my strength and my courage through the people I have met here."

- An excerpt from Mary's obituary. Mary's full obituary can be found on [legacy.com](http://legacy.com).

***~Thank you to all our supporters and friends who made a donation in memory of Mary.~***

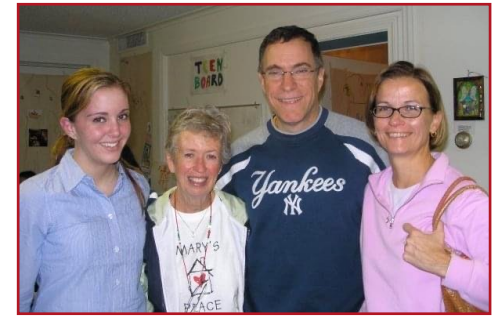


*Shortly after we were all dealing with the tragedy of the 911 attacks, my wife of 22 years passed away suddenly. Needless to say, I was devastated and wondering how I would be able to pull together and take care of myself and my 2 young children.*

*Fortunately, someone recommended that I give Mary's Place a try. I got up the courage to make a phone call and I found myself talking with the wonderful Mary Keane. Within minutes I knew I had found a special person who had an amazing gift of compassion and healing.*

*At Mary's suggestion I joined the young widow and widowers group which met twice a month. Mary along with Lisa Peluso were the group facilitators. With their help along with the support of the other group members I learned how to deal with life in a way I never thought possible. My daughter Kim also joined the teenage group and was helped tremendously by that experience and soon became a teen mentor to the young children's group and served in that roll throughout her high school years.*

*Mary always joked that Mary's Place was not a dating service, but sometimes things happen! Well, I was one of those. I met a lot of terrific people in our group sessions, but I developed a connection with one in particular and about 9 months after meeting in group Theresa and I began dating. We kept it quiet for a bit, but after one group meeting we met with Lisa and Mary to let them know about us. They were both very happy for us. About 6 months later, Mary even helped me pick out an engagement ring! We've been happily married for over 18 years now and Theresa is a member of the Mary's Place Board of Directors.*



***We will always cherish the memory of Mary and what she meant to our family as well as the other countless lives that she helped so selflessly. She will truly be missed but will always be in our hearts. -Vic Masi***

*Mary Keane came into my life when I was 10 years old at the time my Mom was battling with Cancer, she became a friend to my Mom before she passed away. Although we were never participants, my sister and I volunteered at Mary's Place as teen volunteers throughout High School. Many years later, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Chair of the Board of Directors at Mary's Place to thank Mary and ensure that her life's work will continue to impact families as much as it has impacted mine. - Julie Harrison*

**An excerpt from Mary's letter in the August 2006 newsletter:**

***"And so, as I leave, I will carry each of you with me, ever grateful for the many ways in which you have supported our work or participated in our programs. I feel confident that Mary's Place will continue to be a place of safety and healing, and my wish for you and for all who come is...may you find calm in the midst of life's storm; light in the midst of life's darkness; peace in the midst of life's struggles and hope in the midst of it all. With a grateful heart, Mary Keane, Executive Director"***