



OURHOUSE

CELEBRATING

30  
*Years*

AND BEYOND

2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT





Finding Hope.

Sharing Grief.



 **OURHOUSE**  
GRIEF SUPPORT CENTER

# YOUR *passion* AND *generosity* GIVE HOPE

We are delighted to share OUR HOUSE Grief Support Center's 2022-2023 Annual Report—celebrating the stories and accomplishments made possible by your generosity, and creating our pathway for the next 30 years! Your commitment to helping children, teens, adults, and families find healing and hope after the death of someone close has transformed the lives of so many. For this, we are truly grateful.

OUR HOUSE is committed to providing inclusive grief support to meet the needs of the Los Angeles community, and we are honored to highlight in this report recent activities from our programs that support families, Spanish speaking communities, professionals, and our virtual participants.

Our deepest gratitude extends to our hundreds of talented and devoted volunteers who help run events, work tirelessly at Camp Erin LA, and most remarkably, co-lead our grief support groups; to our staff of 23, who—every day—face the topic of grief and heartbreak with grace and open arms; to our Board of Directors, Valley Advisory Board, and Associate Board for their tremendous generosity of time, support, guidance, ambassadorship, and leadership.

And to YOU. Your passion and generosity bring the OUR HOUSE mission to life and give hope.



*Julia Miele*  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# Program Highlights

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES

### Families

In September, we launched our **Family Support Program** after five years of development. It is a family-centered, best practices approach to grief support in which children and guardians attend grief support in their own rooms on the same night after enjoying a pizza dinner together. While children engage with their peers in newly expanded, 12-session grief support groups, their accompanying adults are encouraged to participate in clinician-led psychoeducational workshops. These sessions address the unique challenges of parenting a grieving child, provide insights into the art projects and activities happening in the children's groups, and foster connections among parents/guardians who share the experience of loss.



### Students

During the 2022-2023 year, the **School Program** provided free school-based grief support to grieving students at 53 schools across Los Angeles County, delivering an evidence-based curriculum that promotes healing through peer support and connectivity within their own school community. Direct school outreach provides support to children whose caregivers may lack transportation and other resources.



“Now I’m able to just be at ease and express that [my mom died] and I can navigate other people’s feelings about the grief and be fine with it. It just made me feel really, really safe and cared for. It’s just really nice to have the community of support there.”

## Campers

Since 2009, OUR HOUSE has been the Los Angeles partner for **Camp Erin**, the largest nationwide network of free bereavement camps designed for children and teens ages 6-17. At Camp Erin LA, campers engage in memorializing art projects and grief expression exercises in addition to fun camp activities to release stress. Camp Erin LA creates space for campers to openly discuss the death, enrich their emotional vocabulary, and normalize their responses to grief within a supportive peer group.

In 2021, OUR HOUSE launched a day camp model that includes a parallel Adult Camp for campers' "Grown-ups". The camp sessions in September 2023, August 2022, and June 2022 were day camps. In June 2023, we had our first three-day, weekend camp session since 2019. The Adult Camp presented a unique opportunity for caregivers to learn about parenting a grieving child and explore their own grief feelings among peers.



Meeting other kids at camp that are going through that same pain as you are makes you not feel alone. Right? Like it gives you a sense of like, okay, I'm not the only person in the world going through what I'm going through.





# Program Highlights

## ADULTS

“Everybody I’ve met, whether they’re staff at OUR HOUSE or alumni or a volunteer, everybody just has these huge warm hearts that have nothing but love and are just so giving. That’s why they’ve lasted this long: the love and the giving.”

### English

The **Adult Program** provides grief support groups at our centers in West Los Angeles and Woodland Hills. Groups are age and relationship specific and provide respite for individuals as they navigate their journey towards healing and hope. Members often stay in touch when groups end because of the strong connections created during their time together. They are also invited to join the OUR HOUSE Alumni Program, which offers opportunities for alumni to stay engaged with each other and OUR HOUSE.





## Spanish

Formerly known as the Spanish Satellite Program, the **Spanish Community Program** provides free, culturally sensitive grief support groups and workshops in Spanish. The program increases access to grief resources in Spanish across Los Angeles County and recognizes the unique burdens and struggles of the Latinx grief experience. In 2023, OUR HOUSE focused our expansion efforts on the South Bay, aligned with a \$150,000 grant from Providence Little Company of Mary - San Pedro Medical Center.

It was absolutely life changing and I would not have been able to get through that first year. I had some difficult dark times, especially in the months before the group started, because I didn't have any coping skills except to just shove it down or suck it up. **OUR HOUSE will give you a home and it will give you a safe spot to talk about your grief.** It will give you people who get it like you will find your people and it will be magical. And these people will likely be in your life for a very long time.

## Online

Building on the success of our COVID-19 response, we expanded our **Limited Virtual Program** to serve adult grievers who cannot travel to our centers due to geography, transportation challenges, and work or childcare schedules. This program increases accessibility and provides more options for grievers to choose their own path toward hope and healing.





# Event Highlights

## 30TH ANNIVERSARY

### The Return of the Walk 'n' Run for Hope!

After four years, the Walk 'n' Run for Hope returned! At a new location in Woodley Park, more than 1,100 people attended the event to honor the people in their lives that died. Participants enjoyed a live performance by multi-platinum singer/songwriter Andy Grammer, danced to a mariachi band along the route, and enjoyed other activities in the festival zone.



### 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary House of Hope Gala

300 people gathered to honor our founder and guiding light, Jo-Ann Lautman. Comedian Marc Maron brought the laughs while accepting his Good Grief Award. We also bestowed two new awards, the Journey of Hope Alumni Award to alum Leslie Yabuki and the Community of Hope Award to Cedars-Sinai. Special guest Joe Williams, lead singer of the band TOTO, performed the hit song "I'll Be Over You."





# Financials

## HOW YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS ARE RECEIVED AND INVESTED

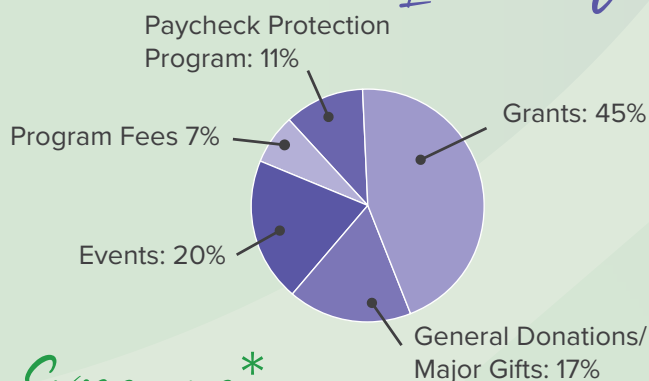
OUR HOUSE operates on a high-impact, low-cost model that maximizes your investment in our grief support programs. **87% of your dollar goes directly to programs.**

We strategically raise funds and effectively put them to use to bring the greatest possible impact and support to griever across Los Angeles.

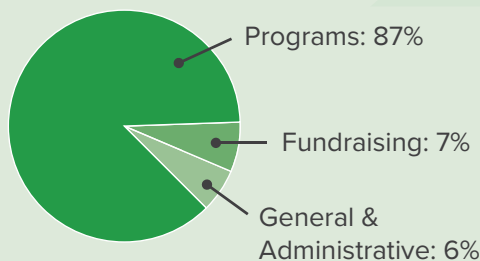
## NUMBERS SERVED 2022-2023

Children & Families	Family Support Program	338
	School Program	1337
	Camp Erin Kids	290
	Camp Erin Grown-Ups	119
Adults	Adults English	1499
	Adults Spanish	175
Community	Consults & Referrals	6301
	On-Site Grief Response	650
	Professional Education	4747
TOTAL SERVED		15,456

## Income\*



## Expense\*



# of Volunteer Hours:

# 45,648



\*Based on 2022 FYE Audited Financials

## 2022-2023 GENEROUS PARTNERS Thank You!

Windsong Trust  
 Providence Little Company of Mary -  
 San Pedro Medical Center  
 Leonard M. Lipman Charitable Fund  
 S. Mark Taper Foundation  
 Capital Group  
 Cedars-Sinai  
 L.L. Foundation for Youth  
 The Thomas & Dorothy Leavey Foundation  
 The Green Foundation  
 City of Beverly Hills  
 Tower Cancer Research Foundation  
 USC Good Neighbors  
 Robert J. Keown Trust  
 Crail-Johnson Foundation  
 Goodwin Family Memorial Trust  
 Eluna  
 Los Angeles Lakers Youth Foundation  
 MDRT Foundation  
 Rotary Club of Beverly Hills  
 PRS Holdings Foundation  
 The Steven & Susan Cobin  
 Family Foundation  
 Los Angeles Trial Lawyers' Charities  
 New York Life

# Give Hope

## ILLUMINATE THEIR PATH FORWARD

OUR HOUSE provides grievers with a community and support to help them navigate their journey from raw grief to reflection, acceptance, and hope.

With your donation and kindness, you are lighting a path forward from the darkness of grief to hope for thousands of children, families, and adults.

### Illuminate the path to hope for:

- A child who feels like the only kid at school without a dad
- A family that has an empty seat at their holiday table
- A spouse rebuilding a life without their partner
- A parent struggling to refer to their child in the past tense

OUR HOUSE is transformative. There is no other word. Transformative to see what it does in the lives of these children and families. The magic of seeing it happen in group is just empowering, cathartic.





## What Your Gift Funds

- \$100 helps connect one adult with a grief support group
- \$250 covers transportation for one family in need
- \$500 sponsors one child in the Family Support Program
- \$1,000 supports one free Spanish grief support group
- \$2,500 sends one child to attend Camp Erin LA for free
- \$5,000 sponsors one free grief support group at a school



**Donate  
Today**





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