#### Benefits of Partnering with the Center for Loss and Bereavement

- Integrated model of care brings access of specialized support to grieving students and school staff
- **Professional education** in grief topics increases awareness and competence in those responding to the impact of loss throughout the school
- *More resilient individuals and families* stem from healthier, caring schools and connected communities
- *Increased long-term strength* for students in addressing grief / loss experiences over their lifespan
- *Foundation built* with a trusted, local resource that is available to support individuals and families for critical grief needs, over time and beyond the school years

"Support groups provide a warm, sheltered environment in which bereaved children and teens can mourn. They foster the experience of trusting and being trusted and have the potential of doing wonders in meeting the needs of bereaved children."

Alan Wolfelt, PhD, Healing the Bereaved Child



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# The Center *for* Loss and Bereavement

## SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

Committed to supporting circumstances of grief and loss within the school community

### SUPPORT GROUPS

The Center for Loss and Bereavement is committed to strengthening resilience and bridging critical connections for students, families, and school personnel touched by loss. In addition to holding on-site counseling and group services for individuals and families, our Center enhances community partnerships in bringing off-site programming to address grief needs that present in organizations, in particular within school environments.

#### Off-Site groups facilitated by Center staff include:

- Standard 8-sessions structure (1/wk) during the school day, held at school
- Specialized professional attention and care, with added peer support for up to 10 students per group
- Center-provided materials and activities
- Grief-support resources and information for the students' caregivers / parents

#### Schools partner by:

- Designating a school liaison as group coordinator and appointed follow-up counselor for students, as needed
- Screening students who meet participation criteria and gaining parental permission
- Coordinating group meeting schedule
- Arranging private meeting space appropriate to the confidential nature of grief topics
- Providing feedback for assessment of intended impact and overall quality of care



## TRAUMA-INFORMED Collaborative Care

Responding to special situations of grief-related concern, the Center's counselors are able to hold a therapy consultation with impacted individuals or families in the safety of the school environment. Working together with school personnel, we will be better able to identify, assess, and connect those at-risk for complicated grief to our specialized programming and ongoing care, *reinforcing hope* and that *help is available* in and out of school.

# GRIEF EDUCATION, PREVENTION & PROFESSIONAL CONSULT

Becoming comfortable and knowledgeable about death education and grief is essential for all working in a school setting. The Center's staff proactively addresses this specialized and sensitive awareness on a wide variety of griefrelated topics available for in-service days, parent- teacher meetings, faculty discussions, or classroom presentations specifically tailored to a school's needs.

The Center's staff are further available to help administrators navigate system-wide grief-related issues such as:

- School response following the death of a student or staff member
- Developing school/district-wide policies on best practices in responding to loss
- Offering support in situations of anticipated loss or life-threatening illness
- Post-processing after a crisis



"The format made learning about grief and it's components move from scary to comfortable. It was so helpful to learn about what grievers need from us. I feel more comfortable in bringing up grief with those I work with"

School Training Participant