

The Mourning Hope Grief Center is a non-profit grief support network for children, teens, young adults and their families who have experienced the serious illness or death of someone significant in their lives. Support groups serve youth in kindergarten through college age and their families.

Founded in 1994, Mourning Hope is based on the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to grieve in a safe and supportive environment. Because the death of a family member often brings financial instability along with life-altering changes, our services are available at no cost to participants. This gift is made possible through generous donations, including yours.

How Does Mourning Hope Benefit Our Community?

Mourning Hope's programs serve Lincoln-area children, teens, young adults and their caregivers who have experienced the death or serious illness of someone significant in their lives. **Mourning Hope served 2,715 individuals through support groups, workshops, community education and referrals in fiscal year end 6/30/10.**

Statistics substantiate the need for Mourning Hope's services.

- Before reaching the age of 18, approximately one in 20 children experience the death of a parent, including thousands of children in the Lincoln area
- By the time they reach their senior year of high school, approximately 90 percent of students have experienced the death of someone significant in their lives – this equates to over 56,000 children in Lancaster County
- Marital separation or divorce occurs in 78 percent of families that experience the death of a child



Mourning Hope is a beacon of hope, support, understanding and connection for grieving children and their families.

The center creates a welcoming environment for healing, helping to prevent more complicated reactions to death and dying. Mourning Hope creates an open and honest culture of support for bereaved children and their families – a culture where their experiences are acknowledged and their grief is recognized.

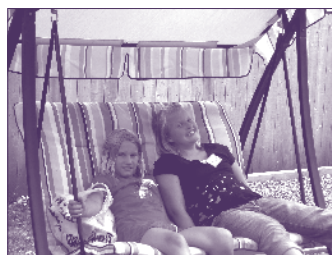
One of the most alarming social trends over the past three decades is the dramatic increase in the number of children, teens and young adults suffering from unresolved childhood grief.

- One bereaved child in five is likely to develop a psychiatric disorder (L. Dowdney, October 2000)
- 92 to 96 percent of young people in drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs have experienced the death of someone important (Columbia University, 2005)
- In a survey of 300 incarcerated teens, 96 percent indicated that someone significant in their lives had died (Columbia University, 2005)
- 85 percent of all prisoners on death row experienced the death of a parent during their childhood (Simpson, 2004)

Children who experience unresolved childhood grief from the loss of a father are:

- Five times more likely to commit suicide (U.S.D.H.H.S., Bureau of the Census)
- Nine times more likely to drop out of high school (National Principals Association reports on the State of High Schools)
- Ten times more likely to engage in substance abuse (Rainbows for All God's Children, U.K.)
- Twenty times more likely to have behavioral disorders (Center for Disease Control)

Research indicates that bereaved children are at risk for serious problems. They have special needs, but they are often forgotten mourners in our society. Support groups are valuable tools for helping children and families reconcile their grief.



*To receive additional information
about Mourning Hope:*

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