

Mourning Hope Grief Center

# 2011-2012 Annual Report

*"Into each life some rain must fall..."*  
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



  
**Mourning HOPE**  
grief center

4919 Baldwin Avenue  
Lincoln, NE 68504  
402.488.8989  
hope@mourninghope.org  
www.mourninghope.org

## Message From the Executive Director

Mourning Hope Grief Center's 2012 "Hope in the Morning" breakfast was based on the following theme:



*I wish I had a bright yellow umbrella that would keep away all the rain in your life. I would hold it over your head, and the rain drops would splash, splash and you would never even feel it. But I don't have a bright yellow umbrella— so I'll walk through the rain with you.*

At Mourning Hope, trained volunteers and staff walk alongside each grieving child; we "companion" them in their grief. The term "companioning" is based upon the work of Dr. Alan Wolfelt and refers to walking alongside each grieving child and family in their pain, without urgency or judgment. Companioning is not about imposing order or logic, leading, fixing the pain or stopping its expression at our own discomfort. Companioning is being fully present to another's grief and being willing to "walk through the rain with them."

As we move into a new fiscal year, Mourning Hope's objective is to not only maintain the high quality of services provided by the Center, but to increase the depth and breadth of available resources so that more bereaved youth and their caregivers can be effectively supported. We will be more innovative about creating new approaches and tools to fundamentally improve the lives of our community members. All the while, walking through the rain with those we are privileged to serve.

Through the generous donations and resources of so many individuals and organizations, Mourning Hope is able to share its umbrella with thousands of bereaved youth and their families throughout the community. On behalf of Mourning Hope's Board of Directors and Trustees, thank you for offering hope and healing to those in need.

With Hope,

*Carly Woythaler Runestad*

Carly Woythaler-Runestad, MHA  
Executive Director



During the 2012 "Hope in the Morning" Breakfast, Mourning Hope's new video – "Hope is a Wonderful Thing" – was debuted. The poignant video was produced by Brandon and Tiffany Verzal of V2 Content. Simply scan the QR Code or visit Mourning Hope's website [www.mourninghope.org](http://www.mourninghope.org) to view "Hope is a Wonderful Thing."

Mourning Hope is proud to thank its generous "Hope in the Morning" Breakfast Fundraiser sponsors:

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Madonna Rehab Hospital  
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## 2011/2012 Program At-A-Glance

**2,884** people were directly impacted by Mourning Hope during FYE 6/30/12.

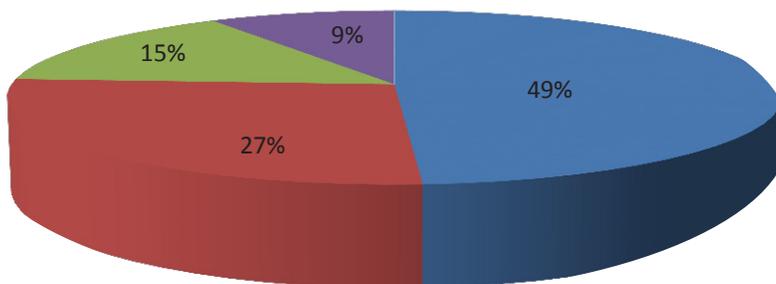
**16%** ↑

This represents a 16% increase in service utilization over the last fiscal year, primarily due to community education and grief resources and referrals.



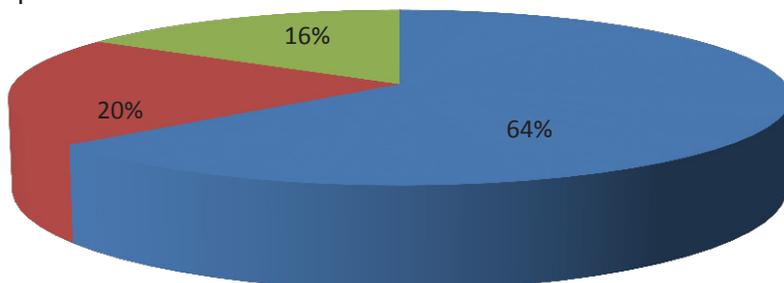
## 2011/2012 Fiscal Year

### Funding Sources



- Contributions & Events
- Foundations & Grants
- United Way Allocations & Designations
- Training & Education

### Expenses



- Program Services
- Administrative
- Fundraising

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Sandi Fabry, Community Outreach Coordinator

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\$15,000 and above

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Rebecca Simerly

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*\*These levels represent gifts made between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012. We are so grateful for your generous support and are deeply sorry if any names have been omitted. Please contact us at 402.488.8989 so we may update our list.*

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Patti Whitbeck  
Del Whitman  
Cindy Wilkinson  
Debra Winkler  
John & Kelly Zoz  
Walker & Katie Zulkoski

A proud agency of the:



## Partner's in Hope

The Mourning Hope Board is proud to annually thank an organization that has made a significant impact on Mourning Hope. We call this award, "Partners in Hope." The 2012 "Partners in Hope" award went to another nonprofit in Lincoln - Family Service. Family Service is dedicated to growing stronger families in the community. They provide more than 5,000,000 meals each year through a USDA food program in 84 Nebraska counties. This program feeds almost 24,000 children in licensed home child-care facilities. Family Service delivers the Women, Infant and Children program to 3,000 people in Lancaster County each month and care for more than 1,800 children who take part in their child care and early childhood programs based in 23 Lincoln Public Schools.

What many people are likely not aware of, is how many times Barry Gourley—Family Service's Executive Director—and other staff members have assisted Mourning Hope in our development. Mourning Hope has grown significantly in the last few years, but with our limited personnel resources, we've needed assistance with financial questions, policies and procedures, hiring processes, strategic planning and HR-related issues. One call to Family Service has led us immediately to the answer. The willingness of Family Service to mentor our smaller nonprofit is appreciated immensely.

So, it is with great pleasure that Mourning Hope announced Family Service as our 2012 "Partners in Hope" award winner.



## Spirit of Hope

This year, Mourning Hope elected to give one additional award which we termed the "Spirit of Hope" award. Unlike the "Partners in Hope" award, this award is designed for individuals who uniquely give above and beyond to bereaved youth in the community. For our first annual "Spirit of Hope" award, Mourning Hope decided to bestow the award to two individuals: Liz Shea-McCoy and Bob Reeker. Both Liz and Bob are local artists who work wonderfully with youth, and give willingly of their time and resources on a regular basis.

One of Mourning Hope's annual programs, "Art From Our Heart," partners local artists with children who have experienced the serious illness or death of someone significant in their lives. Liz and Bob have consistently served as our artists for this program, as well as helping the Center with many other art-related programs.

For bereaved children, we know that sometimes words are too difficult, but they can often express their feelings through other mediums, such as art. By working in tandem with professional local artists and trained grief facilitators, children gain valuable insight and understanding regarding their personal grief journey. This is only made possible by the generosity of individuals like Liz and Bob.



## 2012 Memorial Day: We Remember Them

The following Memorial Day tributes were made to Mourning Hope during the Lincoln Community Foundation's "Give to Lincoln Day:"

Angila Schlegelmilch  
Anthony Tompos  
Barbara Johnson  
Beth Corrick  
Carly and Kurt Runestad -  
In memory of Craig and Cleora Bellamy,  
Myron Woythaler and Diana Runestad  
Cheryl and Jay Byler  
Cynthia Wilkinson -  
In memory of Carole Glenn  
Dennis Stelzer  
Greg Nosan  
Gregory Dorff  
Jeff and Lori Patterson  
Jill Johnson  
JoAnne Kissel  
Joyce Schiermann  
Julia Larson

Karen Buchfinck -  
In memory of my dad, Donald Nusbaum  
Kelly Zoz  
Kim Larson  
Sue Gabriel  
Linda Hecht  
Linda Sullivan  
Lindy Mullin -  
In memory of my parents,  
Eddie & Janet Garner  
Mary Baler  
Michael Lindberg  
Molly and Paul Nance -  
In memory of wonderful men, Howard,  
Wayne, John and Marty Mattas  
Nancy Hanshaw  
Nicole and Wes Hecht-Juranek

Pam and John Dinneen -  
In memory of our grandparents  
Peter Ruhl  
Sandra Fabry  
Sue and Vern Kittinger  
Terry and Dave Hansen  
Tonn and Holly Ostergard

give  
To Lincoln Day  
May 17, 2012

Click to make your donation  
and learn more.



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Find Mourning Hope on Facebook!



To receive Mourning Hope's e-newsletter, highlighting upcoming programs and events, please send your name and e-mail address to [hope@mourninghope.org](mailto:hope@mourninghope.org).

## Become a Friend of Mourning Hope

Mourning Hope exists because every child deserves the opportunity to grieve in a supportive and understanding environment. Because the death of a family member brings financial instability, along with other life-altering changes, our services are available at no cost to the participants, and no family is ever turned away.

**YES!** I would like to help grieving children through Mourning Hope.  
Enclosed, please find my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is given in remembrance of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail donations to: Mourning Hope Grief Center  
4919 Baldwin Avenue  
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Donations may also be made  
online via credit card at  
[www.mourninghope.org](http://www.mourninghope.org).

### Bequests and Endowments:

We are most grateful to those donors who want to leave something for Mourning Hope in their Wills or pursuant to beneficiary designations on life insurance, retirement plans or other estate planning documents. All such documents should specify that the gift goes to Mourning Hope of Lincoln, Nebraska. Please let us know if you have an interest in other types of gift planning ideas. We enjoy a partnership with the Lincoln Community Foundation, Inc. to work directly with our donors to offer charitable remainder trusts, charitable gift annuities or to create endowment funds that will provide for a lasting stream of financial support for us. Please give us a call if we can help with your gift planning questions.

*"In the rising of the sun and in the going down -- we remember them. In the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter -- we remember them. In the warmth of the sun and the peace of summer -- we remember them. In the rustling of the leaves and the beauty of autumn -- we remember them. In the beginning of the year and when it ends -- we remember them. When we are weary and in need of strength -- we remember them. When we are lost and sick at heart -- we remember them. When we have joys and yearn to share -- we remember them. So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now a part of us -- as we remember them."*

*~ Jewish Remembrance*



because grief is the  
hardest work there is...  
hope is a wonderful thing.



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grief center

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