from the heart

NEWS FROM THE CENTER FOR GRIEVING CHILDREN *Our 2015 Report to the Community*

<image>

What a relief to find such kindness and compassion at the Center.

WHEN THERE IS SADNESS, FEAR, AND LONELINESS, YOU BRING LOVE.





Fall/Winter 2015

WELCOME

About the Center for Grieving Children

For children and families confronting loss, change, and grief when someone close to them dies or is seriously ill, the Center for Grieving Children is an oasis of loving support. Free for families, and facilitated by trained volunteers, the Center's agespecific peer support groups meet in Cumberland and York counties. Center training, information, and crisis response is available to schools, workplaces, and other organizations. Founded in 1987, the Center today reaches more than 4,000 people annually, and depends on funding from individuals, businesses, foundations, and United Way.

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CGCMAINE.ORG | 207.775.5216 Home: 555 Forest Ave., Portland, ME 04101 York County Site: 893 Main Street, Sanford, ME 04073

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Cover: The "Hope Butterfly" symbolizes National Grieving

Children's Awareness Day, the third Thursday of November.

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(1945-98), founder



It's what vou do.

Our 2015 Report to the Community shows what the Center accomplished during the year. But who really got it done? You!

The Center's success is because of you-the donors, volunteers, and business sponsors at the heart of our free service to families and our work throughout the community.

We proudly provide high-quality grief-support programs, with demonstrated outcomes, for children and their families.

We support the southern Maine community—in schools, workplaces, and agencies—through crisis response and loss- and grief-related information and training.

We're discovering new opportunities to support the loss and grief needs of elementary, middle, and high school students resettled locally from war-torn countries.

And we're working to increase awareness, use, and volunteerism that will expand our work within York County, where we have offered on-site service for four years.

As it has from its founding days nearly thirty years ago, the Center relies on people like you who believe no child should have to grieve alone.

On behalf of those children, their families, and our shared community, thank you.



Anne Lynch Executive Director Please call to arrange a tour of the Center for your group, or a Center presentation at your workplace.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

The Heart of the Center

Last year, volunteers gave the Center more than 24,000 hours of their time.

- More than one hundred of them volunteered weekly to facilitate peer griefsupport groups. Facilitators receive thirty hours of initial training and ongoing in-service training.
- Volunteers made our events successful. And at the Center, office vounteers and employee volunteer groups gardened, painted, cleaned, and more.
- Plus, we can't thank enough the volunteers who served on our Board of Directors, Advisory Council, and Intercultural Advisory Council.



Sorcha Cribben Merrill facilitator

"Everyone's voice is heard here. And each one is strengthened by trust."



Peter Prinz facilitator

"There is no greater satisfaction than to watch the darkness leave someone's eyes and see them begin to shine again. That is the power of working together, to help each other heal."



Sanaa Abduljabbar Intercultural Advisory Council member

"The Center made obvious changes in my son's life. So I made my decision to become part of the family who can create smiles in other children's lives."



Tricia Jamiol facilitator

"Where else can you sit in a room with twenty people and get to know them through their hearts?"



Ed Szalajeski facilitator

"My family is passionate about helping others on their journey at the Center, where we have received so much support."

My boss sent me!

They cleaned, gardened, painted, moved furniture, sorted supplies, donated items, and more! Energetic employee volunteer groups made great things happen throughout the year at our service sites in Sanford and Portland. They had fun, too, as they got to know the Center's work and one another.



2015 United Way Day of Caring gardened and cleaned.



IDEXX cleaned rooms and donated items.



Diversified Communications organized our supplies.

Would you like to become involved with the Center? Learn more about volunteer roles and training at our monthly orientations in Portland and Sanford. Call 207.775.5216 or email cgc@cgcmaine.org.

OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Bereavement Peer Support

Bereavement Peer Support is the core of the Center's work providing peer grief-support groups for children and teens and their adult family members. We also offer these groups for young adults, bereaved parents, and young widows/widowers/partners.



"My preschool daughters and I came to the Center about six weeks after my wife died. We kept coming, and it saved my life."

-Ed, who received Center services in Portland

"At the Center, I could allow myself to feel grief for me, and for my child, whose father was gone. We were in a place where we felt understood, loved, and cared for. It was OK not to be strong, and to be angry, frightened, sad, or just not feel at all."

-Cathy, who received Center services in Sanford

- In Portland and Sanford last year, this program served 209 children and teens, and 153 adults. New this year was a time-limited young adult group in Sanford.
- Throughout the year—in all Center programs—we continued to implement the program evaluation survey created to guide program development by helping participants reflect on personal changes along their grief journey.
- In the spring, a newly introduced "family night" with food and art-making gave participants a different and well-received way to support one another.

"When my sister died suddenly, two phone calls with the Center helped me and my mom work out what my niece and nephew needed soonest. It was such a rough time, and money was also a big concern. I will be forever grateful."

-Teresa, who called from Biddeford

Tender Living Care

Tender Living Care serves families living with the changes and losses that a family member's serious illness creates. It is available to support families as soon as a diagnosis is made.

- The Center's work building awareness of our "TLC" program increased to sixty the number of people served.
- System changes made it possible for more families to immediately begin attending.
- Service to TLC families included support by conference call and at hospital and hospice sites.

"I called the Center, in tears, worrying about my kids, when my mom and I were diagnosed with breast cancer, and my husband had a potentially cancerous tumor. In the TLC program, we have felt so incredibly supported. My children love it because they can express their feelings and know they are not the only kids going through something this hard. The commitment of Center volunteers is overwhelming. I have never known a resource like this."

-Tracy, whose family receives service in Portland



Multicultural Program



The Multicultural Program works with local schools to serve children resettled in Maine from war-torn countries. Intercultural Advisory Council members help the Center offer services that are inclusive, community-based, and culturally relevant.

- During the school year, the program served fifty-three elementary, middle, and high school students from Portland Public schools, and held two summer sessions.
- The University of Southern Maine and Portland Public Library displayed artwork created collaboratively by students in the program and USM artist-in-residence Traci Molloy.
- A standing-room-only Community Conversation gave Intercultural Advisory Council members a forum to share stories of loss, grief, change, challenge, and resilience experienced by those whose collective losses include loved ones and homelands.

Naomi moved to the United States at age nine, fleeing violence in South Sudan, where she had twice been shot. At the Center, she opened up about feeling isolated due to her loss and trauma and the differences from others she feels because of skin color and a gunshot wound to her face. Program peers helped her build confidence to speak up more with family and friends and feel empowered. Last year, she said, "I'm different—and loving it!"

Community Outreach

Training and Crisis Response in the Community brings schools, workplaces, local agencies, and other organizations information and support to help grieving children and adults in their communities.

- Several training sessions for a student travel organization focused on intercultural awareness related to grief, and protocols for responding to student deaths.
- Crisis response to schools included support when a student, teacher, or other school-community member died, sometimes through violence or suicide.
- One example of presentations requested last year is a Center keynote on children's grief for 100 volunteers at the New Hampshire Hospice Volunteers Education Day.

"It was extremely hard to see five-year-old students grieving for their classmate, who died from a terminal illness. The Center helped our teachers, administrators, and the students' parents learn how to support them. Every single thing the Center told us about behaviors and emotions we might see from these young children turned out to be true and made it so much less bewildering for staff and parents to know how to support the children. Today, nearly three years later, we see that this group of children is more advanced than even older students in their empathy and compassion for others."

-Ryan Quinn, principal of Kennebunk Elementary School



highlights

Published *A Guide for Parents* and *A Guide for Schools*, booklets with strategies for supporting grieving children and teens. Contact the Center to receive them.



Delivered webinars for and participated in the annual symposium of the **National Alliance of Grieving Children.**

Trained **six interns** from colleges throughout New England who served as facilitators and learned about working in a nonprofit organization.

Added to our Web site: **teen-made video clips** that introduce teens to the Center, and an **online catalog** of books and videos we make available to the public.

Increased our volunteer facilitators' skills through in-service trainings about grieving families' challenges and grief topics including suicide.

Welcomed donations to help volunteers create a **winter holiday toy shop** for Center families. Said one grateful mom, "It was so lovely, I burst into tears of relief."

Drew attention to national **Children's Grief Awareness Day**, the third Thursday in November, though social media, an op-ed in the *Portland Press Herald*, a customized video thanking Center donors and volunteers, and outreach within local workplaces.



OUT AND ABOUT

#LOVEGALA

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Volunteers + community + love added up to a record-breaking \$200,000 fundraised in February by Love Really Counts: Our 2015 Auction and Dinner Gala. As Love Sponsor, IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. continued top-level support. WCSH6 News Anchor Cindy Williams spotlighted our peer-group facilitators. Portland's landmark Time & Temperature clock flashed "LOVE GALA." The silent auction and the live auction led by Tom Saturley of Tranzon Auctions featured once-in-a-lifetime experiences. On an evening made magic by Transformit lighting, circus performers, marimba music, food, and drink, our guests also were treated to a delicious dessert: best-selling author Monica Wood warmly sharing poignant experiences about the universality of loss. It was an unforgettable evening.



Top left: Patricia Rosi Santucci, Katie Hogan, Lianna Doane, Kimberly Simard, Gail Bruzgo; Bottom left: Monica Wood and husband Dan Abbott; Bottom middle: Ron and Terry Cain; Far right: Doug Carr and Bill Caron



Chris Cimino, John Mosley, Paul Letalien, Melissa Smith, Kimberly Simard, Quincy Hentzel, Erin Ovalle (sitting), Sarah Mosley, Lianna Doane, Nancy Thompson (sitting), Gail Bruzgo, Amanda Rand, Peter Herzog, Gretchen Johnson, Ed Tumavicus

Holiday Generosity

For the second consecutive year, the Portland-based office of Eimskip USA made the Center beneficiary of its holiday charitable party, donating \$40,000 to our work. Making the evening festive and successful was a crowd of 200 guests from local businesses and organizations, including Center board members and friends (above).

Sea Dogs Summer

It became a two-year-old tradition in the summer of 2015: **Center Day at the Sea Dogs**, sponsored by MaineHealth. A great day at the ball park for current and alumni Center families, volunteer, and staff.



Dad Kristopher and son Jake Fish. Jake got to throw out the first pitch!

Markathon 2014

- It rocked! With Mark Curdo in the
- DJ seat, the seventh annual **93.4**
- WCYY Markathon broke \$50,000.
- The five-day radio week played
- on-air songs of callers' choosing
- in exchange for their financial
- donations to the Center. Joining
- Mark in the studio were Center
- families and volunteers, plus Center
- friends, including basketball Hall
- of Famer Dave Cowens, wicked
- funny comedian Bob Marley, King
- of Maine rapper Spose, and local music artists.



Above: Anne Wells, Kevin Montminy, Beth DeTine, Jane Petersen; Top right: Peter Carign, Vaughn Clark, Mike Frasier, and Rob Lally; Bottom right: Andy Dixon, Matt Theodores, Henry Bliss, Steve Hart

Swing "Fore" the Center

Our **Paul Gray Memorial Swing "Fore" the Center** has become a wonderful fall event. We are especially grateful for the support and leadership of our Title sponsors, MaineHealth and the Thomas Agency, and the generosity of spirit shared by Paul Gray's family and friends. With additional sponsors and golfers, and hosted by the Purpoodock Club in Cape Elizabeth, the tournament set a fundraising record in 2014 of \$65,000 and another one, in 2015, of \$73,000.

The B2B

It's the gift that keeps on giving. As a former beneficiary of the **TD Beach to Beacon 10K**, the Center is entitled to purchase 25 race bibs for entrants. We ask that each runner raise a minimum of \$500 for the Center. In 2014, Center "FundRacers" delivered \$19,000, and in 2015, more than \$20,000.



Kelly and Dave Shutoff, FundRacers

Community Events

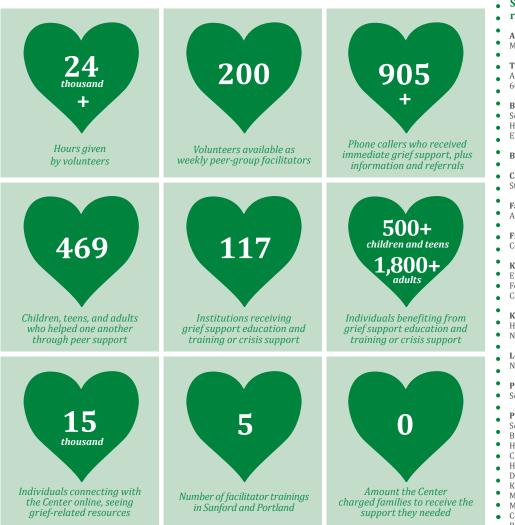
Our thanks to the many community members who organized events last year to benefit the Center. Not only did they raise funds to help the Center keep our services free for families, they also spread awareness of our work. Among local events last year, three raised from \$2,500-\$6,500 each: the Unumemployee-led **Annual Legends Memorial Classic**, the Maine Dart Association's **Port City Open**, and the **Real Deal 5K**.



BY THE NUMBERS

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

A Year of Big Data



Places We've Been

- Sample of community outreach including crisis
- response, training, and education
- Augusta: Maine School
- Management Association
- The Berwicks: Berwick Academy, Hussey Seating, MSAD
- 60, Noble High School Biddeford: Biddeford Middle
- School, Maine Behavioral
- Healthcare, St. James Elementary School

Brunswick: Bowdoin College

- Cararabasset Valley: Maine State Department of Education
- Falmouth: Southern Maine Agency on Aging
- Freeport: Maine School
- **Counselors** Association
- Kennebunk: Kennebunk
- Elementary School, May Day
- Festival, Snug Harbor Farm, York County United Way Coalition

Kittery: Maine Behavioral Healthcare, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

- Lewiston: Maine State School Nurses Association
- Poland: Poland Community School
- Portland: Americorps, Baxter
- School, Boys & Girls Club,
- Breakwater School, Casco Bay
- High School, Catholic Charities,
- CIEE, City of Portland Public
- Health, Connections Academy, Deering High School, InterMed,
- King Middle School, Lincoln
- Middle School, Lyman Moore
- Middle School, Portland Community Health Center,

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Portland Police Department, .

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Portland Public Library, Maine Medical Center, Multicultural and Multilingual Center of Portland Public Schools, Reiche Elementary School, Riverton Park, STRIVE, TIP - Trauma Intervention Program, University of Southern Maine

Saco: Key Bank, Peoples Choice Credit Union, Southern Maine Health Care

Sanford: Sanford High School, Sanford Strong, North Parish Congregational United Church of Christ, United Way of York County

Scarborough: Maine Medical Center Cancer Institute

South Portland: InterMed, Southern Maine Community College, South Portland High School, STRIVE, TD Bank, Texas Instruments

Springvale: Maine Behavioral Healthcare

Waterboro: RSU 57

Wells: York County Community College

Westbrook: IDEXX

Yarmouth: InterMed

Out of State:

Guilford, Connecticut: Kids HUGS

Rochester. New Hampshire: Victims Inc.

Portland, Oregon: National Association of Grieving Children

FINANCIAL STATISTICS (AUDITED)

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Revenue

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Revenue from Services*	\$0
Contributions, Grants, Events, Community Support	\$903,847
Investment Gain	\$1,214
Total Revenues	\$905,061

Expenses

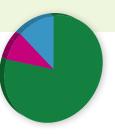
Program Services	\$681,850
Management and General	\$97 , 007
Fundraising	\$73,750
Total Expenses	
Unrestricted Margin	\$52,453



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Revenue by Source

- Special Events 42%
- Grants 18%
- Contributions 19%
- United Way Allocation and Designated Donors 14%



Expense Allocation

- Program Services 80%
- General Fundraising 8.6%
- Management and General 11.4%

*The Center provides services to grieving children and families at no charge, through the tremendous generosity of our community.

Corporation and Foundation Support

THANK YOU July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

We thank many leading businesses for their strong support of the Center.

"We are proud to support the Center and its mission to provide a safe, loving environment for children and families to express themselves during their grieving processes. It's gratifying to provide grants to local organizations that help meet the increasing needs of the community."

> — Maria Collins, vice president, New York Life Foundation

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"IDEXX is proud to support the Center and its peer support programs. It is a wonderful place, available at no cost to families in our community, where the healing power of love is incredibly strong."

> — Mike Lane, corporate vice president, IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.

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"Harvard Pilgrim is committed to inclusion in our community. The Center's Multicultural Program meets a tremendous need among young people of all cultures who are coping with loss."

— Ed Kane, Harvard Pilgrim vice president for Maine

.

"MaineHealth is pleased to support the Center. The unique services it provides are vital for children and families, and are a tremendous resource for our community."

— William Caron, chairman & CEO, MaineHealth

.

"It is with tremendous pride that WEX supports the Center for Grieving Children. Our community is filled with countless personal stories of the difference the Center has made to families in times of need."

> — Melissa Smith, president & CEO, WEX, Inc.

\$35,000 +

New York Life Insurance United Way of Greater Portland **\$25,000-\$30,000** Eastpoint Christian Church Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare IDEXX Laboratories, Inc.

\$10,000-\$20,000

Pierce Atwood Sam L. Cohen Foundation General Dynamics, Bath Iron Works The William J.J. Gordon Family Foundation MaineHealth MassMutual Financial Group WEX Inc.

\$5,000-\$9,999

Bank of America Charitable Foundation Frances Hollis Brain Foundation Inc. Cumberland County Fund of the Maine Community Foundation Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund The Eunice Frve Home Foundation Gorham Savings Bank Maine Dart Association Medical Mutual Insurance Company of Maine RE/MAX by the Bay Rines Thompson Fund of the Maine Community Foundation SGC Engineering, LLC Shamrock Sports Smith Family Charitable Trust Spectrum Medical Group Tex-Tech Industries The Thomas Agency, Inc United Way of York County

\$2,500-\$4,999

A.T. Hutchins, LLC Anthem Blue Cross Baker Newman & Noyes Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC Margaret Burnham Charitable Trust Conroy-Tully Crawford Funeral Home Edward H. Daveis Benevolent Fund of the Maine Community Foundation H.M. Payson, Inc. Kids HUGS Program Martin's Point Healthcare Patrons Oxford Insurance Company Skilful Home Recreation Stoddard Charitable Trust TD Bank Unity Foundation Unum

\$1,500-\$2,499

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Systems Engineering The Masonic Charitable Foundation The Miley Foundation Town & Country Federal Credit Union Triton Foundation Truist Verrill Dana LLP Wellness Connection of Maine

\$1,000-\$1,499

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\$500-\$999 Aetna Foundation, Inc.

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\$250-\$499

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We are grateful to <u>everyone</u> who gives to the Center.

A complete list of 2014-15 donors can be found online at cgcmaine.org.



Fredrick C. Durst (1929-2015)

Fred Durst and his wife Marilyn began volunteering for the Center in its earliest days, serving as peer-group facilitators. When their adult son died several years later, the Center's support was there for their daughter-in-law and grandchildren. After Marilyn died in 2008, Fred remained a facilitator and a generous mentor to our staff and volunteers. He died in March, just one month after celebrating his 86th birthday at the Center's annual gala. We are grateful to Fred for his wisdom and humor, his many years of service and support, and his planned legacy gift to the Center. He will be missed.

Thank you for your loyalty and generosity in making gifts to the Center. If you have arranged through your will to make a bequest, please let us know, so that we may express our gratitude for your "forever gift."

Gifts from Individuals

\$5,000-\$10,000

Michael and Denise Dubyak Stephen Hart Joe and Carole Long William O'Donnell Melissa Smith and Brian Corcoran Peter and Donna Verrill

\$2,500-\$4,999

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\$500-\$999

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\$200-\$499

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Volunteers

Peer Group Facilitators

20+ Years of service Jacob and Kristine Watson Reid Stevens

15-19 Years of service Henry Bliss Ina Demers • Chris Gower Beth Van Gorden Joanne Larman Shawna Ohm • Shavna Ohm • Sheryl Plummer Jori Rynberg Abdimajid Sharif • Linda Siglock

10-14 Years of service

Allison Beck Andy Dixon Claudia Dwver Steve Hart Tatyana Herron Drew Hill Sharon Hill Tricia Jamiol Stephanie Morris Cathleen O'Donnell Cathy Paglio Connie Palys Toni Parise Leslie Smith Jennifer Stockless Karen Stowe

5-9 Years of service

Lynn Abood Peter Arndt Angie Arndt Paul Attardo Patti Campbell Beth Carter Valerie Craig Diane Dickinson Marjorie Ford Pam Hines Monique Isherwood Jean Jala Noreen Jensen Sheila Jepson Maureen Keeley Beth Kittredge Joan Martay Alissa Messer Peter Prinz * Beth Quinlan Peggy Rowe Daniela Skalina Pat Stone Amber Strickland Doug Watts

1-4 Years of service

Judith Abdalla

, Sanaa Abduljabar 🔹 Danielle Alexander Kristina Andren Jared Archambault , Laurie Armstrong Brianna Babick Faith Barnes Carmela Barton Michaela Belair Michael Berkowitz Lori Black Michael Boardman Goeffrey Bohannan Michaela Boland Ann Marie Briggs Gail Brooks Kate Brown Hannah Brown Amanda Bucci Jim Byers Iane Cahill Susan Casey Liz Clough Liz Colburn Heather Corey Maryann Corsello Sorcha Cribben-Merrill Triss Critchfield Pheobe Crockett Kathryn Diggs Lazarus Donato • Megan Dow Julie Edmonson Jack Flanagan Lynn Foley * Paul Forman Leah Foti * Karen Franciose Kristine Franklin Cheryl Fullerton Nancy Gearin Rachel Gitelson Natalva Gorsky Tim Griffin Lynne Grimaldi Nicole Grover Lisa Hammer Lucy Hardy Suad Hassar Rebecca Hatch Owen Haves Anne Heelan Deb Henry* Christine Hensley Lynne Holler Tom Hopkins Susan Howe Lisa Howell Susan Hoyt Pamela Kallas Nancy Kellar Jane Kirton Edward Laboke • Amanda Langley Janine Lauze Sue LoBosco Helen Lonegar Amanda Lopez Blaise Maccarrone Margo Mallar * Jeanne Markin Debbie Mazjanis Susan McCadam Pam McGrath Sharon McKenna Audrey McMorrow Nikki Millonzi Gina Mitchell Rose Mary Muir Donna Oakley Beth Olsen Suzanne Patterson Alli Penan Bethany Peterson-Leck Maria Peverada Deb Pfeffer Linda Piper Jay Piscopo Cary Plummer

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Less than One Year

Rasha Al Tissini Marianne Ameika Rebecca Anderson Rachel Bristol Caitlin Cleary Tina Courcy Robert Courcy Natalie Dean Ioleen DeWitt Jackie Downing Marianne Fasulo Jody Fuller Lauren Herzig Amy Hoffman Cathy Hussey Dara Jarrendt Tiffany Nelson Shirley Parker Kyle Peterman Claire Prescott Ryan Quinn Jean Taylor-Kiley Julia Trujillo-Luengo • Sophie Veilleux Nancy Verrill

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You help children and families recover hope when they need it most.

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the

grieving

families find hope and love

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- Youth experience positive behavioral changes, such as better eating, sleeping, concentration, and motivation.
- Eighty-five percent of parents tell us the Center is meeting their families' grief-support needs.
- Ninety percent of youth and adults say they feel comfortable at the Center and have positive relationships with their facilitators.

Coming Up!



2015-16 Hoops for Hope, presented by General Dynamics-Bath Iron Works

Sign up with the Maine Red Claws for visibility and season tickets that benefit the Center! #hoopsforhope



Love Really Counts: Our Annual Auction and Dinner Gala, Friday, February 26, 2016

A sell-out event! Sponsor, donate, volunteer, or buy a ticket. #lovegala



Swing "Fore" the Center: Paul Gray Memorial Golf Tournament, Tuesday, September 13, 2016 Join leading Maine businesses sponsoring and

playing in this unique tournament. #paulgraygolf



FundRacing in the 2016 TD Beach to Beacon 10K, Saturday, August 6, 2016

Let us know by March that you want to run and raise a minimum of \$500 for us. It's easier than you might think! #cgcfundracer

Community Conversations



Join a discussion with community members who experienced loss and change when they left wartorn homelands and resettled locally in Maine. To be held in spring 2016.

More info is available! Call the Center at 207.775.5216 Email: info@cgcmaine.org Check: cgcmaine.org

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