

from the heart

OUR 2017 REPORT
TO THE COMMUNITY



“The Center is a place of peace and warmth, where those of us who have experienced the loss of a loved one can go to get a respite from the daily demands of grief. It is a place of acceptance, caring, empathy, and understanding. It is one of the few places where there is no judgement, because everyone there can relate to your feelings.”


the
center for
grieving children
where families find hope and love

FALL/WINTER 2017

resilience: belonging. hopefulness. support.

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TRAINERS

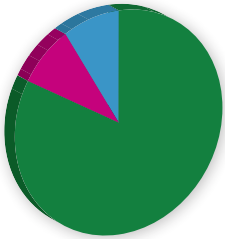
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FINANCIAL STATISTICS

**The Center provides services to grieving children and families at no charge, through the tremendous generosity of our community. From the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year, audited financials from the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year will be available in December.*

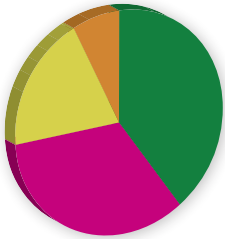


Expense Allocation

- Program Services: 83.2%
- General Fundraising: 8.4%
- Management and General: 8.4%

Expenses

Program Services: \$760,806
Management and General: \$76,382
Fundraising: \$77,256
Total Expenses: \$914,444
Unrestricted Margin: \$25,150



Revenue by source

- Individuals: 40%
- Events: 34%
- Grants: 19%
- Other: 7%

Revenue

Revenue from Services*: \$0
Contributions, Grants, Events,
Community Support: \$942,814
Investment Gain: (\$3,220)
Total Revenues: \$939,594



Thank you, Bill

Bill Hemmens founded the Center in 1987, following the death of his sister. In trying to find help and support for his niece Erin, Bill recognized that children need peers and caring adults to support them through their grief, because death profoundly affects every aspect of their lives.

Thirty years after founding the Center, Bill is still a part of everything we do here. Bill's dream was to provide a safe place for children and families to grieve—providing peer support lovingly facilitated by trained volunteers from the community and not seeking to "fix" the child or adult. This unique place, the third of its kind in the nation, continues to touch the hearts of all who pass through its doors. We owe a great debt to Bill – for being brave enough to stand up for what 'really counts' – love.

(1945-1998)

. welcome

Dear Friends,

What an incredible year it has been for the Center. We celebrated 30 years of providing loving peer support to more grieving children, teens, and adults than ever before, all at no cost to them.

We continue to deepen our understanding of the needs of our community. The majority of families in our Bereavement and Tender Living Care programs seek support because cancer has affected their lives. This year, we responded to an increased number of family calls concerning suicide, accident, and overdose deaths. We expanded our training and consultation offerings to share knowledge gained in our 20 years of serving new Americans in our Intercultural program.

Bereaved children and teens are at an increased risk of substance use, problems in school, and suicide; our goal is to provide quality services that help children, teens, and their families increase their resilience in the face of grief and loss. Program evaluation shows that our services are working. **Participants in our peer support programs experience an increase in resilience, sense of belonging, hopefulness, and family support.**

Businesses, schools, institutions, and organizations turn to us for invaluable professional training, support, and consultation. Our programs reach across Southern Maine and touch thousands through these outreach efforts.

As our 30th year draws to a close, I thank you for your support of our work and our families, and for being a part of this incredible community of caring. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, and that the Center is a trusted local resource and a national leader.

To the next 30 years and beyond.

With Gratitude,



Anne Heros - Executive Director



looking back



Bill Hemmens and volunteers launch the Center, introducing the first model of bereavement peer support on the East Coast.



1987

Tender Living Care program begins serving families living with serious illness.



1994

First year of the annual auction and dinner gala.

Collaborate with Portland Public Schools to launch the Intercultural (formerly Multicultural) program for children from war-torn countries.



1997

Help launch America's Camp for children whose parents or siblings died in the attacks of 9/11.

Fall Training Institute begins, teaching people from Maine and beyond how to conduct volunteer-based bereavement support.



2002

Expand our reach by launching a second service site in Sanford.

Convened the Intercultural Advisory Council.



2011

30th Anniversary – Surpass \$1M philanthropic goal, announce the Bill Hemmens Legacy Society, and reconnect with former families and volunteers.



2017

As we celebrated our 30th anniversary, we were honored to gather together with our volunteers - both past and present.

Volunteers are the heart of the Center. From serving as peer facilitators, to helping in the office and providing event support, our programs would not be possible without them. This year we recognized seven of our volunteers whose work has made a lasting impact on families and fellow volunteers.

HEMMENS AWARD

The Bill Hemmens award recognizes an individual whose outstanding service and commitment to grieving children, teens, and families has made a lasting impact on the mission and vision of the Center for Grieving Children.



Abdimajid Sharif,
Member of Intercultural Advisory Council
20 years of service

Empathetic, warm, and family oriented, Abdi understands the healing power of community first hand. 20 years ago, Abdi was instrumental in starting the Intercultural Peer Support Program. Today, he continues to use his skills as a community builder to empower participants and their families, build bridges across cultures, and ensure the program's continued success.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The President's award recognizes an individual whose service to the Center provides resources, insights, or knowledge to advance the mission and who increases community awareness of the Center.



Patricia Rosi-Santucci,
Board Member
5 years of service

Multi-talented and creative, Patricia's leadership and vision have transformed the Love Really Counts: Auction & Dinner Gala. Five years ago, Patricia joined our Board. Her talents are many. Her first task was updating the branding for the Center – helping to update all materials, and creating a visual identity for the programs. Later she took on the role of Creative Chair of the auction and it has flourished. Now it is a must-attend charity event in Portland. Patricia's energy and support of the Center have helped us to increase the amount we raise at the auction, which allows us to serve more families.

HERO AWARDS



Allison Beck,
Bereavement Facilitator
16 years of service

Allison has given incredible time, energy, and heart to the Center. A steadfast facilitator, she has worked with a teen group since she started. Allison offers a welcoming, non-judgmental presence and open heart to the group. Beyond her facilitation at the Center, Allison served for six years as a Buddy at America's Camp, helped drive the creation of our butterfly garden, and has generously drawn on her own loss to help new facilitators in training.



Lori Black,
Bereavement Facilitator
7 years of service

Lori is kind, reassuring, and creates a warm loving environment for our Center families. She was one of the first people we reached out to in our expansion to Southern Maine. Stepping in wherever needed, Lori has run volunteer orientations, held initial family meetings, mentored new facilitators, and helped raise awareness of the Center in the community. Lori is an incredible ambassador, who helped us secure our space in Sanford, as well as our sign on Main Street.



Carolyn Lane,
Development/Communications Support
10 years of service

Carolyn's big heart coupled with the high quality of her work and professionalism is like having our own, perfectly matched marketing and communications consultant. Her work has included securing countless donations for Center events, building relationships with donors and supporters, and most recently – speaking compassionately with Center families to capture their stories of grief and loss. Carolyn's efforts and time have been critical to ensuring that our services remain free for our families.



Anne Marie Rouselle,
Office and Event Support
5 years of service

Vivacious energy, along with her giant smile, positive outlook, and enthusiasm for tasks at hand – Anne Marie is a valued member of our team. She is our only volunteer trained to answer the phone, serving as a voice of compassion and empathy for anyone reaching out to the Center for support and information. From administrative office tasks, to support at our myriad fundraising events, Anne Marie is a volunteer of many talents that we so appreciate.



Pat Stone,
Tender Living Care Team Coordinator
9 years of service

Pat always brings warmth, love, and the kindest smile to those who work, volunteer, and seek support at the Center. She goes beyond her leadership role as Tender Living Care Team Coordinator, helping with community outreach, participating in countless initial family meetings, and educating Center training classes about the Tender Living Care program. She is a role model for facilitators and a wonderful representative of the Center.

volunteers

Linda Kelly
Trainer
Faculty, International Training Institute
Program Director, Retired
28 years of service

Linda’s commitment, energy, and passion for the mission of the Center has been a mainstay of the warmth and sensitivity that has helped thousands of children cope with the death of a loved one. For 20 years, Linda served as Program Director for the Center.

Her dedication to the guiding principles of the Center’s founder, Bill Hemmens, and her fidelity to the core values of peer support ensured that all children, teens and families who came to the Center were met with kindness and appropriate support as they made their own journey through grief to find new hope.

As Program Director, Linda led the International Training Institute each fall to train and prepare other people from all over the US and beyond to start similar centers for grieving children in their own communities.

The cornerstones of the Center are the volunteers who support families, and the training program that prepares them for the rich and rewarding experience of working with those who are grieving. Even after retiring, Linda has continued in the role of training and supporting each and every one of the Center’s hundreds of program facilitators.



Linda Kelly and Anne Heros, Executive Director



..... thank you

“Volunteer facilitators are with our families on each day and night of service. Their peer support education and ongoing support is provided by a team of volunteer trainers and consultants. Thank you to our trainers for their continued dedication to our mission, setting the tone of presence, listening, and compassion, so facilitators can best serve our families. As our facilitators give so much to our families, thank you to our consultants, for your ongoing time spent ensuring our facilitators are supported.” —Anne Heros, Executive Director

bereavement program “The Center is **hope.**”—Kristen

Providing grief support for children, teens, their parents and caregivers, young adults, bereaved parents, and widows/widowers/partners.

FAMILY SUPPORT

In addition to our regular bereavement peer support groups, parents received expert guidance from trained mental health professionals on our special parent education nights. The nights allowed parents to ask questions, learn strategies, and increase their understanding of their children’s needs.

At the end of the year, we joined together for family nights, where each family unit created a work of art representing their unique and special family story.

368
individuals
served at Sanford
site since
opening

“I knew I was in a safe place. If not for the Center, I wouldn’t have the relationship or the friendships I have today. Attending the Center was my first realization that there is a place to go to get help. The Center provides hope because you know you are not alone.”

—Kristen, who received bereavement services



In her early 20s, Kristen suddenly lost the love of her life and was feeling lost. She attended the Center’s Young Adult group for 3 years, as it gave her the sense of grounding she craved. She remains close with a dear friend she met in the group.

120
new families
joined groups
this year

“The Center is **magic.**”—The Grocki Family



Tom and Lois had been married for 4 years, with two young children, when Tom was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma – a terminal cancer. Terrified, lost, confused, and angry – the Grocki family found the Center, and it was “lifesaving”.

tender living care program

75%
of TLC families
have been
affected by
cancer

Helping children, teens, young adults, parents, and caregivers through the changes that come with a family member’s diagnosis of serious illness. Support is available from the point of diagnosis and at every step along their journey with the illness.

COZY NIGHT

In December, families gathered together for Cozy Night, during their night of service. Outfitted in pajamas and armed with warm drinks, families celebrated the holidays under the glow of low light, honoring their time together.

“Before the program, we felt like we were in a bubble and everyone else was outside. We felt disconnected. The key was that there was a group for each of us; one for Tom, one for me, and one for each of the kids. Because of this, we didn’t have to worry about protecting each other. We could honestly express our feelings and get relief. The magic was that we didn’t feel we were in a bubble anymore. We had others to connect with that understood. Sometimes words weren’t necessary. We just were.”

—Grocki family, who received Tender Living Care services

intercultural program

Creating healing communities for children and teens resettled in Maine from countries that have experienced war, violent conflict, and natural disaster, offered in collaboration with Portland Public Schools and others.



COMMUNITY NIGHT

At the end of the year, student participants, facilitators, and family members were invited to share a meal and hear the culmination of the students’ work together – a fully original album, Rise Up To Change. Nearly 100 people attended the Community Night to experience the healing power of community and celebrate each other’s strength.

“Working with teens in the Intercultural program has been life changing for me. Volunteering at the Center has not only made me reconnect with my purpose in life, but has also made me realize that if you want to touch the future, touch a life.” —Frank, who volunteers in the Intercultural program.



Frank was born in Rwanda. In 1994, Frank witnessed the tragic genocide, seeing his father and other family members killed. In 2015, he came to the United States and settled in Maine. He connected with the Center and became a program facilitator. The training was transformative for Frank, giving him space to grieve his own losses and preparing him to create the same space for others.

..... “The Center is life changing” —Frank

INTERCULTURAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

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- Dr. Abdullahi Ahmed
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- Blancha Santiago
- Sue Ellen Santiago
- Doris Santoro
- Abdimajid Sharif
- Abigail Snyder
- Bruce St. Thomas
- Carl Toney
- Grace Valenzuela



Providing services and resources to both individuals and groups, to help them support grieving children and teens in the places where they live, learn, and play.

The Center is a proud member of the National Alliance for Grieving Children (NAGC). Executive Director, Anne Heros, helped found the organization. Director of Programs and Operations, Susan Giambalvo, serves on the NAGC board.

Outreach Locations

- Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine
Alere
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
AmeriCorps Concord, NH
AmeriCorps Portland, ME
Baker Co.
Bowdoin College
Boys and Girls Club
Brixham Montessori Friends School
Cancer Care Center York County
Casco Bay Montessori School
Catherine Morrill Day Nursery
Central Maine Power
Church on the Cape
Deering High School
Fiddlehead School
First Congregational Church UCC
Friends of York Hospital
Gorham Middle School
- Gray/New Gloucester Elementary School
Huntington Commons
Hussey Seating
Jameson Elementary School
Kawaniis
Kayler Elementary School
Knights of Columbus, Wells
Lincoln Middle School
LL Bean
Locker Project
Long Creek Youth Development Center
Mahoney Middle School
Maine Medical Center
Maine Women's Network
Morrison Center
Naragansett Elementary School
National Alliance for Grieving Children
New England School Nurses Association
NorDX
- North Parish Congregational UCC
Opportunity Alliance
Oyster River Middle School
PAVA
Penninsula Dioceses of Maine
Portland Chamber of Commerce
Portland Empowered
Portland High School
Portland Public Schools
Pratt and Whitney
Riverton Elementary School
Riverton Park Housing
Rotary Club of Kennebunkport
Rotary Club of Ogunquit
Rotary Club of Wells
RSU 5 Freeport
Rubb, Inc.
Safe Harbor Recovery Center
Sanford High School
- Sanford Mainers
School Nurses Conference
SIETAR Switzerland
St. George's Episcopal Church
Thornton Academy
University of New England
University of Southern Maine, Gorham
University of Southern Maine, Portland
UNUM
Wells-Ogunquit Community School District
Westbrook Public Schools
WEX
York County Community College
York County Early Childhood Coalition
York Hospital
York Hospital Hospice

PHONE & EMAIL SUPPORT

Trained Center staff answer calls and emails with questions or concerns about how to support loved ones through grief and loss, and provide referrals to other resources and support.



This year there was an increase in the complexity of families' needs as well as an increase in the number of calls, resulting in more time spent providing this individualized support.



RESOURCES

Our website includes helpful articles, activities for families and children, links to websites providing online support, a searchable database of Maine resources, and our own Center publications – booklets for parents and schools on supporting grieving children and teens, including A Family's Journey, a publication from the Tender Living Care program.



Individuals and families seeking resources can use our website as a first step. We had an increase of over 4% of website visits coming from new sources; the Center information is being used by a new audience.

TRAINING & CONSULTATION

We custom design training and crisis response sessions for schools, groups, agencies, and businesses who are looking to better support grieving children and understand peer support programming.



CRISIS OUTREACH

Center staff is available to provide support for schools or workplaces during a grief-related crisis.



We delivered a webinar for the Swiss Society for Intercultural Education, Training, and Research. The group was interested in learning more about our program as a model for serving refugee children.

events

Thank you to all of our community members who celebrated with us this year and whose continued support makes our work possible.

“The Center is an anchor for me, and I have received so much more than I could ever give.” —Allison Beck, Hero Award Winner

BEACH TO BEACON

25 fundracers raised over \$20,000 supporting the Center and running in the 2016 TD Beach to Beacon.

WCYY MARKATHON

Mark Curdo took to the air for the 9th year of Markathon, featuring visits from local business owners, Center families, and many song requests. Thanks to sponsors and callers, nearly \$65,000 was raised for the Center.

SWING “FORE” THE CENTER

The 2016 Swing “Fore” the Center: Paul Gray Memorial Golf Tournament was held at the Purpoodock Club. Golfers enjoyed a beautiful day on the course, raising over \$62,000 for the Center.

LOVE REALLY COUNTS

A sold-out event, 630 guests came together for the annual Auction & Dinner Gala. Mission co-speakers were Board President, Kim Simard, and her daughter Erin, who shared a portion of her college admission essay about the impact of the Center’s support following her father’s death.

The room came alive during the Sponsor-A-Child portion of the evening, when it was announced that 30th anniversary corporate sponsor, WEX, would be matching donations.

102
hours of on air time,
music requests,
and Center
stories

\$300,000
a record amount
raised at our
auction



The Center was chosen
as a beneficiary of Pape Subaru’s
Share the Love event.

Thank you to Pape for the
\$44,000 donation!



thank you

Annual Fund Donors

\$10,000+

Michael and Denise Dubyak
Stephen Hart
Robert T. French Family Fund
The Dorothy Suzi Osher
Foundation Trust
The William J.J. Gordon
Family Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Fisher Charitable Foundation
Joan M. Conroy
Joseph Kocknavate
Dr. Joe and Carole Long
Smith & Wilkinson
The Shore Fund

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Charles and Sandra Bagwell, M.D.
Ben and Linda Fisher Fund
Tim and Janet Brewer
Kevin and Amanda Bunker
Brian Corcoran and Melissa Smith
Richard and Jackie Leach
Paul and Janet Letalien
Joe Martinez, M.D. and Katie Fisher
Marianne Murray
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Smith Family Charitable Trust
Will Stiles and Hilary Rapkin
Ed and Megan Tumavicus, M.D.s
Verrill Foundation

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Christopher Bender
George Calvert and Mary Austin Dowd
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Peter and Gail Cinelli
Nathan Clark and Kathryn Burnham
Jay and Lindsey Collins
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Smaha Family Charitable Fund
Kimberly Simard
Kevin and Kathy Smith
Eric and Beth Ann Swan
The Miley Foundation
Triton Foundation
Herbert and Grace Tyler
Harold Vayo and Linda Woods
Don and Anne Vermeil
Wireless Zone Foundation

\$500 - \$999

Anthem Dollars For Doers
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Robert and Kate Baldacci
Baldwin Foundation
Benevity Community Impact Fund
Bruce Dalbeck and Christine Bennett, MD.
Henry Bertin, III
Wade and Jenny Brainerd
Seth and Amy Bruning
Dan and Gail Bruzgo
Philip Scavotto and Cecilia Caldwell
David Christensen
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Amanda Coffin
Tracey Collins
Peter and Leslie Connolly
Bob and Kimberly Donnelly
Edward S. and Cornelia Greaves Fund
Barbara Esposito
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Tiffany L. Higgins
Kevin Hunt and Elizabeth Mitchell Hunt
Bill and Holly Kany
Sarah Kramlich
David and Kara Leopold
Tirumala Devi Maganti
John and Jeanne Markin
David and Raina Maxwell
Jay and Constance Mazelsky
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\$250 - \$499

Lynn Abood
Sara Almy
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Helen Andreoli
Vincent Asanza
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John Bennett and Abigail
Snyder
Richard Borts and Paulette York
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Melody Burns
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Douglas Darby
Nathan and Ilona Davis
Mario De La Garza
Frederick Demers
Thomas and Shelley Doak
Fred Durst
Katharine Estabrook
Austin and Eileen Farrar
Estelle Farris
Lawrence and Shelagh Foley
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Laurel J. LaBonte
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Jamie Logan
Don and Rita Marie Lore
Ronald and Jane Maheu
Aidan Webb and Misty Mallar
Carrie McCusker
Peter McDonald and Janet
Rathbun

Misty McFarland
Keane and Kelly McGarvey
Gerald H. Morin, Jr.
Wayne and Caroline Morong
Monique M. Murray
John and Jennifer Mull-Brooks
Robert and Janet Nelson
Peter Norton
Ben and Frankie Odom
Cathleen O'Donnell
Alonzo Osgood
Harry and Beatrice Osgood
Elizabeth Pforzheimer
Mark Philbrick
Candice Pierce
Cheryl Plourde
Charles and Margaret Pothier
Sandra R. Potter
Karen M. Puckett
John and Jennifer Pulvino
Brian and Cathy Roberts
Gwen Rogers
Garry Schaedel and Patricia
Wesley
Second Levey Foundation
Kenneth and Sally Smith
Kenneth and Heidi Foreman-
Smith
Kenneth Spirer and Joan Leitzer
Andrew and Ann Stickney
Steve Strout and Susan
Giambalvo
Timothy and Lorraine Sullivan
Michael and Laura Totta
Kevin Trytek
Jim and Sarah Van Fleet
Rodney and Stacy Varney
Samip and Shikha Vasaiwala
Heather L. Walker
Tammy Ward
David Warren
Joel T. Wezowicz
Laurie Wood
Howard Yates

\$10,000+

InterMed
Maine Red Claws
Subaru of America, Inc.
WEX

\$5,000 - \$9,999

HM Payson
Diversified Communications
Give With Liberty
Knights of Columbus #9782
Maine Marathon/Maine Half Marathon

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Bangor Savings Bank
FM Global Foundation
Real Deal 5k
RunWalk Company, Inc.
Sellers Publishing, Inc.
Strategic Media
Unum Matching Gifts Program

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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Allagash Brewing Company, Inc.
ASAP Taxi & Courier Service
David Banks Real EstateTeam
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
Gorham Savings Bank
Gramercy Property Trust
Hurricane Mountain Consulting, Inc.
IBM Employee Services Center
J. Gaudet Associates
Jim Godbout Plumbing & Heating
Molina Healthcare, Inc.
Morse Hill Trust
New York Life Insurance
Pfizer Foundation Volunteer Program
Portland Pirates Foundation
R. M. Davis, Inc.
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St. Peter's Church
Systems Engineering
Truist
United Way of Massachusetts Bay &
Merrimack Valley
United Way of Mid Coast ME
United Way Suncoast

\$500 - \$999

Auto Europe
Berry Talbot Royer
Maine Community
Foundation
C. M. Cimino Realty, Inc.
Chipotle
Dawson Smith Purvis &
Bassett, P.A.
Falmouth Dental Health
Falmouth High School
Leonardo's Pizza
Morrison Center
Port City Architecture
Saint Mary's Episcopal Church
Sun Life Financial
Timber Island Builders
United Way of Central and
Northeastern Connecticut
United Way of Kennebec
Valley
Unum
Yarmouth Lions Club
Webhannet Charitable
Foundation

\$250 - \$499

Altrusa International Inc.
of Portland
BerryDunn
Blue Knights Maine Chapter II
Falmouth Lions Club
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Greely Middle School
Holden Agency Insurance
Italian Heritage Center
J.B. Brown & Sons
Lila East End Yoga
Lions Club of Cape Elizabeth, Inc.
Maine Centers for Healthcare
MaineHealth Information
Services
Morgan Stanley
Northeast Delta Dental
Reed & Reed
Unity Lodge #3
Woodard & Curran, Inc.

IN MEMORY AND HONOR

In memory (+\$50)

Marie Almy
Lillian Arsenault
Robert A. Atkinson, Sr.
Gary Bailey
Peggy Barry
Spencer Bean
Hope Bolster
Grace Brescia
Mike Churchill
Gregory Collins, MD
Katherine Cousins
Robbie and Katie Craig
Sloan Critchfield
Mike Cushman
Joshua Lee Danforth
Deborah Daniels
Courtney Dewitt
Kristen Dirrigl-Martin
Barbara Donaghy
Elizabeth Donahue
Anthony Doria
Fred Durst
Mary Edgecomb
Milton Emerson
Isaiah Fajardo
Molly Fitzpatrick
Daniel Fleming

In honor (+\$50)

Sara Asch
David Aust
David and Donna Banks
Carly Bouchard
Melissa Boyd
Russell Britton
Renee Bunker
Tracey Collins
Mark Curdo
Michael Dubyak
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looking ahead

NAGC Webcast

Thursday, November 2nd

The Center will host the National Alliance for Grieving Children's fall webcast, *Ethical Considerations for Working with Children Anticipating Death*.

Children's Grief Awareness Day

Thursday, November 16th

A day to help us all become more aware of the needs of grieving children.

Love Really Counts:

Auction & Dinner Gala

Friday, February 9th

Join us at our new venue, on a new date, Brick South at Thompson's Point.

Golf Tournament

Tuesday, September 11th

Come and Swing "Fore" the Center at Purpoodock Golf Course in Cape Elizabeth.

Childhood Bereavement Conference

Friday, March 23rd

Learn more from experts in the field held at York County Community College.

Mary Plouffe, Phd. psychologist and award-winning author of, "I know it in my Heart" will be our plenary speaker.



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