



2010-2011 Annual Report

Hope lights the way
toward a brighter
tomorrow...

So when tomorrow starts
without me, don't think we're
far apart, for every time
you think of me,
I'm right here in your heart.



Message from the Executive Director

In the midst of grief, sorrow, mourning and darkness, *points of light* are intermittently present. Initially, they might only be tiny *points of light*—all around us—waiting for us to find them. But if you gather enough of these tiny lights in unison, a much more intense beam will illuminate a safe path.

Since 1994, Mourning Hope has served as a *point of light* for thousands of grieving children, teens, young adults and their families. The Center has provided a secure place where youth and their caregivers can begin the healing process, with the support of friends, families, and highly-trained volunteers. Mourning Hope offers age-specific assistance through peer support groups, community education, grief resources and referrals.

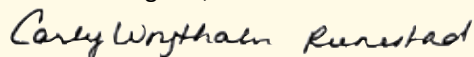
Statistics show that without support, bereaved children are more likely to engage in alcohol or drug use, drop out of school, enter the juvenile justice system and experience higher incidences of emotional, mental and behavioral disorders. Mourning Hope counters these potentially devastating trends by offering compassionate, supportive

and highly-effective programs that everyone can access for as long as needed.

As we move into a new fiscal year, Mourning Hope's objective is not only to maintain and improve the high quality of services provided by the Center, but to increase the depth and breadth of available services so that we can support more people and have a greater impact on the well-being of our community-at-large.

To Mourning Hope's volunteers, donors and supporters, thank you for being a part of this hope and healing legacy. Thank you for helping us advance the Mourning Hope mission. Thank you for being a glimmer of light for bereaved families in our community—and most importantly, thank you for illuminating their path of grief...with hope.

Warmest Regards,



Carly Woythaler-Runestad, MHA
Executive Director

Mission

Mourning Hope Grief Center companions grieving children, teens, young adults and their families when someone significant in their lives has a serious illness or has died. Mourning Hope provides support groups, community education, grief resources and referrals.

Vision

Mourning Hope Grief Center will be recognized as the premier provider of grief support services for youth and their families in Lincoln and surrounding communities. Mourning Hope envisions a society which values and encourages healthy grieving practices. The Center will serve as a safe haven of support, hope, companionship and unconditional acceptance for each person seeking assistance. Through innovative programming, specialized support services, and knowledgeable instruction, Mourning Hope will foster a healthy response to grief, one child and one family at a time.

Guiding Principles

Mourning Hope envisions a society where all grieving children are embraced, listened to, understood and effectively supported by their families, teachers, caregivers and others significant in their lives.

We envision that within each grieving family, parents and caregivers model healthy grieving strategies, while understanding the unique needs of their youth.

We envision a society which values and encourages healthy grieving practices such as openness to talking about losses, embracing the pain of loss, remembering those who died, searching for meaning and giving and receiving ongoing support.

Through best practices, education and innovation, we will measurably improve the lives of individuals in the communities we serve.

We acknowledge that bereavement practices vary in profound ways depending on cultural background. The Center will create an environment that honors the culturally distinct mourning rituals, traditions, and behavioral expressions of grief experienced by program participants.

In partnership with our staff and volunteers, and in collaboration with other organizations that share our goals, we will commit our resources to programs that are ethically, socially and financially responsible.

With patience, empathy, openness and a willingness to listen with our hearts and minds, Mourning Hope humbly companions each person who seeks support.

2010/2011 Program At-A-Glance

2,479

people were directly impacted by Mourning Hope during FYE 6/30/11.

Support Group Programs

204 youth
+
173 adults

377

participants attended Mourning Hope's grief support group programs, representing a

30% ↑

increase in service utilization over the last fiscal year.

Community Education

1,457

people attended Mourning Hope's community education presentations.

Grief Resources and Referrals

645

calls/contacts were received, representing a

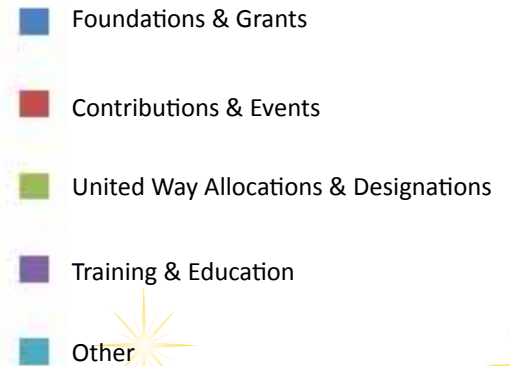
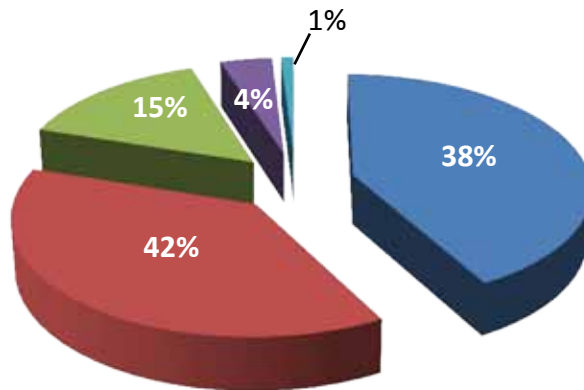
52% ↑

increase over the last fiscal year.

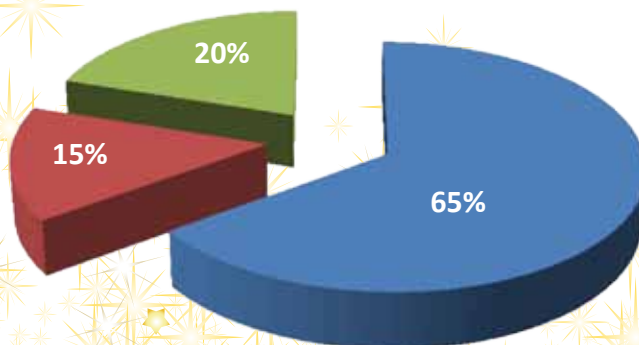


2010/2011 Fiscal Year

Funding Sources



Expenses



Mourning Hope Grief Center's 2010/2011 Leadership

Board of Directors

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Carly Woythaler-Runestad, MHA, Executive Director

Jennifer Bass, M.Ed., Program Director

Kadie Dooley, M.A., Family Outreach Coordinator

Light in the Darkness

The death of a loved one so often brings darkness into the lives of those left behind, and it is especially hard and scary if you have to do it alone. Mourning the death of a loved one is necessary to bring about healing. So, how do volunteers at Mourning Hope help so many youth and their families begin the healing process? They offer companionship as a light of hope on the road to healing.

Once again this year, Mourning Hope volunteers extended the light of hope to our community's youth and their families seeking help for one of the most difficult journeys ever traveled. Whether it's facilitating groups, speaking to our community, raking the lawn, baking cookies, or serving on one of our boards, each volunteer makes an important contribution to keeping Mourning Hope's mission active in our community.

This is why it was so fitting when Governor Dave Heineman presented the Nebraska Governor's *Points of Light Award* to the Mourning Hope volunteers on February 16, 2011. The *Points of Light Award* honors those who have made a commitment through volunteer service to help meet critical needs in their communities. This award was established to recognize the innovative and effective voluntary efforts that take place in Nebraska every day. I can't think of a more deserving group for this honor.



Each year, Mourning Hope serves hundreds of individuals who seek help as they grieve the death or illness of a loved one. It is only through the countless hours given unselfishly by our volunteers that we are able to serve so many. We thank them for being the bright points of light to bereaved families in our community.

With much gratitude,

Jennifer Bass, M.Ed.
Program Director

Partner's in Hope

The Mourning Hope Board is proud to annually thank an organization or business that has made a significant impact on Mourning Hope. We affectionately call this award: "Partners in Hope." Although we owe our gratitude to so many people in our community, this year we publicly recognized Nebraska Wesleyan University in honor of their amazing hospitality and support provided to Mourning Hope over the last few years.

In 2007, Mourning Hope moved into a home just off Nebraska Wesleyan's campus and the University has served as a wonderful landlord since our lease began over four years ago. Prior to 2007, Mourning Hope operated out of various venues that were not sufficient for the organization's growing needs. Mourning Hope was in desperate need of a permanent location where

grieving children and their families could feel at home—Nebraska Wesleyan's generosity made this long-term dream a reality.

In addition to providing us with a warm and welcoming place to call "home," Nebraska Wesleyan has also provided Mourning Hope with a number of work study students, volunteers and practicum students who have all enhanced the services that our organization provides. Mourning Hope would not be the organization it is today without their support.

It was with great pleasure that Mourning Hope announced Nebraska Wesleyan University as our 2011 *Partners in Hope Award* winner.



2011 Memorial Day: We Remember Them

"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*

Michael McCoy and Liz Shea-McCoy
In Memory of Harlan McCoy

Dee and Steve Caswell
In Memory of Lady Roper

Michelle and Chloe Lyons
In Memory of: John Lyons (AKA Daddy)

Tony and Logan Glenn
In Memory of Carole J. Glenn

Steve, Diane and Jess Brestel
In Memory of Joshua Brestel

Denice Kovanda
In Memory of Joey Lundberg

Roger and Martha Lipson
In Memory of Tracy Lipson,
Donner Moller, and Jan Stibor

Lindy Mullin
In Memory of Eddie and Janet Garner

Deidra and Travis Watson
In Memory of Devin Adams

Julie Gillmor
In Memory of My Mother,
Brenda Lee Gillmor

Brenda and Kurt Moes
In Memory of Fred and
Glenda Moes, Kristy Steinkruger

Jill and Jon Johnson
In Memory of Lauren Johnson

Gayla Nelsen
In Memory of Dale Zikmund

Karin and Jackson Kelley
In Memory of Shawn Kelley

John and Pam Dinneen

Deb, Ryan, Jake, Shayla Wissler
In Memory of Jim Wissler

In loving memory of William Kloefkorn
"Mourning Hope"
—for Terry Lynn

At Mourning Hope children
With loss yet glazing their eyes
bring something made special to them
by way of loss—a shirt, a blouse,
a pair of khakis worn almost
through at the knees. My daughter
with others measures and cuts,
sews and fits and fills until
behold! Miracles in the form of pillows
emerge, and the children, some
far from having been children,
test their creations by pressing their
faces into them, their sad, delighted,
beautiful faces disappearing
into the moist and incomprehensible stuff
of their own and each other's loss.
—William Kloefkorn

Our Supporters

\$10,000 and above

A Little Hope, Inc.
Lincoln Community Foundation
Woods Charitable Fund

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Pegler Family Foundation
St. Mark's Lincoln Outreach
Foundation

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Bo Pelini Foundation
Cabela's Club Visa / World's Foremost
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HoriSun Hospice Community
Foundation
St. Anthony Foundation

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Ameritas Charitable Foundation
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Lauren Madsen
May L. Flanagan Foundation
Nebraska Wesleyan University
Linda Sand
Southeast Nebraska Cancer Center
Saint Elizabeth Reg. Medical Center
Swanson Russell
The Gallup Organization
Union Bank and Trust
Walmart Northeast
Walmart Supercenter

\$500-\$999

Abel Foundation
BryanLGH Medical Center
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Pat Gaydusek
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Hoppe Lumber Company
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Universal Surety Company
Walmart South
West Gate Bank

\$250 - \$499

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Caring Family Dentistry
Jeff & Sarah David
Cynthia Deichert
John & Karen Hafermann
Lincoln Industries
Lux Middle School
Gayla Nelsen
Teri & Scott Nelson
Theodore & Cheryl Anne Parent
Joe & Laurie Petty
Lorraine A. Raphael
Christie & Clifford Schroff
Valentino's

\$100 - \$249

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Bouwens Buggies
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Jeannine Stewart
William Stiles

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Brad Swiggart
Jennifer Tricker
Rick Wallace
Hank & Cynthia Woods

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Linda Ashelford
Silvija Augstums
Byron H. & Joan M. Bakenhus
Douglas A. & Thomasin Barry
Stanley D. & Jody A. Bartels
Shellee Becker
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Gerald & Staci Bell
Sharon & Glenn Bennett
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Allison Berry
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Douglas & Joan Daharsh
Delta Zeta
Thomas & Denise Deter
JJ & Judy Dinneen
Darrell & Beth Ann Dinneen
Cindy Doering
Don Copley Memorial
Dennis Duckworth
Julie Duncan
Sue Dutton
Alan Eberspacher
Travis & Samantha Eckhardt
Marvin Ehly
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Jennifer L. Conway
Charlie & Shirley Foster
Michelle Fowler
Mandy Franklin
Sue & Duane Gabriel
Joel Gajardo & Carolyn Stitt
Leslie Gibbens & Brian Hefner
Julie Gillmor
Ruth A. Grosscup
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Sharl A. Hager
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Cassie Hansen
Celeste Harper
Brett & Jan Harris
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Mary Hawk
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Travis & Deidra Watson
Dean Way
Deb Wissler
Paul & Vonita Wood
Catherine Wooldrik
Michael & Regina Zimmer

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facebook

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.

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
Lincoln, NE 68504

Donations may also be made
online via credit card at
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.

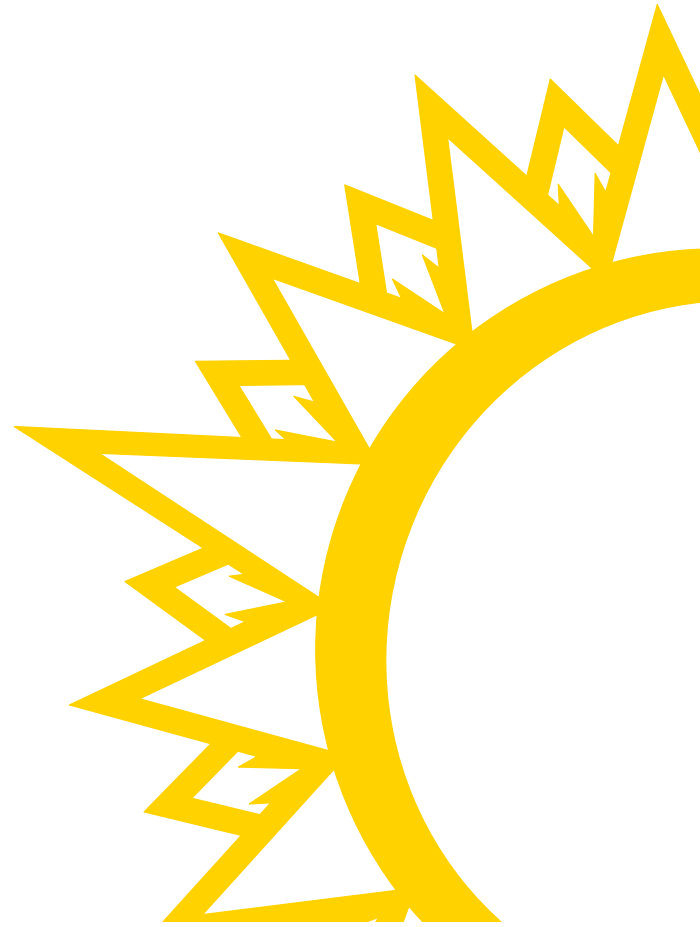
"Providing a safe, caring environment for families to join together and begin healing after a significant loss became my passion over 15 years ago. With the help of many others, who give so freely from their hearts, Mourning Hope is a place where all feelings are accepted and all people are respected for who they are and where they are in their grief journey."

"Children are often the 'forgotten mourners' as families go through the grieving process. Providing a safe place for them to begin the healing process as they explore and express their feelings and experiences is what Mourning Hope offers families. Being able to walk with someone through some of the darkest and most difficult times in their lives is such a gift. They trust us with their feelings and honor us with their stories and in turn we support them in their healing. Ultimately, we give hope for a brighter tomorrow."

- Pam Dinneen, Mourning Hope Founder



...hope is a
wonderful
thing.



4919 Baldwin Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68504