

Dear Friends:

It is with great pride and pleasure that I present to you our Newsletter for 2023.

In 2015, Stephy's Place, a support center for Grief & Loss opened. Our hope was to help those left behind through the loss of a loved one. Fourteen years earlier, we, the original Board, were provided a support group which was a godsend to us after we had lost our loved ones on September 11th. Our mission was to give to others what was given to us.

Never did I imagine the extreme need. Never did I imagine that Stephy's Place would be the only adult grief center in the country and never did I imagine that something so wonderful could come from the tragic events of September 11th. It is a fact, if not for September 11th, Stephy's Place would not exist. It is in that statement that I find meaning, purpose, and the passion to continue this work.

During these 8 years we have grown tremendously. We started with 4 facilitators and to date we have 71. Our office staff has grown to 11. We continue to start new groups and serve over 500 people per week, free of charge. Out of the 82 people that help to keep Stephy's Place operational, all but 3 are volunteers.

We are funded through our annual fundraisers, and private donations from generous people like you. Our volunteers and donors are blessings for which we are truly grateful.

I thank you in advance for taking the time to read this newsletter.

With sincere gratitude,

*Sheila Martello, Founding Director,
Certified Grief Services Provider*



2023 at a glance



- Facilitator Training Program in full swing with the addition of 21 new facilitators
- Continuing to serve over 500 people per week
- Kevin's Book: The Threshold of Grief, was published and is available
- Hosted our most successful walk to date
- **New Groups added:**
 - Addition of a Loss of a child to overdose
 - Addition of a "Life after the loss of a spouse"
- Facilitator, Katie Morgan collaborated with "Project Write Now" and hosted 2 writing workshops for our participants.
- Sheila presented "It's Never too Late to Grieve" to CIACC, Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council
- On Dec. 12, 2023, Sheila, Kevin, Lori, and Danny Sanchez sat on a Podcast Panel: hosted by Terence & Jeanne Wall, "TAPinto Holmdel": discussing "Life after Loss and the Difficult Journey of Grief"
- New Phone #: 732-797-9739



Ways to Give



- Choose Stephy's Place as the Beneficiary of your event
- In lieu of sending flowers make a donation in memory of someone who has passed
- Corporate Matching Gifts
- Recurring Gift Support
- Planned Giving
- Annual Giving
- Appreciated Stock
- Charitable Remainder Trust
- Donations in honor or memory of someone

If you have any questions or need more information about any of the ways to give, please visit www.stephysplace.org/sp/Donate/

IT TAKES THE HEARTS & MINDS OF MANY

Executive Board Members

President: Sheila Martello

Vice President & Director of Media and Public Relations: Patricia Wotton

Secretary: Trish Straine-MacGregor

Treasurer: Tara Butler

Kathy Cesario

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Founding Director: Sheila Martello

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Director of Fundraising: Kerry Batting

Director of Special Projects: Pete Jarck

Director of Resources: Patricia Wotton

Legal Advisor:

Christinta Hardman O'Neal

Mental Health Advisor:

Dr. Jean Hager, DSW, LCSW, LCADC, Clinical Social Work/Therapist

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Ashley Hadar, Social Media Representative

Lori Jarck, Suicide Prevention/ Education Representative

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Barbara Mattone, Office Manager

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Kerry Batting

Barbara Biancamano

Sarah Blades

Karen Britton

Suzanne Berger

Kim Calafiore

Maddie Caram

Michelle Caravella

Kathy Cesario

Elaine Chevalier

Nicole Cooper

Lou D'Alotto

Rupa Das Gupta

Lori DeLeonardis

Joan Denton

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Brian Ericson

Colleen Esposito

Raquel Falotico

Dawn Gambacorto

Kristine Gunningham

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Jill Harrington

Angela Harris

Amanda Hintelman

MB Hodgkiss

Eileen Hoey

Tony Ianaconne

Lori Jarck

Meredith Kasun

Kevin Keelen

Denise Kelleher

Allison La Rochelle

Carol Laimo

Marc Lobell

Claudia Lucey

Trish Straine-MacGregor

Sheila Martello

Jessica Martinsen

Jean McMahan

John McManus

Dan Mendoza

Katie Morgan

Jenn Munson

Felicia Natale

Debby Palumbo

Cindy Panek

Marilyn Pozzutto

Megan Pelino

Lisa Purdon

Maureen Raisch

Mary Reidy

Cheyenne Santoro

Judy Schurgin

Bette Scott

Karen Shearly

Jeanette Sheffer

Alexandra Smith

Bill Sverapa

Pat Swaroop

Lori Wilson

Liam Winters

Marcia Wyrzten

Office Caregivers

Danette Alderoty

Tara Butler

Mairead Clifford

Karen Geltzeiler

Darrah Kenny

Madeline Tripodi

Patricia Wotton

Wellness Caregivers

Angela Harris, Meditation Specialist

Dr. Jean Hager, DSW, LCSW, LCADC, Clinical Social Work/Therapist

Retirees

Thank you for your service to Stephy's Place

Denise Gebrian

Marilyn Halverson

Nancy Neidemeyer

Christine Reynolds

What we offer

At Stephy's Place, we companion the bereaved. We don't walk in front of them or behind them, we walk besides them as they navigate through their loss journey.

We companion them in a variety of ways:

- In person weekly/bi weekly support groups
- Monthly Reflections
- Daily Facebook Quotes
- Resource Center for assisting with therapist referrals
- Suicide Education and Support

Our Volunteer Spotlight Shines on Debby Palumbo, Ken Feldman, Mary Magee, Denise Gebrian, Betty Cortese, Joe Ercolino, Bette Scott & Tony Iannacone.

What these wonderful and generous people have in common is that they were all part of one of our original groups here at Stephy's Place.

Debby, Ken, Mary, Denise, Betty, Joe, Bette, & Tony began their grief journey as participants of Stephy's Place very soon after we opened. We are truly grateful for their continued support. Their donations of time, talent & treasure epitomizes "generosity of spirit". They have all grown in their grief journeys to become facilitators, office staff and financial supporters. A huge thank you from me, our Board, and all of the participants who have come after you and have a place to come to because of you.

"Let us remember today and never forget: Cliff Johnson, Pat Gordon, Rayna Eyerman"

Special mentions

Melissa Palmer

Fair Haven Fireman's Fair
Dining Room Staff - Rocky
Falotico

The Family of Rayna & Lucy
Eyerman

Safe Harbor Home Watch

Mary Ellen Griffin

National Philanthropic Trust

Heather & Jim Mulvihill

John Paul & Irene Dorney

Kalagh & Dan Mendoza

Looking to 2024

- Feb. 10th - 9/11 Hockey Outing
- March 10th - Rumson St. Patrick's Day Parade - 1pm
- March 15th - Sip & Shop J McLaughlin - 1-5
- March 16th - In Good Company presents: "Inside - Out" Two River Theatre
- April 5th - Red Bank Elks - Rock Night - 6:30pm
- May 4th - Shred Event
- **September 8th - Annual "Mourning Walk" - Seven Presidents Park - 6:30am**

Fundraisers

Stephy's Place is honored to be the beneficiary of the proceeds raised by others' events. We have been honored to receive funds from Sip & Shops, memorial runs/walks and donations made in memoriam. Of course we are thrilled to receive donations from private or family foundations or individuals. It is all truly appreciated.

At Stephy's Place, we serve 500 people per week with a volunteer staff of almost 100. Our commitment is to our participants, to be present to them in a safe and welcoming environment. It doesn't allow much time for fundraising. Several years ago, it was decided to put all of our efforts into one major fundraiser per year. This event is our Annual Mourning Walk. It is an absolutely glorious morning that never disappoints. We have always experienced a beautiful butterfly release, a spectacular sunrise (even when it's cloudy in nearby areas) and all the unexpected "gifts" our loved ones seem to send to us. It is imperative that this event raise the majority of our operating budget. Last year's Walk was our most successful one yet, **please join us this year on Sunday, September 8th at Seven President's Park.**

Please consider sponsoring us and our participants by walking and or donating. Information on how to get involved will be on our website. We need your help! A special thank you to Gerylne Behring, Dr. Jean Hager, Pure Hockey, John E. Day Funeral Home, Alliant/Boynton & Boynton, Team Vienna - SUDC Awareness, Wooley- Boglioli Funeral Home/Holmdel Funeral Home - Bill Boglioli, Brennan's Deli, Rumson, Phoenix Rails, McLoone's, Kathy & Frank Pezzuti, The Jimmy Straine Invitational, Tom Rapp, Mario Venancio, and Denise Kelleher who have sponsored every year since inception!!

Let's make 2024 a record-breaking year!!



Most Distinguished Charitable Supporters

Appaloosa Management
Charitable Foundation -
Melissa & Michael Palmer

Gerylne Behring

Stephanie & Mark
Cartier

Community Outreach
Group, Middletown

Bobby & Lucille
Composto

Betty Cortese

Cups & Cakes

The Devlin Family
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Ken Feldman

Denise Kelleher

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