

## Who is Ele?

Ele's Place was established in 1991 and is named in honor of Ele Stover, who died in 1989 at the age of 11 months. Ele is survived by four siblings whose lives will be forever affected by her life, illness and death.



## Contact Us

### Branch Locations

Lansing 517-482-1315  
Ann Arbor 734-929-6640  
Grand Rapids 616-301-1605  
Flint 810-232-3040

### Headquarters

1145 W. Oakland Ave  
Lansing, MI 48915  
email: [healing@elesplace.org](mailto:healing@elesplace.org)  
[www.elesplace.org](http://www.elesplace.org)



Based on the US Census,  
1 in 20 children will  
experience the death  
of a parent. Many more

will experience the death of a sibling  
or other loved one. Every grieving  
child needs compassionate support.

Ele's Place is generously supported by



A healing  
center for  
grieving  
children  
& teens



comfort healing hope



"I liked  
Ele's Place  
because  
I met  
friends  
like me."

-Mallory, age 6

at Ele's Place, hundreds of grieving children find a warm and welcoming place to meet new friends who really understand how they feel. By sharing their feelings and memories with others in peer support groups, children and teens learn to accept their loss and begin to heal.

## Why is Ele's Place Important?

Ele's Place recognizes that children's grief is unique, and that unaddressed grief can have a negative impact on their health and well-being. Unresolved childhood loss is often linked with poor school performance, depression, violence, alcoholism, drug abuse and suicidal tendencies. Ele's Place helps grieving children and teens who are at risk of developing these negative behaviors by supporting them in a unique way. Through our programs, they develop healthy coping skills to continue their lives with hope and confidence.

## What is Ele's Place?

Ele's Place is a nonprofit, community-based organization whose mission is to create awareness of and support for grieving children and their families. Through peer support groups, Ele's Place helps children and teens cope with the death of a parent, sibling or other close family member or friend.

## Can Ele's Place Help My Child?

Before coming to Ele's Place, many grieving children and teens feel alone and keep their emotions inside, not wanting to burden their parents or other family members. Often friends don't seem to understand if they haven't had a similar experience. But each week



"I feel a little more  
confident about myself.  
When I go there I know that  
people aren't going to reject  
me or put me down. I know  
people will listen to me and  
they know how I feel."

-John, age 14

## What Services Does Ele's Place Provide?

### On-site Support Groups

Ele's Place provides ongoing, weekly peer support groups for grieving children and teens, ages 3 - 18.

Age groups include Preschool/ Kindergarten, Early Elementary, Upper Elementary, Middle School, and High School. A young adult group is also available for individuals 19 - 25.

Music, art, storytelling, writing, and play are creative tools used to help children and teens express their fears, anger, guilt and sadness.

Support groups for the child's parents or guardians meet at the same time. Groups are facilitated by clinicians and trained volunteers under the supervision of Ele's Place licensed social workers. In order to ensure Ele's Place is accessible to all grieving children, there is no fee for services.



*"When I talk about my dad at home, I always get sad, but when I talk about him here, I am able to be happy."*

*-Christopher, age 5*

### School-based Services

**Ele's Group** is an off-site support group program in partnership with area schools and organizations, reaching children and



teens unable to come to our building. Eight-week groups are co-facilitated by Ele's Place program staff along with the school social worker, counselor or other staff.

**Ele's Group** uses a curriculum with goals to reduce feelings of isolation, learn coping skills and build a network of support among students. This program is provided at no cost to students or the school/organization.

Ele's Place also provides training for school faculty and staff to help them support grieving students. In addition, Ele's Place clinical staff members provide support for schools in crisis following the death of a student, teacher or administrator, or in response to a highly publicized tragedy in the community or elsewhere.

### Clinical Consultations

Licensed social workers and counselors at Ele's Place provide grieving families with individual guidance and support. Clinical staff assist parents in helping their children and teens through the grief process with information, advice and referrals to area therapists who can provide child and family grief counseling.

### Community Education

Ele's Place provides presentations, trainings, and guidance for educators, health care professionals and others interested in learning how to help grieving children and teens.

## How Can You Help?

As a nonprofit community-based organization, Ele's Place is dependent upon contributions of time and resources. Volunteers are needed in many areas, including support group facilitators and helpers, special event volunteers and clerical support. If you have an interest in a rewarding volunteer opportunity, we welcome you.

Financial gifts are critical to maintaining our programs at no cost to families. Tax-deductible contributions of cash, pledges, gifts of stock, bequests from wills, and other deferred gifts are needed from individuals, businesses, foundations, and community groups.



*"I noticed a distinct change in her behavior at the end of each night. No matter how rough the day or week had been, when Abby came out of her support group, she was smiling and much more at peace."*

*-June, mother of Abby*