



*A Healing Center for Grieving Children & Teens*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Ele's Place Managing Director, Gerilyn May, Receives Davenport University Distinguished Alumni Award**

Gerilyn May, Managing Director of Ele's Place Grand Rapids, received the Davenport University Distinguished Alumni Award at a recent 2013 Alumni Awards Celebration. The University's highest award is presented annually to graduates who have made notable achievements in their field, exemplified the mission and ideals of Davenport, and who are a distinguished person in public life, business or service to others. **Ele's Place is a healing center for grieving children and teens, which opened its Grand Rapids branch in June.**

May earned her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Management from Davenport while working full-time and raising a family. She has previously held development positions at the Van Andel Institute, Helen DeVos Children's Hospital and Make-A-Wish. May was drawn to the Ele's Place mission after the death of her 17-year-old son in 2010 from a tragic accident. She has made it her personal mission to support grieving children and teens throughout West Michigan.



"When Stephen died, not only was our family struggling with our own grief, but we were also worrying about hundreds of his friends and classmates who were devastated by their loss," May said. "Ele's Place provides an environment where children and teens, just like Stephen's friends, can come together in their grief and move forward with their lives."

Since 1991, Ele's Place has provided grief support services at no cost to families whose children are grieving the death of a parent, sibling or other loved one. Ele's Place supports an average of 350 children plus their family members each week through its Grand Rapids, Lansing and Ann Arbor branches. Ele's Place also provides support programs in schools and serves as a resource and referral agency for anyone who wants to help a grieving child. For more information, visit [www.elesplace.org](http://www.elesplace.org).

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