

Impact Report

2019

Grief Does Not Wait

1 in 13 Children
in Michigan Need
Our Services



YOU Make A Difference



EPWM Supporters, Friends & Families,

Having recently celebrated my first anniversary as the Director of Ele's Place West Michigan, I am grateful to be able to share with you the impact that our organization had on the West Michigan community in 2019. We could not do this work without YOU and those committed to ensuring that no child grieves alone. Currently, one in 13 Michigan children will experience the death of a parent or sibling prior to their 18th birthday. This does not include those children for whom someone else close to them, like a grandparent, teacher or friend will die. As we consider this sobering data, it is more apparent than ever that the support Ele's Place West Michigan provides at no charge to grieving children, teens and their families is imperative to the mental health and wellbeing of our community.

Due to your generosity and support, we accomplished the following 2019 at Ele's Place West Michigan:

- ♥ Served 345 grieving children and teens.
- ♥ Served 184 students in our school-based program, Ele's Group.
- ♥ Provided 455 clinical consultations to grieving families and concerned community members.
- ♥ Provided educational presentations about children's grief to 137 members of the community.
- ♥ Served families across West Michigan including those from Kent, Ottawa, Allegan, Newaygo, Ionia, Kalamazoo and Barry Counties, with 69% of our participants being Kent County residents.

While this report is intended to highlight 2019, I would be remiss not to address how our organization is faring throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on our community, the state and the world. As we know, individuals continue to experience the death of those close to them, including the children of our community. We stand committed to serving these needs in new and innovative ways to ensure the safety of our families, volunteers, and staff, including virtual peer support groups for children and teens and a virtual enrollment process for new families. We continue to provide support to families who are grieving through phone consultations and by providing virtual activities through our social media channels and emails for all of those in our community who may be grieving during this unusual time where we are separated and distanced from our normal support channels.

Thank you
for your
time,
treasure,
and talents.

Ele's Place West Michigan has had to reinvent our fundraising model, to a virtual platform and thanks to the generous and caring philanthropic community, we have been able to raise funds to support our mission! Our hope is to see that success continues into the fall, as we hold our annual Courage, Comfort & Cocktails event on Tuesday, October 20th—VIRTUALLY!

We long for the day when we can safely return to onsite groups, programming, and in person events. Until that time, we stand committed to providing support to those families in need, utilizing novel ideas which allow us to be together, even while we are apart.

Thank you so much for being part of our impact in 2019 and moving forward into the future! Take care. Be well. Stay safe.

With immense gratitude,
Tammy Squire



Attending On-Site Peer-to-Peer Bereavement Support Programming



161 Children



105 Adults



Cost to Families

"Kids understand from the beginning that it's okay to pass. It's okay to not share, and in having that permission to just be part of the group, they become more willing to share. I think they appreciate being able to be heard; encouraged to share their true feelings. They feel safe because they know that everyone in the group has gone through something similar and understands how they feel. It's such a powerful experience for these kids to have and I'm so very grateful to partner with Ele's Place."

- Michelle Barrows, Kelloggsville Middle School Counselor



184 Students

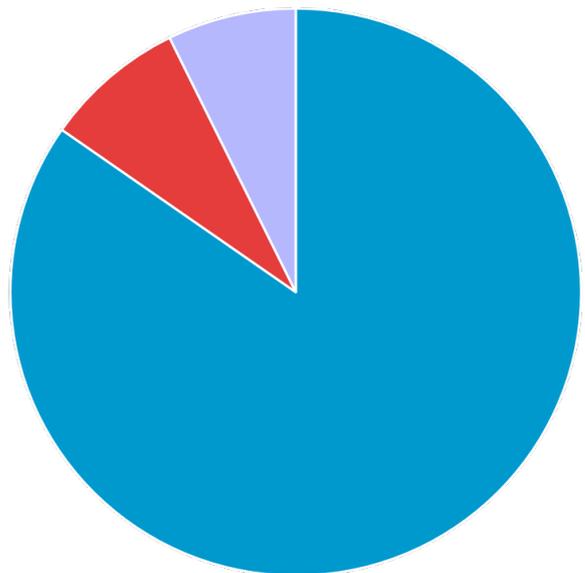
21 School Groups



149 Phone Consultations

153 In Person Consultations

Functional Expenses



- Program: 84.7%
- Management: 8.01%
- Fundraising: 7.29%



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