

conducted by Ele's Place indicate that significant numbers of grieving children exist in every community and need support systems that can help them cope, begin to heal and prevent or stop behavioral problems. To help fill gaps in support services across the State, Ele's Place has created the Michigan Network for Grieving Children (MNGC).

"Our ultimate goal is for every grieving child in Michigan to have access to compassionate support," Baumer said. "There is a critical lack of support services and resources available to grieving children throughout the State. As a nonprofit entity receiving no tax dollars, the Michigan Network for Grieving Children will provide existing programs for grieving children in Michigan with a stronger conduit for information-sharing and an opportunity for joint promotional support throughout the state. Together, we can leverage a unified, statewide awareness campaign so that current programs can do more than they could ever do alone, and new programs can get off the ground."

"The Michigan Network for Grieving Children will help us reach grieving children wherever they live in the state," said Mrs. Snyder. "I look forward to being part of the effort to educate people about the need to support grieving children and to direct families and others to resources through a new website, www.KidsGrief.org. I see my role as an opportunity to raise awareness on this important issue as we work together to make a difference in the lives of Michigan's children."

The Michigan Network for Grieving Children is operated by Ele's Place, Inc. under its 501(c)3 status. The first phase of operation will include developing a website containing resources to help grieving children and a database of support services that exist across Michigan, as well as a statewide awareness campaign featuring Mrs. Snyder as spokesperson.

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. Ele's Place currently supports more than 200 grieving children each week at its Lansing location and more than 100 each year through its off-site programming in seven schools. Ele's Place currently supports more than 100 grieving children each week at its Ann Arbor location, established in 2007.

For information about how to help a grieving child or to locate children's grief support programs, please visit www.KidsGrief.org.

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EDITORS NOTE: For information about the Michigan Network for Grieving Children, contact Laurie Strauss Baumer, president and CEO of Ele's Place at 517-482-1315 or lbaumer@elesplace.org.