Ele's Place

Capital Region

2022 Impact Report

No child or teen should have to grieve alone









Kristine Kuhnert
Director
Ele's Place Capital Region



I am privileged to share how your commitment impacted our Ele's Place families in 2022. Ele's Place is so unique and an integral part of our community. Since our creation in 1991, we have served more than 32,000 people at no cost because of you.

You helped us accomplish this in 2022 at Ele's Place Capital Region:

- Served 772 grieving families at our on-site programming.
- Served 244 students in our school-based program, Ele's Group.
- Provided 730 clinical consultations to families beginning the grief process.
- Provided clinical support (off-site) to 22 individuals in response to the death of a community member.
- Provided 9 Grief toolkits, resources for school counselors to use with kids.
- Provided 10 grief backpacks to schools.
- Provided 146 Helping Grieving Students at School manuals to schools.

The current statistic is that one in 11 children will experience the death of a parent or sibling before the age of 18, doubling by the age of 25. Statistically speaking, you will all know someone needing to utilize our services. Death is a part of life. We can't change it. We can prevent secondary tragedies; withdrawal, depression, and using unhealthy means to numb the pain~that is where Ele's Place comes in. Grief is the great equalizer. We have witnessed how working together and lifting those in the most challenging situations makes us all better. This is true: We are a stronger community when we care for each other, especially those who need us most.

With gratitude,
Kristine

Jennifer Howard, LMSW
President and CEO
Ele's Place



Dear Ele's Place Supporters throughout Michigan,

Thank you for caring about children and teens
who are grieving the death of a significant person in their lives. The support of individuals, companies, and partner organizations help ensure that no child or teen will have to grieve alone.

Children and teens are coping with challenges
and losses experienced through the pandemic and the grief associated with losing someone close to them. Our program staff and volunteers across the state continue to observe the increased needs of our program participants and rising requests for our services. Michigan is not alone: nationwide, the need for mental health support services is increasing. Community awareness is essential to bringing mental health support to the forefront and ensuring services are available to those who need them.

The Ele's Place team is grateful for our compassionate volunteers who devote their time and energy to creating a safe space for children and teens to process their loss in a peer setting, and learn they are not alone in their grief. We are thankful for our generous
donors who continue to stand by us to help ensure our doors are always open.
During the past 32 years, Ele's Place has served over 40,000 grieving children, teens, and their parents/guardians throughout Michigan. Our dedicated staff and volunteers are committed to serving the grieving families in our communities at our Ann Arbor, Flint, Grand Rapids, and Lansing branches through our onsite and school-based peer grief s
upport programs.

As always, we thank our founders, including the entire Stover Family, who continue to honor the memory of their daughter and sister, Ele. Their continued leadership and direct work with program participants are an inspiration!

As you read your local branch's 2022 Impact Report, we hope you feel the same sense of accomplishment that we do in serving families grieving in our community.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Howard
President/CEO
Ele's Place

Total Served in 2022



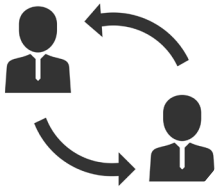
FAMILY-BASED SUPPORT GROUPS – 722 PEOPLE (400 CHILDREN/TEENS & 372 ADULTS)

Family-based programming offered onsite at our healing center. Provides peer grief support to children and teens ages 3-18, with optional support group for their parent/guardian.



SCHOOL GROUPS – 244 STUDENTS AT 25 SCHOOL PARTNERS

Peer support groups within the school setting, primarily in Middle and High School. Conducted in partnership with school clinical staff. Ele's Place school-based staff conducted 11 onboarding meetings with current or future school partners.



CLINICAL CONSULTATIONS – 730 PEOPLE

Clinical staff members provide families who are grieving with individual guidance and support upon request. In addition, they assist parents/guardians in helping their children through the grief process with helpful information, guidance and intake meetings prior to participation in our family-based program. Includes the initial intake appointment for families.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH – 309 People

Community awareness presentations, clinical workshops and Tours of the Heart.

All services are provided free of charge to families, schools and all members of our community.

"For me, going to Ele's Place allowed me to re-find a sense of family. They were individuals who really understood what I was going through. We listened, talked, cried, and even laughed at times. We needed each other for strength, and to get ready to take on the next day or week. We grew stronger. Ele's Place was all I had. I could relax and let down. I was happy that I was also hopefully doing something good for my three girls."

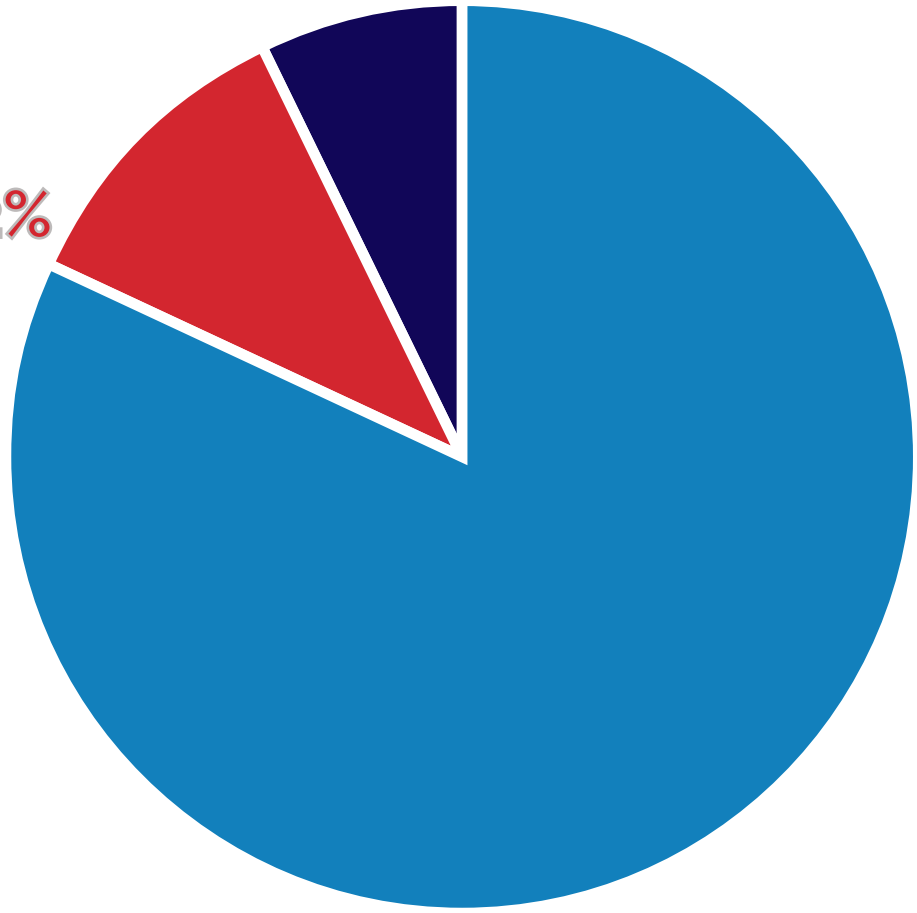
~ Becky, Former Ele's Place Adult Group Participant

Ele's Place Capital Region 2022 Functional Expenses

Program: 81.96%*

Admin/General: 11.02%

Fundraising: 7.02%



*Nonprofit industry standards state 70% or more of donor dollars should be spent on programs. Ele's Place Capital Regions takes great pride in being good stewards of every dollar raised.

"My brother and I started at Ele's Place soon after our little sister died. We were both in the early elementary group together. At first, I was unsure about attending a grief group because I thought it would feel uncomfortable to share my feelings with people I didn't know well. To my surprise, it was the one place where I actually felt like I belonged during that time. It was comforting to know that the families, volunteer facilitators and staff at Ele's Place understood how I felt. Some kids in our group had a sibling die too so they truly knew what we were experiencing. The early elementary grief group provided the safe space that I needed to work on my grief. Although we had a lot of support from friends, family, and our community, it was at Ele's Place where most of my healing took place."

-Mia, Former Ele's Place Early Elementary Group Participant

Thank you to our Library Renovation Supporters!

Through the generosity of our community, Ele's Place Capital Region was able to renovate our Library; a space that had not been touched since our building opened in 2003.





Left: Progress during the renovation project lead by Custom Built. Right: Muralist Kim Hartman hand painting woodland friends on the Library walls.



The Ele's Place Library BEFORE renovations.

With the skills of the team at Custom Built, and muralist Kim Hartman, as well as generous donors to the project, Ele's Place now has a welcoming Library to be used by families and children when they attend our program, but also as great "first stop" when they visit Ele's Place for the first time. The reading nook, water feature and little red house are just some of the creative areas that children, and adults alike, seem to love!

Right: The AFTER of the Library Renovation , open and ready to welcome children, teens and their families into the space.



Thank you to our generous Library sponsors!

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Ele's Group and School Support

For more than fifteen years, Ele's Place Capital Region has provided support to area middle and high school students by hosting an Ele's Group at their school. Ele's Group is an 8-week peer support group that takes place for one class period during the school day. It utilizes a variety of developmentally appropriate activities to help participants share their experiences and feelings with others and build on their strength to cope with the death of someone in their life. Ele's Group is a true partnership between Ele's Place and the school in that, groups are co-facilitated by an Ele's Place staff and a designated school counselor or social worker. For the 2022 – 2023 school year, Ele's Place provided 37 eight-week Ele's Groups at 34 different schools and served a total of 304 students. Of those groups, eight were at schools that had never partnered with Ele's Place to host an Ele's Group in the past. We also partnered with our first virtual school, Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy, to offer grief support to 8 of their students who lived across the state of Michigan.

"Presenters were very conscientious and knowledgeable about their topic. I felt at ease to ask questions and know that if I need further support, I could call them,"
~Past Presentation Participant



An Ele's Group activity

In addition to Ele's Groups, Ele's Place Capital Region also supports schools in other ways. We created a 67 page "Helping Grieving Students Manual" with administrators, teachers, support staff, and students in mind. The goal of the document is to provide schools with the tools needed to create a plan to respond to grief within their school community. We also provide schools with grief toolkits. These toolkits include a variety of books, journals, coloring books, fidgets and more. The goal is to provide schools with all the resources they might need to equip them to support grieving students in their school. Similarly, we provide schools with backpacks full of grief resources that they can pass on to grieving students and their families. Finally, Ele's Place provides presentations for teachers, counselors, and administrators on how to best support grieving students. Presentations are customized to the situational needs of the schools.

Attwood New Tech Magnet School, Bath Middle School, Bath High School, Beagle Middle School, Charlotte High School, Charlotte Middle School, Charlotte Upper Elementary, Chippewa Middle School, Corunna High School, Corunna Middle School, Dansville High School, DeWitt High School, Dewitt Middle School, Dwight Rich School of the Arts, East Lansing High School, Eastern High School, Eaton County Youth Facility, Eaton Rapids High School, Eaton Rapids Middle School, Everett High School, Fowlerville Junior High, Fowlerville High School, Gardner International Magnet School, Grand Ledge High School, Haslett High School, Haslett Middle School, Hayes Intermediate, Highfields, Holt High School, Holt Junior High, Hope Middle School, Kinewa Middle School, Lakewood High School, Lakewood Middle School, Lansing Catholic High School, Leslie High School, Leslie Middle School, Lewton Elementary, Lincoln High School, Maple Valley Jr/Sr High School, Mason High School, Mason Middle School, Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy, Morrice Jr/Sr High School, Mt Hope STEM, Olivet High School, Olivet Middle School, Owosso High School, Owosso Middle School, Pattengill Biotechnical Magnet School, Perry High School, Perry Middle School, Portland High School, Potterville High School, Potterville Middle School, J.W. Sexton High School, Sheridan Road STEM Magnet School, Springport High School, Springport Middle School, St. Johns High School, St. Johns Middle School, Washington Woods, Waverly East Intermediate, Waverly High School, Waverly Middle School, Webberville Elementary, Webberville Middle School, Williamston Middle School, Willow Ridge

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