Center for Grieving Children

FRIENDS newsletter

May 2010

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley

Renovations Near Completion for CGC

The new entrances to the Boys & Girl Club - Fox Valley getting ready for June 2010 opening

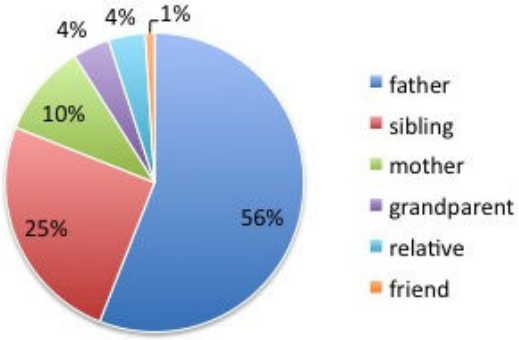
OPEN HOUSE
Tuesday, August 17th
4:30 - 6:30 PM

IN 2004 a coalition of community members committed to creating a place for children and their families to come together for peer grief support. They found a home for this program at the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley. Shelly Osborne served as the founding director and since that time hundreds of individuals have participated in CGC programs with many more finding information and education on child/youth grief and loss.

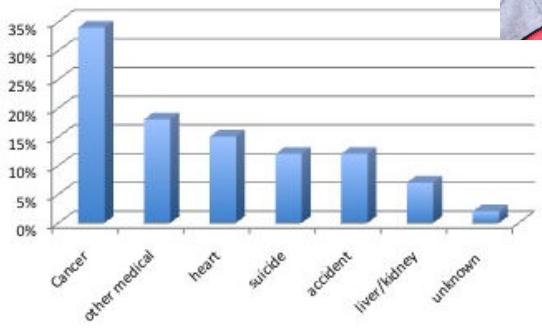
Now, entering it's sixth year, the CGC continues to grow along with the Boys and Girls Club itself. In the fall of 2009, a capital campaign was initiated to raise $5.4 million dollars to renovate the Club in order to double available program space to 40,000 sq. ft. with the potential to serve many more youth and families. The campaign has raised over $3.7 million (68% of its goal) and with the first part of the expansion nearing completion the Center for Grieving Children can move into its new quarters in June with more designated space for group activities, 'Family Nights', our lending library, and teens. This is our 'expanded opportunity' to serve children, teens, and families who are mourning some one they love. I look forward to keeping you up to date on how we continue to foster healing and build hope in the Fox Valley in our new facility.

Reaching Grieving Families

Over 78 children and teens and the 50 adults who care for them, benefited from Center for Grieving Children programs in 2009.



types and causes of loss



Loris Damerow, Director, CGC
E-mail: ldamerow@bgclubfoxvalley.org

Volunteers are the Heart and Soul of CGC

Katie Six - Bodie
Laurie Shinkin - Harley/Bree
Andy Rose - Bocephus
Todd Rockweit - Gruzin
Tom Running - Amos

Terry & Linda Wolfrath Family

Back: Judy Mostofi, Cindy Kort, Erica Marske, Mary Jones, Holly Volkman, Mark Seymer, Sara Nabozny.
Front: Alexis Paladini, Karen Caudill, Loris Damerow, Sue Running, Cara Nagy.
Not Pictured: Katrina Mayer, Kayla McNamara, Jon Seefeldt, Nicole Stephani, Susan Karman, Alice Czappa, Renee Taylor, Val Seidel, Jayne Heinrich,

"This program has helped me and the kids immensely..

I didn't realize how much I needed it!"

CGC Parent

Did you know that it takes about 15 volunteers to produce one 'Family Night' program? Kids count on our therapy dogs and their owners to welcome them before the delicious meal prepared by the Wolfraths. We have five different age clusters that meet together in small groups, from the 'littles' to the teens. Each group has a volunteer facilitator and a support volunteer. Adults have their own groups as well. Volunteers participate in the closing ceremony, share their own stories and are wonderful listeners!

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St. Vincent de Paul Society / St. Thomas More Council
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Boys and Girls Clubs of the Fox Valley
160 South Badger Avenue
Appleton, WI 54914

Center for Grieving Children

The Center for Grieving Children offers compassionate support services for grieving children, teens and families through peer support, education and outreach.

M3C Fellowship collaboration with Lawrence University

Cora Keene and Jared Frazier, M3C Fellows

"This group provides a unique opportunity for teens to share, work through, and embrace their grief among their peers."
- Jared Frazier

With the help of two interns from Lawrence University, CGC has been reaching out to teens who may be grieving the loss of a family member or a friend. Cora Keene and Jared Frazier help co-facilitate the weekly teen series support group held at Harmony Café.

Jared is from Emmett, Idaho and a senior at LU majoring in psychology. After graduation, he plans to pursue a PhD/PsyD degree in clinical psychology.

Cora Keene, from Flint Michigan, is the oldest of seven children. In the fall 2010, she will be beginning a Master's Degree program at the University of Oregon in Couples and Family Therapy.

CGC has benefited this year from their participation in all of our programming as well as teen leadership.

"I felt like I was tied in a knot."
- Jim, age 14

In group, we talk about the feelings of grief and work with art materials to discover aspects of self-understanding and the effects of loss.