



The WARM Way



A Publication for the Families and Friends of The WARM Place | Where Grieving Children and their Families Find Hope | Fall 2016

Become a WARM Place Volunteer and help families along the

Road to Healing



Debbie Luenser
Volunteer Facilitator

Why I am a WARM Place Volunteer



Why did you start volunteering at TWP?

Twelve years ago, I was looking for a volunteer opportunity - thinking I might "give back".

Dr. Patrick O'Malley, who was training new vol. facilitators at the time, recommended I go visit The WARM Place.

I did and it's been a joy "getting back" from the children and families far more than I could have ever given!



How did training prepare you for facilitating?

The initial training provided a clear understanding of what to expect with the children: with possible topics covered and activities. Also, TWP continues to provide ways to grow as a facilitator with discussions after each session and staff members who are available to help with any concerns there might be. Taking great care that we facilitators will always have what we need for the best possible experience for the families!



How has facilitating impacted you?

My time with the children, the families and my co-volunteers has brought more smiles and joy and wisdom to my life. I was told: we need you to "love and listen" - doing this in our groups as well as outside TWP has brightened every corner of my life and given me the opportunity to be a better wife and friend and daughter.

Fall Volunteer Facilitator Training

Tuesday, September 6
7pm-9:30pm

Saturday, September 10
9am-2pm

Tuesday, September 13
7pm-9:30pm

Saturday, September 17
9am-2pm

Saturday, September 24
9am-2pm

Facilitator training is held twice a year for new volunteers and covers a variety of topics that prepare trainees to be an integral part of our peer support group program.

What is a facilitator?

Volunteer facilitators lead discussions and assist with activities planned for clients by our staff counselors.

For more information visit thewarmplace.org/volunteer
Or contact Natalie Chapa, Volunteer Coordinator
817-870-2272 (ext.24) or Natalie@thewarmplace.org





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A note from Shirley...

Summer is well under way, and I hope you are all enjoying a fun-filled and relaxing time. It has been a busy summer at The WARM Place. We experienced some staff changes during the month of June with the retirement of Kathy Telger after 22 years on the staff. We are excited to welcome Lisa Nichols as our new program director. Lisa served as an intern at The WARM Place while working on her undergraduate degree during the late 90's and has always had a heart for the work that we do. We also are pleased to welcome Tara Sambol to the staff as the development associate filling Katie Lane's position due to her promotion to director of development.

The counselors and I attended The National Alliance for Grieving Children Symposium which was held in late June in Indianapolis, Indiana. There were approximately 300+ attendees from agencies across the United States and even some attendees from Japan participated. The annual symposium provides a networking opportunity as well as many planned breakout sessions and presentations designed to update and educate regarding issues relative to children's grief.

We have all been affected by the tragedies that have befallen our nation during the past weeks as we have been inundated with images that will be forever on our minds and in our hearts. As we mourn these losses, we are reminded of just how important our work is to our community. For guidance on how to talk to your children about these tragedies, please visit our website at www.thewarmplace.org/blog.

As we look toward the fall, we are eagerly awaiting our annual fundraiser, A Cool Night on the Cape. This is always a fun-filled event, but even more so this year as we are going to be outside by the pool at River Crest Country Club. Please plan to join us for all the fun—see you on the cape!



WARMest Wishes,

Shirley Bowen
Executive Director

Save the Date

August

Family Night

August 26

September

Young Adult Group

September: 20, 27

North Texas Giving Day

September 22

**A Cool Night on The Cape
benefiting The WARM Place**

September 24

Preschool Group

September 28

October

Young Adult Group

October: 4, 11, 18, 25

Preschool Group

October: 5, 12, 19, 26

Family Night

October 21

November

Young Adult Group

November: 1, 8

Preschool Group

November: 2, 9, 16

**Children's Grief
Awareness Day**

November 17

No Groups

November: 21-25

December

**A Phone Call
From Santa**

December: 13 & 14

No Groups

December: 19-30

For more information on these events please visit
thewarmplace.org/events

What is bravery?

"Only when we are brave enough to explore the darkness will we discover the infinite power of our light." - Brene Brown
It takes an incredible amount of skill and athleticism to climb the highest point in North America. Just ask our friends, Clint Brewer and Alex Cramer, who climbed Mt. Denali in honor of the children at The WARM Place. But it also takes one more thing, perhaps the most crucial thing: **bravery**.

There are so many reasons not to climb a mountain: it's dangerous, it's physically exhausting, you might get hurt, you might get lost, and you may not survive. Similarly, there are many reasons why people don't want to face their grief after the death of a loved one. The reasons are somewhat similar to climbing a mountain: you might get hurt, you may get lost along the way, and it's exhausting. Despite these fears, families come to The WARM Place every week to face their grief. They arrive at our agency at the base of the mountain. They're searching for a way to the summit. The decision to climb a mountain of grief takes a remarkable amount of bravery.

Let's face it, it is easier not to show up. It's easier to compartmentalize, avoid, excuse, and sweep everything under the rug in hopes that it will go away. It takes bravery to show up, face the darkness, and do the grief work.

Grief is messy and exhausting. It's inconvenient and unrelenting. You'll likely cry. You'll likely feel helpless and too tired to keep climbing. Those are difficult realities to sit with and share with others. But time and time again, families come to The WARM Place to face the darkness. **They are brave.**

The children are especially brave. To come to The WARM Place means to enter the darkness of grief and its multitude of messy emotions. But it also means the children are working hard on their journey up the mountain. They learn the vocabulary to talk about their loss and how it impacts them. They formulate powerful expressions to honor the lives of their loved ones. They discover new ways to continue the connection to their loved ones. They learn the only way out of the darkness, is through it.

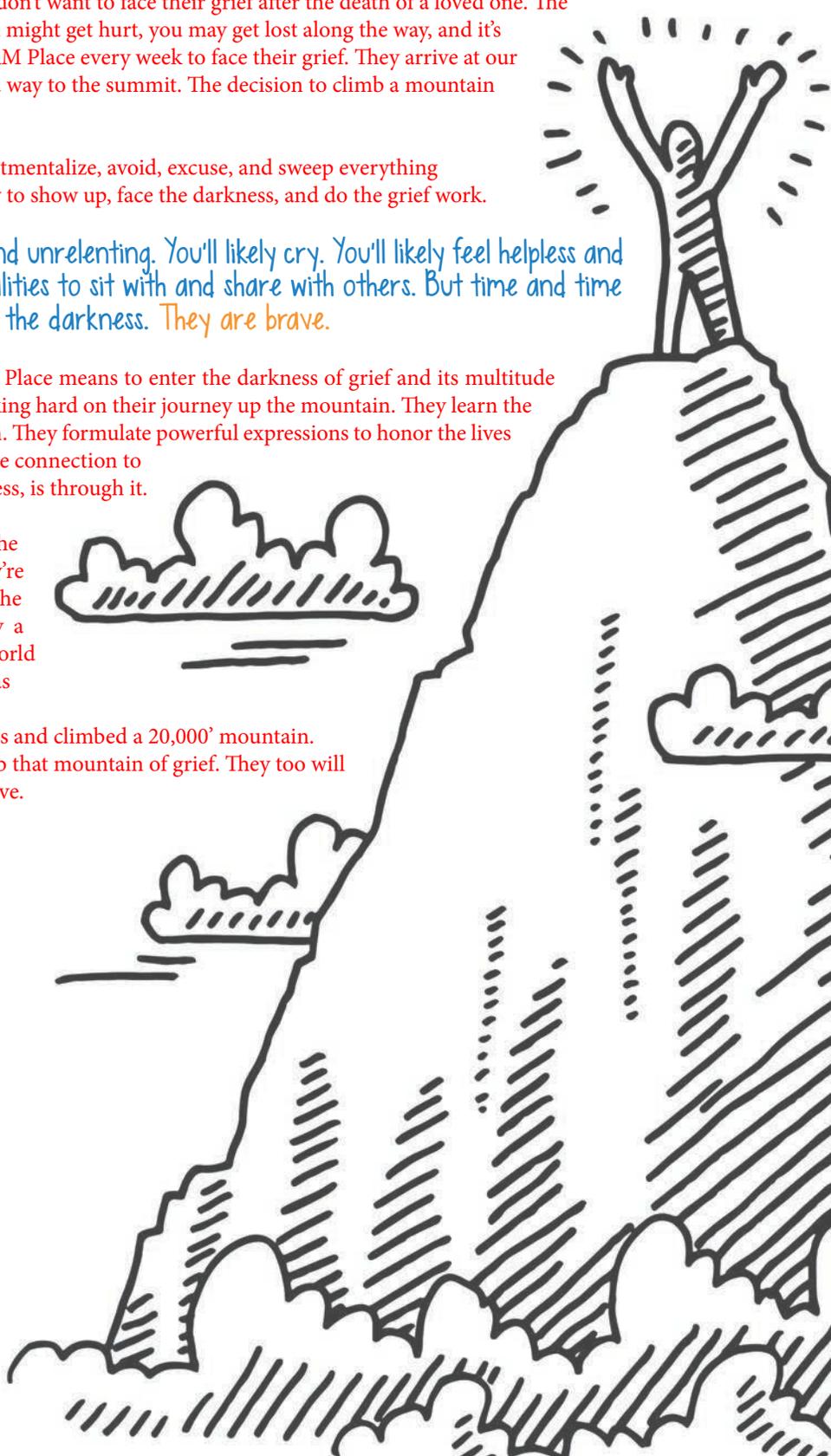
Bravery is not only about the hard emotions. We also see the children smile. They laugh. They play. They're silly. They're proud. Perhaps it takes even more bravery to embrace the world after the death of a loved one. "Anyone can slay a dragon. But try waking up in the morning and loving the world all over again. That's what takes a real hero." - Brian Andreas

Clint and Alex are heroes. They faced insurmountable odds and climbed a 20,000' mountain. The WARM Place families are heroes. Every day they climb that mountain of grief. They too will reach a summit. They too will find their light. They are brave.

By Lisa Nichols, MA, LPC-S
Program Director



Clint Brewer and Alex Cramer hold The WARM Place flag at the top of Mt. Denali (20,310ft.) on July 4th, 2016.





AUGUST
Family Night

Friday, August 26th

Join us for a night of
Mosaic Making



Let's get crafty! Join us for a fun night of mosaic making! Each family will work on their own mosaic stepping stone together with the help of our WARM Place volunteers. There is no cost to attend but families must RSVP to attend. Pizza dinner provided at 6pm!

Please RSVP to shelley@thewarmplace.org by August 16th.

Family Nights focus on making new memories as a family after a death. Each family night has a different theme and includes different activities. Family Nights are open to past, present, and future families of The WARM Place.

 Friday, August 26th

 6-8 PM



The WARM Place®
Grief Support Center for Children



The John M. Blackwell Memorial Walk

On Saturday, April 16, over 300 people participated in our **4th Annual Walk 2 Remember Them**, The John M. Blackwell Memorial Walk sponsored by Macy's. This was our first time having the race in the spring, and we were elated with the number of participants which included both current and alumni families as well as many other friends of The WARM Place.

We enjoyed beautiful weather as we made our way along the one-mile route returning back to The WARM Place to enjoy hot dogs, face-painting, crafts and more! The W2RT has become a treasured tradition and we look forward to seeing everyone again in 2017! Look for more to come regarding the date.



The beginning of June was busy at The WARM Place. We partnered with three local firefighters to host "A Cold Climb for The WARM Place" - a fundraising effort in which the firefighters' goal was to raise \$20,310, the same as the elevation of Mount Denali in Alaska. Rahr Brewery was so generous to host the event which was a huge success with families, volunteers and community supporters of The WARM Place. Our heroes **Clint Brewer**, **Alex Cramer** and **Ben Ogletree** were able to not only reach but exceed their goal!

Clint and Alex departed Fort Worth on June 19 and made it to the summit of Mt. Denali on July 4th. No doubt about it, this courageous team of men are champions of The WARM Place and its mission!



Thank You!



The WARM Place is grateful for our Major Donors who generously contribute \$5,000 or more each year. The support from these individuals, businesses, and foundations, in addition to the support from hundreds of others in our community, ensures no WARM Place child will ever have to grieve alone.

Contributions both large and small, as well as in kind donations, all make a huge difference in the lives of the children and families participating in our program.

Thank you to ALL of our donors for providing hope and healing to those who need it most!

(Donors listed are from gifts dated 1/1/2016 - 7/31/2016.)

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Rotary Club of Ft. Worth



Pack your lobster bib and get your seersucker ready because this year A Cool Night is bringing you a taste of the East Coast!

September 24th
River Crest Country Club

Individual Tickets \$125 each

Ticket includes dinner for one, unlimited beer and wine, and open seating.

Sponsorships start at \$500

For more information on sponsorship opportunities please contact Katie Lane at 817-870-2272.



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Marsha & John Klemheinz
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Katherine & Pete Giuliani



For a full list of 2016 Cool Night Sponsors please visit thewarmplace.org/coolnight

Dinner • Drinks • Live Auction • Silent Auction • Music & more!

To purchase tickets please visit thewarmplace.org/coolnight



Think Green! Make sure we have your email address so you can receive our e-newsletters. Subscribe at thewarmplace.org

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Our Wish List:

- Forever Stamps
- Box Cake Mixes
- Frosting
- LED Light Bulbs 60 & 100 watt
- Dessert Paper Plates
- Regular Ground Coffee
- Regular Sized Dinner Napkins
- Regular White Pillow Cases
- Walmart gift cards
- Pot Holders

For a full list of our Wish List needs please visit our website at thewarmplace.org/wishlist



Where grieving children and their families find hope

You can make a difference in the life of a grieving child.

#GiftsforGrieving

Save the Date
TO DONATE
September 22nd

Give \$25 or more to



The WARM Place®
Grief Support Center for Children
through NorthTexasGivingDay.org
on September 22nd and your
donation will be multiplied!

**NORTH TEXAS
GIVING DAY**.ORG
SEPTEMBER 22, 2016



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The WARM Place®

Where grieving children and their families find hope

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