



The WARM Way

A Publication for the Families and Friends of The WARM Place

SPRING 2026

The Horn Pack of Forever Four

by Katy Roussey

Justin Horn was a devoted, joyful, deeply present father and husband - the kind of dad people hope their children will have. He filled the Horn home with energy and tenderness, waking the family with laughter, ending each day in prayer, and loving his wife, Angela, and children, Declan, and Ramey with his whole heart. "Justin was the father I prayed my future babies would have," Angela shares. "He balanced strength with gentleness and made sure his children always felt seen and loved." When Justin died suddenly in June 2024, everything changed.

"Every routine involved Justin," Angela says. "We had to begin re-wiring our lives in a world where the person who made things make sense was now in heaven." Barely a month after Justin's death, Angela reached out to The WARM Place. As a school counselor, she had long referred families, now her own family needed that same support. By September 2024, she and Declan were enrolled in peer support groups at The WARM Place, and soon after, Ramey eagerly joined too. Each child's grief looks different.

"Declan needed community and a place to talk. Ramey needed awareness and something tangible," Angela explains. "On our WARM Place Thursdays, Declan often leaves quiet and lighter. Ramey leaves energized, proudly carrying crafts made in honor of her daddy."

"My favorite part," Declan says, "is knowing I'm not the only one who has to go through this." Ramey adds, "You get to talk about your loved one... and get sadness and anger out." Angela sees the impact in her two children clearly. "We look forward to WARM Place Thursdays. The grief feels lighter afterward. When we miss group, we notice it, the heaviness builds. Being at The WARM Place smooths the sharp edges of our grief."

At home, Justin's name is still spoken every day. They pray with him, for him, and talk about him often. They've created new traditions to honor him - celebrating his birthday, and setting aside the 16th of every month to remember him through special meals, places, and experiences he loved. Long before his death, they called themselves the Horn Pack of Four. Now, they are the Horn Pack of Forever Four. "Justin will always be part of us," she says. "He is the reason we were the Horn Pack of Four, and why we always will be."

When asked what she wants other families to know about The WARM Place, her answer is simple:

"Here, you can cry. You can speak their name. You can be surrounded by people who understand. No one walks the same path - but no one has to walk it alone."

If you or someone you know has a child that is experiencing grief, we want to help. Please give us a call today at (817) 870 2272 to learn more about our services, or scan for helpful resources of how to offer support.



“Being at The WARM Place smooths the sharp edges of our grief.”
-Angela Horn,
TWP Parent”



Angela, Justin, Declan & Ramey Horn



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Grief Support Center for Children

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A NOTE FROM SHELLEY

Executive Director



As our community continues to grow and change, one thing remains constant: the need to support children and families who are grieving. At The WARM Place, we are honored to be a trusted resource - here at home and far beyond. As the first children's grief support center in Texas and the seventh in the nation, our commitment has always been to ensure that no grieving child feels alone in their grief.

In addition to our year-round grief support program, another crucial part of the service we provide is community outreach and education. Through our Grief Talks, lunch-and-learns, community presentations, and educational outreach, we work to equip any individual supporting a grieving child with the tools and confidence to do so with compassion.

That same spirit of connection is what makes our upcoming Race 2 Remember Them so special. This family-friendly fundraiser is more than a run - it's a celebration of community and an opportunity to introduce friends, neighbors, and colleagues to The WARM Place. Whether you walk, run, or cheer from the sidelines, your presence helps spread awareness and ensures our program remains available to the families who need them most.

None of this would be possible without our volunteers. This May, we will host our 91st volunteer training, and we would love for you to consider joining this incredible group of dedicated individuals. It truly takes our entire community to do this work, and volunteers are at the heart of everything we do.

Thank you for being part of The WARM Place family and for helping us continue to bring comfort, hope, and understanding to grieving children.

WARMly,

Shelley Bettis

	Race 2 Remember Them	MARCH 7	UPCOMING EVENTS
	March Family Night	MARCH 27	
	Volunteer Appreciation	APRIL 4	
	Grief Talk Workshop	APRIL 10	
	TWP Classic Golf Tournament	APRIL 24	
	Volunteer Facilitator Training	May 26 May 30 June 2 June 6	

Counselor's Corner

by Kristina Miramontes, M.A., LPC-S



Grief doesn't follow a straight line. Some days it feels quiet and manageable; other days it arrives suddenly, heavy and overwhelming. When someone we love is no longer here, we often look for ways to hold on to them while still finding our footing in the present.

One simple practice is creating a memory jar. A memory jar is exactly what it sounds like: a jar filled with small written memories of someone you've lost. These can be moments that made you laugh, things they used to say, lessons they taught you, or even ordinary details you don't want to forget - how they took their coffee, their favorite song, the way they signed their name.

There's no right or wrong way to do this. You might write memories as they come to you, adding them slowly over time. You might invite family members or friends to contribute their own notes. Some people decorate their jars; others keep them simple. What matters is the intention: giving your memories a place to rest.

How to make your own memory jar

- ★ Set out slips of paper and pens
- ★ Each family member writes down a favorite memory, a loving message, or something they miss about their loved one
- ★ Place them in a decorated jar and read them together, or keep them for moments when comfort is needed



On days when grief feels especially sharp, you can open the jar and read a memory. Sometimes it brings comfort. Sometimes it brings tears. Often, it brings both. The jar doesn't erase the pain, but it can remind you that love continues, even when someone is gone. A memory jar can also help with the fear many grieving people carry: What if I forget? Writing things down is a quiet reassurance that these moments are being honored and remembered. If you're grieving, be gentle with yourself. Healing doesn't mean letting go; it often means learning how to carry love in a new way.

A few WARM Place young teens with their own memory jars made in group



Scan for more resources on our WARM Place website to support you or someone you know who has experienced the death of a loved one.

2025 AT A GLANCE

PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS



2025 HAPPENINGS

JAN

We piloted a new program extension offering closed support groups for children and families, called Grief Journeys.

APR

We teed off for our 5th annual WARM Place Classic Golf Tournament, celebrating five incredible years of impact!

JUN

We presented at the National Alliance for Children's Grief Annual Symposium delivering a session entitled "Unlocking the Storyteller Within."

AUG

We premiered our new Welcome to **The WARM Place Video**, which introduces families to our program. Scan to watch!



SEPT

This year's 'A Cool Night,' our signature fundraiser, generated a record-breaking Live Ask and raised more than \$650,000 in total support.

NOV

We welcomed 40 families to Camp Remember Me, our annual fall family camp.



The WARM Place®
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Volunteer Spotlight

Bethany Skinner & Trish Strong

Bethany and Trish were brought to The WARM Place by very different paths, but a shared heart for grieving children quickly made them a team.



Bethany & Trish volunteering at A Cool Night 2024

Bethany first found The WARM Place in 2020 while she was a junior at Tarleton. Trish's connection goes back even further. After losing her dad at just five years old, The WARM Place became part of her own childhood grief journey — and years later, she returned, ready to give back.

Through volunteering, the two met and quickly became what they now call a "package deal." From facilitating groups to family nights and Camp Remember Me, they're always eager to step in wherever help is needed.

The Young Adult group is especially close to their hearts. "Every session we get introduced to new people and learn their stories," Bethany shares. "Seeing how different they are by the end of our eight weeks together is always so cool." She's watched young adults leave for college, face long-avoided grief, and reach goals grief once put on hold. "Being one of their peers helps a lot." For Trish, facilitating young adults opens the door to honest, meaningful conversations. "Being a young adult myself allows me to relate more closely to the group," she says, "whether we're talking about grief or even something as simple as dating and relationships."

Both say that while they give so much to The WARM Place, they receive just as much in return. "Any time I give to TWP, it lightens the load of my own grief," Bethany says. "Watching how resilient the kids are makes me realize I'm more resilient than I ever thought."

Trish agrees. "When they first arrive, many are very reserved. Over time, they begin to trust us and allow us into such a vulnerable space. I will forever cherish knowing I was able to play even a small part in their grief journey." Different beginnings. One mission. And a friendship rooted in showing up, together.

Do you have a heart for grieving children?

Our next Volunteer Facilitator training starts in May and we would love for you to join us! Call 817-870-2272 or scan to learn more!



LUNCH & LEARNS at The WARM Place

In 2025, we were excited to bring back a more personal way for our community to connect with The WARM Place through our Lunch and Learns. These small, welcoming gatherings invite community members to learn more about our mission, the programs we offer, and the children and families we serve. From local churches to grandmother groups and everything in between, we love opening our doors to new friends.



Want to host or attend a Lunch and Learn at The WARM Place with your group? Email katy@thewarmplace.org to learn more.



THANK YOU to our 2025 major donors!

The WARM Place celebrates the generosity of the individuals, businesses, and organizations who make its work possible. Your continued support helps to ensure that WARM Place children and families never have to face their grief alone.

\$20,000+

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APRIL 24TH SQUAW CREEK GOLF COURSE

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Presented by



Join us on the greens!



A Cool Night

PAINTING HOPE

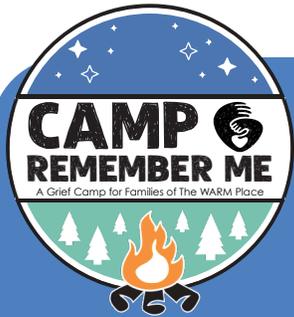
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at The WARM Place

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A WEEKEND OF REMEMBRANCE FOR WARM PLACE FAMILIES

In November 2025, we had an incredible weekend at Camp Remember Me with 40 WARM Place families - more than ever before! Together, we remembered loved ones, shared stories, and made new memories – including an unforgettable silent disco dance party. It's always such an honor to be part of this special time of healing and connection for our families!



THE WALL OF MEMORIES

The WARM Place Wall of Memories offers a heartfelt way to honor a loved one or celebrate someone special. Personalized bronze plaques surround the "New Season" sculpture, creating a lasting tribute while ensuring grief support for children and families continues to be offered at no cost to them.

Our three boys have found so much camaraderie, peace, and comfort at The WARM Place over the last 6 months. Honoring their dad on the wall means so much to them. They'll be able to see his name as they run, play soccer with their friends, and watch the beautiful Texas sunsets after potluck and before group. Henry was a wonderful father, and my best friend for half of my life.

-A WARM PLACE PARENT WITH A WALL OF MEMORIES PLAQUE



Scan for more details or to
purchase a plaque. Questions
Contact emilee@thewarmplace.org.

WISH LIST

Your in-kind donation provides basic items that The WARM Place uses on a daily basis. These simple gifts make it possible to provide grief support services at no cost to families.

OUR CURRENT MOST URGENT NEEDS ARE:

- Country Time Lemonade
- 33 Gallon Trash Bags
- Play-Doh (4 oz)
- Paper Plates
- Washi Tape
- Glue Sticks
- Pens



Scan for our complete wish list!

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WHERE GRIEVING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES FIND HOPE



RACE 2 REMEMBER THEM

R2RT

The John M. Blackwell Memorial Race

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