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SPRINGFIELD, Mo. -- Many children will wake up to a new normal this holiday season, one that doesn't include someone who had been there all the years before. But they are building new traditions, with the help of a special tree covered in messages and decorated with hope for the future.

Little hands covered in glitter and glue, the living room of this house looks like a child's crafting paradise.

"This one you can put stuff in. I put a note in it," says Cameron Creach as he holds up a glass ornament full of paper.

While many of these kids have written notes to Santa, these messages aren't destined for the [North Pole](#) 📄. Avery Wilson expects the note she penned to reach her mom at a destination even farther away: Heaven.

Avery is spending part of this season--her first since mom died--with children who understand, at Lost and Found.

"He'd always [take pictures](#) 📄 of us opening presents," Cameron remembers of his dad.

He and his sister Kindelle lost their Dad in June. Now each is sending him one message in an ornament, and another in the care of an angel.

"I wrote my dad's name on one side, mine on the other," Cameron explains.

"It gives them a chance to say what they want to say. It's something they're making for Daddy," adds his mom, Collette.

"It's a way for them to deal with those mixed emotions and to create a new tradition," explains Lost and Found Children's Coordinator Liz Viele.

They move forward with forward with new friends. Each angel on the tree is a child who has a similar experience to share.

"It's such a sad thing to think about all the loss the tree represents, but it also represents so much love," Viele says.

It's with love each child lights a candle and carries hope to that tree, with the belief the angel will deliver it to Mom or Dad, and pass along the message.

This is just one example of a project from a program that goes on year-round. If you'd like to [learn](#) more about Lost and Found, its free services, or how you can help, you can find the details on Lost and Found's web-page: www.lostandfoundozarks.com.