



Lost & Found

grief center



Mending the Hearts of Grieving Children and Families

Winter 2011

Funding provided by
Missouri Foundation for
Health

Lost & Found

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Shawn Askinosie
Dr. Karen S. Scott

Staff

Dr. Karen S. Scott
Executive Director

Gretchen Gambon
Assistant Director

Ashlee Marsh
Marketing & Program Assistant

Bethany Davis
Event Coordinator & Administrative
Assistant

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10 Years of Mending Grieving Hearts

January 22, 2001, Lost & Found offered our first grief support group. Ten years later, we look back in amazement at the thousands of lives touched by a generous community of support . . . financial support, volunteer support, and the support offered when one person opens their heart to help another. The numbers tell one aspect of our success:

growth from 2 groups to the current 17 groups offered, thousands of clients served and the record high in current group enrollment.

Another aspect of success is told in the stories themselves: stories of outreach, borne from loss, grief and people connecting with others in times of great need. Stories of hearts mended. These stories warm our hearts and give us hope.

This trail of opening hearts began with one gift, from our “original donor,” Jim D. Morris. Co-founder Shawn Askinosie approached Jim, a long-time friend and best friend of Shawn’s late father, Larry, for a donation to a new non-profit organization that would provide free grief support for children.

Shawn asked Jim for \$3,000 to pay for training the first Board of Directors and volunteers. Jim said, “No, I won’t give you \$3,000. That’s not enough. I’ll give you \$5,000.” The rest is history.

That first gift, given as an act of friendship and faith, set in motion a beautiful chain of events that led to hearts opening to help others in their time of sadness & need. Many opened their hearts to become volunteers in groups, serve on boards and committees, and help with events. Others opened their hearts and became contributors. Group participants opened their hearts to each other, sharing their stories and reaching out to offer support, friendship, and the shared bond of grieving the loss of a loved one.

Many past participants are now “paying it forward,” as they have returned to volunteer in our groups, Board of Directors, and committees. Their ranks include past parents and past children who are now young adults. Their stories are THE story of Lost & Found’s first 10 years.

Watch for a special upcoming edition newsletter in which we will share many of these inspiring stories. THANK YOU to everyone who has played a role in the success of the past 10 years. We look to the future with exciting plans for growth and continued success.

Lost & Found provides free grief support services in a safe and supportive environment for children, young adults, and their families, grieving the death of a loved one.

Evening of Hope 2011

Saturday, January 29, 2011, friends of Lost & Found gathered at Hickory Hills Country Club for our annual Evening of Hope. Guests enjoyed delectable food, an endearing and inspiring story of one of our teens, Connor Doran, who shared his journey of grief, and a selection of silent and live auction items, with all proceeds going to support our work with grieving families.

This year, through the generosity and compassion of our friends, the event raised more than \$140,000.00. We are grateful for our event sponsors and contributors who made Evening of Hope a huge success!

Photography generously provided by Stacey Bruce



Pictured: Joe & Kari Manzardo



Pictured: Connor Doran



Pictured: Shawn & Caron Askinose, Jim D. Morris

A huge thank you to the Evening of Hope Committee who worked tirelessly, ensuring every detail was perfect for the night.

Bonnie Shackter, Evening of Hope Committee Chair
Bethany Davis, Event Planner
Nick Sanders, Celebrity Auctioneer

Kate Bauer
Lisa Cox
Betsy Kassab
Terri Murray

Stacey Bruce
Jana Hansen
Alison Manzardo
Paula Stuffelbam

Cheryl Campbell
Jennifer Huxley
Jane Perryman
Martha Wright

An additional thank you to:
Southwest Audio, Greg Harrison, Element Eleven Creative Agency,
Price Cutter's Floral, Laurie Patton-Glasson

THANKS TO OUR
SPONSORS FOR HELPING
MAKE EVENING OF HOPE
A HUGE SUCCESS!

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memory of Dr. Bill Campbell
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Dr. William "Bill" Campbell
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David & Karen Scott
Tom & Susie Singleton
Brent & Shannon Swanson
Bonnie Shackter & Bill Thompson

Bronze Sponsors \$1,000
417 Magazine
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Medicine Shoppe
Medicine Store

Memorial Balloon Release & 5K Run/Walk



To commemorate Lost & Found Grief Center's 10 year anniversary, the staff and Board of Directors invite you to join us at the Memorial Balloon Release & 5K Run/Walk: 10 Years of Releasing Grief and Celebrating Lives on May 26, 2011 at Jordan Valley Park. The event serves as a community kick-off to the Memorial Day weekend and is a beautiful way to honor lost loved ones.

Balloon sales and Run/Walk registration will begin soon. Additional volunteers are needed to help the day of the Balloon Release. Event sponsorships are available. For more information contact Bethany Davis at 865-9998 or e-mail: bdavis@lostandfoundozarks.com.

Mend a Heart, Sponsor A Child

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our current Child Sponsors and Business Angels.

Springfield Blue Print (Chuck McCann)
Springfield First Community Bank
Springfield Striping & Sealing (Joe & Kari Manzardo)
Tech Electronics of Springfield
Vesta Precast Accents (Joe & Kari Manzardo)
Z Auto Group (David & Stephanie Uzzell)
David & Raylene Appleby
Brent & Barbie Davis
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Tom & Susie Singleton
Dr. Robert & Renee Steele
Bonnie Shackter & Bill Thompson
Cindy Wysch

Lost & Found Grief Center is the ONLY organization in Southwest Missouri that provides grief support for children at no charge. In 2010, we offered grief support & education to more than 1,000 individuals. More than \$825,000 of grief counseling services was offered at no cost to families.

Lost & Found relies solely on support from our community as we receive no state or federal funding. We are proud to report that \$0.90 of every \$1.00 goes to services and programs for grieving families. One way we receive support is through Child Sponsorships and Business Angels.

Child Sponsors and Business Angels donate \$1,000 (which can be paid monthly, quarterly, or in a lump sum) to provide the funding for a child to attend group for a year. Sponsors receive periodic updates on the progress of the child they are sponsoring.

If you or your business is interested in sponsoring a child, contact Karen Scott or Gretchen Gambon at (417)865-9998. Contributions can also be made online at www.lostandfoundozarks.com.

Lost & Found Wish List

- DeskJet Laser Color Printer
- Bean Bag chairs for Children's Groups
- Plastic storage tubs with lids
- Letter sized white copy paper
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Cleaning Supplies (Pledge, Windex, Lysol, etc.)

New Employee Spotlight

Bethany Davis-Event Coordinator and Administrative Assistant

Bethany brings to our team skills and experience in production, business planning, marketing, training, and event-planning. Before moving to Springfield, Bethany spent 11 years with State Farm Insurance, with more than 8 years as an Agency Field Specialist in Columbia, MO. Bethany and her husband, Brian, stay very busy with their five-year-old son, Brandon. In addition to financial and record-keeping duties, Bethany most recently coordinated our Evening of Hope and is now busy with the Memorial Balloon Release Run/Walk, and our upcoming golf tournament. Welcome, Bethany!

Gretchen Gambon-Assistant Director

Gretchen joined Lost & Found in February in the new position of Assistant Director, bringing more than 25 years experience working with children & families in need, as well as non-profit management and development. Before coming to Lost & Found, Gretchen was the first Executive Director of Isabel's House, The Crisis Nursery of the Ozarks, and most recently Director of Development with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Ozarks. Earlier in her career, Gretchen worked as a Certified Child Life Specialist in a hospital setting, assisting children and families facing trauma, terminal illness and death and later advocated for children in the Missouri First Step Early Intervention System. Gretchen earned a degree in Child and family Development with an emphasis in Child Life from Missouri State University. We are excited about the passion and skills Gretchen brings to our team.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, May 26, 2011:

Memorial Balloon Release & 5K Run/Walk

10 Years of Celebrating Life and Releasing Grief

at Jordan Valley Park

Friday, June 24, 2011:

Lost & Found Charity Golf Tournament

at Hickory Hills Country Club



For more information, visit lostandfoundozarks.com.

Contact us to sign-up for our new e-newsletter

Sponsored by:



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