



Michael's Place

let the healing begin

17 YEARS OF
RESTORING HOPE

2017/2018 ANNUAL REPORT





I was grasping for help and Michael's Place was the life preserver that came in when I was drowning. Slowly but surely, a light has penetrated some areas of the darkness that I had been feeling in trying to figure out what happened that awful night when my life came abruptly to a halt and became forever changed. My son and I cannot thank Michael's Place enough for everything they have done to encourage and support us and thankful for their support in the community, as I know that there are many more out there like me looking for a place to turn."

Chelsea A.



A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

For the last 17 years, Michael's Place, a 100% community-funded organization, has been built on the trust of families we serve and the donors and volunteers who support our mission. The staff is steadfast in our dedication to helping those grieving while being good and faithful stewards of the financial support we receive from our donors. The organization's impact on the community can be depicted in the 132%, one-year growth in 2017 of grief support provided to schools and workplaces.

Throughout the year, Michael's Place provided in-school support groups, teacher training and education, workplace training, and crisis planning and response/outreach following a death in regional schools or workplaces. The value of caring for the students' emotional needs is immeasurable and will show itself in the success of the students today and in years to come.

2017 was a first-time governance change for Michael's Place as our founder, Chris Denny, stepped down as board president, and we welcomed Karen Browne as the new board president. We thank Chris for her 16 years of board leadership, passion for those grieving, and great sense of humor, which is always helpful at a bereavement center. Thankfully, Chris will remain on the board of directors and continue to be our greatest advocate.

Our work is just beginning, and we cannot do this alone. Your help is desperately needed. You can help by:

- Sharing with your local school district information on our grief crisis planning and training for their school personnel
- Volunteering your time to support grieving families
- Donating to help support the costs of our grief support programs and services, whether it is once a week, month, or year

Thank you for giving value to the mission of Michael's Place and supporting the thousands of grieving children, teens, and adults in our community.

All the best,

Mindy Buell





PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Michael's Place mission is to provide a safe environment to enable healthy healing after the death of a loved one. Children, teens, and adults need to feel protected as they share the story of their loss.

ON-SITE SUPPORT GROUPS FOR ALL AGES

Support groups are team-facilitated by trained volunteer facilitators who provide guidance along with peer-to-peer support. Children meet in age-appropriate groups and participate in discussions, art projects, games, and activities. Teens have a support group customized to meet their needs. Adults meet with others who have a greater understanding of their grief journey.

IN-SCHOOL SUPPORT GROUPS & SCHOOL GRIEF CRISIS SUPPORT

Michael's Place provides in-school support groups to elementary, middle, and high school students grieving the death of a loved one. We work with schools to develop grief crisis plans, assist with aftercare following the death of a school community member, and provide ongoing grief education and training.

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY

Michael's Place provides professional guidance to businesses and community organizations to develop grief crisis plans and provide grief education and training to meet the unique needs of the requesting organization.

ROBIN'S NEST

With the help of mentors, the Robin's Nest program provides best day activities and educational opportunities designed to help grieving children and their families feel normal, bring joy to their lives, and create new memories.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS AND SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

Create-A-Keepsake | Writing Through Loss | Children's Healing Garden
Yoga for Healing | Educational Workshops and Presentations

Please call us about our current calendar of support group offerings and enrollment information. Or, visit www.MyMichaelsPlace.net.

Board of Directors

Chris Dennon, Founder
Karen Browne, President
Dan Brady, Vice President
Gretchen Overbeek, Secretary
Doug Morgenstern, Treasurer
Marika BeVier, Trustee
Mindy Buell, Trustee
Erik Gruber, Trustee
Judy Harrison, Trustee
Bill Smith, Trustee

Michael's Place Staff

Mindy Buell, Executive Director/CEO
Elizabeth Myre Boomer, Robin's Nest Coordinator
Breanna Broering, Social Worker
Melissa Fournier, Program Director
Pam Jones, Volunteer Management and Resource Coordinator
Connie Wintzinger, Development Director





Michael's Place is the only grief support center of its kind in northern Michigan, offering no-cost grief support programs to children, teens, adults, and the community.

2017-2018: BY THE NUMBERS

1,700

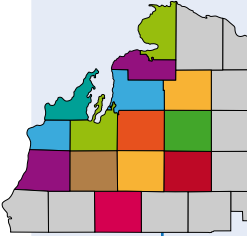
Children, Adults, and Community Members Served

410

Grief Support Programs Provided

14

Counties Served



102

Volunteers Gave

1,595

Direct Service Hours to Our Families

*I was invited to a Michael's Place breakfast about 6 years ago and have been hooked since. **It was amazing to me to witness the great courage and strength of those who had to find a way to live in the midst of a terrible loss.** I love that there is a place for those grieving to go, at no cost to them, to heal.*

Jennifer T, Event Volunteer

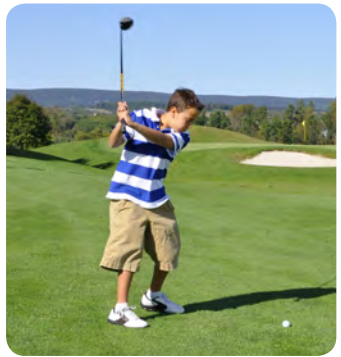
*A 7 year old attended our "Littles" grief support group following the death of her older sister. For 8 months, as the other children in her group shared who they were there to remember, she remained silent. But one day, something changed. We experienced gratitude knowing the growth and healing she needed to share those difficult 7 words, **"I am here to remember my sister."***

Connie, Volunteer Facilitator

Michael's place has help me
so much I feel stronger about
grief.

Ajitee Smith

age 10





1 in 18 children will experience the death of a parent or sibling before age 18.

346 Attended **13** Robin's Nest 'Best Day' Activities

Thank you to our Host Sites:

Fishing at Veronica Valley	The Coin Slot Arcade
Great Wolf Lodge Water Park	Martial Arts at Seung-ni
Yoga at Yen	Twilight Skating at Centre Ice Arena
Incredible Mo's Bowling/Laser Tag/Arcade	Skiing & Snowboarding at The Homestead
A Day of Golf at Bay Meadows	Cookie & Gingerbread House Decorating
Family Night out at the Beach Bums	Christmas Shopping at the GT Mall
Sailing Adventure on the Nauti-Cat	

All of the Michael's Place events are provided at no cost to our families thanks to the generosity of local businesses and donors who host these 'best day' events!

*My children were 15 and 13 when their dad died. There was no Michael's Place all those years ago...I wish there had been. **One of our favorite days of the entire season is when we host the kids and the families for the monthly Robin's Nest event.** Grief is a journey and your organization is so important to help these families cope with their loss.*

Judy Husby, Bay Meadows Family Golf Course, Robin's Nest Host

*I grew up fishing and was thrilled to help introduce this wonderful past time. **Most of the kids have never caught a fish before coming. Seeing their faces light up when they catch something is priceless.** I look forward to taking them fishing every year!*

John Phillips, Robin's Nest Host & Mentor

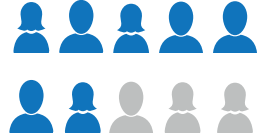
OUR IMPACT: SCHOOLS AND BUSINESSES



SCHOOLS

7 in 10 teachers (69%)

currently have at least one student in their class(es) who has lost a parent, guardian, sibling, or close friend in the past year.



MICHAEL'S PLACE PROVIDED

486

Students and Faculty
With Grief
Crisis Support

75

School Leaders
With Grief
Crisis Training

59

In-School
Support Groups

I don't know where we would have been without a crisis plan and Michael's Place.

Jason Stowe, Superintendent, Leland Public Schools



BUSINESSES

\$75.1 BILLION

combined annual revenue each year lost to bereavement and grief in U.S. companies and organizations

MICHAEL'S PLACE PROVIDED

10

Local Businesses
With Grief Crisis Support

163

Employees With Grief Support
at Their Workplace

One of our core values at Hagerty is "We take care of each other." As we live this value on a daily basis, Michael's Place has become a trusted partner when we have experienced crisis and loss within our workforce. We are a better place for having them at our side in times of need.

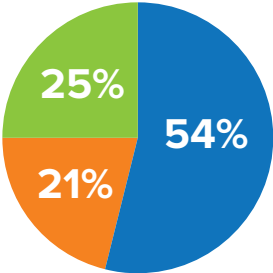
Coco Champagne, Chief People Officer for Hagerty

MICHAEL'S PLACE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cash Basis)



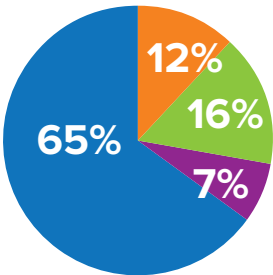
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

REVENUE



- Community Fundraisers
- Individual and Corporate Contributions
- Foundation Program Grants

EXPENDITURES



- Facility Rent & Maintenance
- Administration
- Fundraising & Community Outreach
- Grief Support Services

OPERATING STATEMENT

REVENUE

Individual and Corporate Contributions	224,668
Foundation Program Grants	87,850
Community Fundraisers	100,986
Total Revenue	413,504

EXPENDITURES

Administration	61,325
Fundraising and Community Outreach	24,766
Grief Supportive Services	249,502
Facility Rent and Maintenance	46,956
Total Expenditures	382,549
Operating Surplus or (Deficit)	30,955

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Checking and Savings Accounts	45,321
Short-term Pledges Receivable	83,172
Long-term Pledges Receivable	180,823
Office Furniture Net of Depreciation	14,603
Total Assets	323,919

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	740
Payroll Taxes & Benefits Payable	8,829
Total Liabilities	9,569
Net Assets	314,350
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	323,919



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MyMichaelsPlace.net

On a September day in 2016, I made the best call I ever made...a call telling the woman on the phone my husband and I needed help dealing with the recent loss of our son. She took over from there with such kindness...

Thank you to everyone who played a part in teaching us to take it one day at a time when we began this journey. We are forever grateful.

Mike and Lorraine H.

