

Michael's Place
let the healing begin
18 YEARS OF
RESTORING HOPE
2018/2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Michael's Place
let the healing begin

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Thank you a thousand times for helping me through my husband's suicide a while ago. I think of your kindness and compassion often and it still keeps me going. Thank you for being the light when all I could see was darkness. You are amazing people and I am grateful for your strength and the work you do.

Former Michael's Place Attendee



Road to Resilience: Memories that Move Us Forward from StoryCorps, in partnership with New York Life Foundation, leverages the power of stories and storytelling to help children cope with the death of a parent, sibling, or loved one.

It meant a lot to me to have the StoryCorps opportunity. I really loved talking about what happened in the past. **Wyatt, Age 10**

LEARN MORE | STORYCORPS.ORG/ROAD-TO-RESILIENCE

This project is supported by a generous grant from the New York Life Foundation.



TED^x Traverse City
x = independently organized TED event

This year **TEDx Traverse City** featured stories of resilience, compassion, and community. Our very own Executive Director, Mindy Buell was invited to speak about supporting those who are grieving.

VIEW THIS TED TALK AT:

<http://www.mymichaelsplace.net/ted-talk-executive-director-mindy-buell/>

A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

We are excited to present to you our 2019 Annual Report. Thank you for taking the time to review the impact of Michael's Place in our region.

Michael's Place has been built on the trust of the children and adults we serve and the donors and volunteers who support our mission. We are dedicated to helping those grieving while being good and faithful stewards of the financial support we receive from our donors.

Michael's Place is committed to designing and implementing creative programming that reaches beyond the traditional support group method to engage the bereaved on multiple levels. A partnership with StoryCorps has added another dimension of creativity and outreach.

Michael's Place was chosen as one of six bereavement centers in the nation to participate on a project called **Road to Resilience**. In January 2019, a team from StoryCorps, an oral history organization out of New York City, traveled to Traverse City to train a selected group from Michael's Place to capture and record stories and conversations of grieving children. These stories are archived in the Library of Congress.

In May 2019, two Michael's Place staff members took to the national stage to share the impact of grief. Melissa Fournier, LMSW, Program Director, presented at the **4th Annual Munson Healthcare Clinical Ethics Conference** to educate medical practitioners on the impact of loss. In the same week, I gave a TED Talk* at **TEDx Traverse City** and shared what I have learned over 18 years of working with grieving children, teens, and adults. Melissa and I are grateful for these opportunities and appreciate the tremendous support of the Michael's Place staff and board.

As you will see in this report, the impact of Michael's Place on our community is profound. Thank you for giving value to the mission of Michael's Place and supporting thousands of grieving children, teens, and adults in our community.

All the best,

Mindy Buell



*TED is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks. TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 100 languages. Meanwhile, independently run TEDx events help share ideas in communities around the world.



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



The mission of Michael's Place is to provide support and advocacy for children, teens, and adults grieving the death of a loved one and educate the community on the impact of grief. 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 requesting organizations.

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 | Healing Garden
Educational Workshops and Presentations | StoryCorps

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 Boomer-Judson, Robin's Nest Coordinator
Breanna Broering, Social Worker
Melissa Fournier, Program Director
Pam Jones-Robinson, Volunteer Mgmt. & Resource Coordinator
Connie Wintzinger, Development Director



OUR IMPACT



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.

2018-2019: BY THE NUMBERS

1,431

Children, Adults, and Community Members Served

415

Grief Support Programs Provided

14

Counties Served

110

Volunteers Gave

2,160

Direct Service Hours to Our Families

My favorite part of being involved with Michael's Place has been watching it grow from a young, fledgling group to the thriving, impactful and mature organization that has helped thousands of our community members better understand and manage their grief.

Marika B. / Event Volunteer

There are no words that can express the gratitude we have for Robin's Nest and the children's group at Michael Place. My niece came to live with me last August after her father who had sole custody of her passed away. The staff and activities have been amazing and it warms my heart to know that she is being exposed to grief support services and other children in similar situations.

Laura M. / Michael's Place/Robin's Nest Attendee



ROBIN'S NEST

1 in 5
 children will experience
 the death of someone
 close to them
 by age 18

408
 attended
12
 Robin's Nest
 'Best Day'
 Activities



Thank You to These Host Sites:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Fishing at Veronica Valley | Twilight Skating at Centre Ice Arena |
| Great Wolf Lodge Water Park | Skiing & Snowboarding at The Homestead |
| Incredible Mo's Bowling/Laser Tag/Arcade | Cookie & Gingerbread House Decorating |
| A Day of Golf at Bay Meadows | Christmas Shopping at GT Mall |
| Sailing Adventure on the Nauti-Cat | Indoor Sports at Gritshop |
| The Coin Slot Arcade | Mini-Golfing at Pirate's Cove |

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!

Robin's Nest has been so amazing for our child's growth! She looks forward to seeing all of her friends from Michael's Place and a more relaxed setting where they can play and just be kids, not a grieving child. The value of this program is immeasurable! I cannot begin to thank the community members and businesses who donate their services enough! We so enjoy our time with them! We could never repay them for all that they've given to her!

Colleen S. / Michael's Place/Robin's Nest Parent Attendee

I took my children fishing at Veronica Valley yesterday morning. The sun was shining and a pool of kind and patient volunteers helped them bait hooks, learn to cast, then reel in the fish. Most importantly I watched my children's joy. This was truly a metaphor for all Robin's Nest events. Our grief, always swimming beneath the surface, can be an elusive and difficult thing. But, we are learning how to navigate those waters and are finding comfort, hope and healing.

Ellen T. / Michael's Place/Robin's Nest Parent Attendee



OUR IMPACT: SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY

SCHOOLS

MICHAEL'S PLACE PROVIDED

411

Students and Faculty With Grief Crisis Support

135

In-School Support Groups

101

Students with Support in the In-School Grief Support Program

Classroom teachers report that students who have lost a parent or guardian typically exhibit:

87%

Difficulty concentrating in class

82%

Withdrawal/disengagement and less class participation

72%

Absenteeism

68%

Decrease in quality of work

Percentages are average teacher observations.

The students feel supported and are better able to focus on academics.

Samantha Abeel / Social Worker/Lakeland and Mill Creek Elementary

COMMUNITY

MICHAEL'S PLACE PROVIDED

118

Individuals in Local Business and Organizations with Grief Support

683

Community Members With Grief Support

Having a plan of action empowers a community...Having options, a plan of action, and knowledge of how to cope strengthens otherwise traumatized communities.

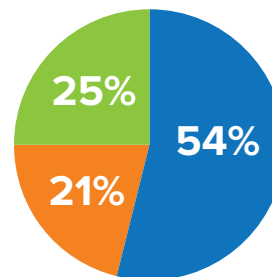
When A Community Weeps: Case Studies in Survivorship, Zinner and Williams, 1999

MICHAEL'S PLACE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Cash Basis)



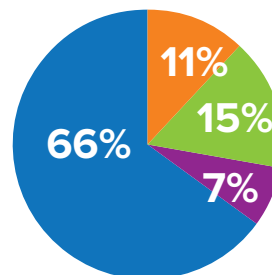
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019

REVENUE



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

EXPENDITURES



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

OPERATING STATEMENT

REVENUE

Individual and Corporate Contributions	244,603
Foundation Program Grants	114,309
Community Fundraisers	98,018
Total Revenue	456,930

EXPENDITURES

Administration	65,315
Fundraising and Community Outreach	28,861
Grief Support Services	285,969
Facility Rent and Maintenance	49,152
Total Expenditures	429,297
Operating Surplus or (Deficit)	27,633

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Checking and Savings Accounts	114,196
Rental Security Deposit	3,250
Short-term Pledges Receivable	71,987
Pledges Receivable Beyond One Year	216,378
Furnishings and Equipment (net of depreciation)	11,864
Total Assets	417,675

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Accounts Payable	0
Payroll Taxes and Benefits Payable	4,192
Restricted Grant Balance	48,000
Unrestricted Net Assets	365,483
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	417,675