



Michael's Place

*let the healing begin*



Together, We Restore *HOPE*.

2022/2023  
ANNUAL REPORT

## OUR MISSION

Michael's Place serves the bereavement needs of the greater community through support, advocacy, and education.

## OUR VALUES

- Create a Safe Space
- Support with Respect and Care
- Embrace Growth
- Lead with Integrity and Authenticity
- Inspire a Compassionate Culture



## OUR STAFF & BOARD

### Board of Directors

Chris Dennos, Founder  
Karen Browne, President  
Gretchen Overbeek, Secretary  
Doug Morgenstern, Treasurer  
Mindy Buell, Trustee  
Judy Harrison, Trustee  
Leslie Heimburger, Trustee

### Michael's Place Staff

Mindy Buell, Executive Director/CEO  
Connie Wintzinger, Development Director  
Kristi Spencer-Nemec, Grief Services Director  
Melissa Dunklow, Grief Services Coordinator  
Pam Jones-Robinson, Communications Coordinator  
Elizabeth Judson, Community Partnership Coordinator



## A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

It is a great privilege to present the Annual Report representing July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. Michael's Place has been built on the trust of the families 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.

Michael's Place works to mitigate the many adverse effects of grief by building communities and opportunities for support. This year, we welcomed over 200 new program participants and reached beyond our northern Michigan region to serve over 3000\* individuals, schools, businesses, and communities across 14 counties.

The new fiscal year will provide increased outreach and programming for the bereaved. The Grand Traverse County Commissioners unanimously selected Michael's Place to receive \$325,000 from the American Rescue Fund Act (ARPA). The ARPA funds will bridge the gaps in services for grieving children and adults. I look forward to all of the possibilities this funding provides and sharing its impact next year.

We are grateful to the generous benefactors who financially invest in Michael's Place with one-time gifts, multi-year pledged gifts, and planned gifts written into wills or trusts. Each method of giving is essential to Michael's Place and helps us continue to provide no-cost grief support. If you would like more information on how to leave a legacy gift for Michael's Place in your will, please refer to page 9 or contact the development office at 231.947.6453 or [connie@mymichaelsplace.net](mailto:connie@mymichaelsplace.net).

**Michael's Place is about healing, and your investment in Michael's Place fosters a healthier community today that will continue to impact our tomorrow.** Thank you for your generosity and support in our important work.

Warmly,

Mindy Buell

*Healing does not mean forgetting; it means learning to live with a new set of circumstances and not just survive but eventually thrive, despite those circumstances.*



\* May include duplicate numbers if an individual accessed multiple services.

# Together, We *SERVE*



## THE POWER OF CONNECTION

Michael's Place offers grief support services designed to ease the impact of loss by providing a safe space to share experiences and connect with others, tools and resources to cope with the grief, and educational opportunities to help build a grief-informed, compassionate community to ease isolation and encourage a sense of hope for the bereaved.

# IN-HOUSE PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Creating a safe space for grieving children, teens, and adults



*100% of in-house support services are provided at no cost to the individuals and families served.*

**"Michael's Place has been incredibly comforting and loving to me. The Women's Group has brought me so much support and motherly love since my mom passed away. It is the most sacred, comfortable place to be to share and express your grief."**

Group Participant

## PEER-FACILITATED SUPPORT GROUPS

Support groups are facilitated by trained volunteers and staff who provide guidance and peer-to-peer support. Youth meet in age-appropriate groups and participate in grief-related activities and discussions. Adults meet with others who have a greater understanding of their grief journey.

## ROBIN'S NEST

Robin's Nest provides a reprieve from the loss and a sense of normalcy among peers. With the help of mentors, the Robin's Nest program provides best day activities and educational opportunities to help grieving children and their families find joy in their lives and create new memories.

## WORKSHOPS & SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

Hands-On Healing • Coffee & Conversation • Create-A-Keepsake • Writing Through Loss  
Educational Workshops & Presentations • Healing Garden



Robin's Nest families enjoying time at the Homestead Resort

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES

*Bridging the gaps of bereavement services to schools, businesses, and community organizations*

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## SCHOOL-BASED INITIATIVE

Michael's Place provides support and guidance to the community through:

- > *In-school support groups to elementary, middle, and high school students grieving a death.*
- > *Guidance and training to schools to develop Bereavement Preparedness Plans, assistance following the death of a school community member, and ongoing grief education.*

## COMPASSIONATE WORKPLACE

Michael's Place provides support and guidance to businesses and community organizations who have experienced a death and to professionals that work in high-loss environments.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION

In addition to the customized training available to schools, businesses, and healthcare professionals, Michael's Place offers educational presentations to community groups and organizations on grief-related topics.



**"I know there are days that we are not enough for our students, for one another, and for our own families, but I think it's brave that we refuse to give up, and we never will."**

Dee C.,  
Educator and Participant,  
*Writing Though Loss for Educators*

# A Year of *IMPACT*



In a recent survey of our families, our participants were asked if they felt safe and welcomed at Michael's Place. 100% of participants agreed, with 82% strongly agreeing. Additionally, 94% of participants report that they feel connected to peers within their support groups, helping offset the isolation that often comes with grief.

**100%**

of participants agreed they felt safe and welcomed

**94%**

of participants report that they feel connected to peers within their support groups.

## IN 2022-2023 MICHAEL'S PLACE PROVIDED:

### IN-HOUSE SUPPORT

**2,248\***

Children, Teens,  
and Adults  
w/Grief Support

**255**

Grief Support  
Programs

**380\***

Youth and Families with  
Monthly Robin's Nest  
Program Opportunities.

### SCHOOLS, BUSINESSES, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

**112**

In-School  
Support Groups

**113**

Individuals in Local  
Businesses & Organizations  
with Grief Support

**179**

Community  
Members with  
Grief Education

*\*May include duplicate numbers if an individual accessed multiple services.*



# Together, We Find *HOPE*

## **THE IMPACT OF CHILDHOOD BEREAVEMENT**

Research shows that bereaved children are at an increased risk of disrupted development, that when unaddressed can lead to short- and long-term difficulties including decreased academic performance, reduced resilience and self esteem, and increased mental health concerns. A caring community, positive role models, healthy coping skills, and peer support are protective factors that help offset grief-related adversity.

## **JUDI'S HOUSE, CHILDHOOD BEREAVEMENT: A CRITICAL ISSUE**



# LOCAL AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONS OF CHILDREN'S BEREAVEMENT CARE

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With the help of our supporters and advocates, Michael's Place has grown from one program to six innovative programs that today serve communities throughout our region. The New York Life Foundation and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians have been long-time grant supporters of Michael's Place. They are true champions for the advancement of grief support for bereaved children and families.



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION



## LIFETIME SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN'S BEREAVEMENT PROGRAMS SINCE 2012:

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Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians  
**\$414,000**

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New York Life Foundation  
**\$225,000**

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Thank you to Northwest Education Services  
for their advocacy and partnership.

# PLANNED GIVING

Michael's Place has been community-funded since its inception, allowing more than 90% of programs to be provided to the individuals and families we serve without the burden of cost. But, it does cost Michael's Place to provide these programs. Please consider investing in our community and bereaved families with a financial contribution.

There are many ways to provide financial support to Michael's Place – some ways provide immediate funding and others defer your contribution until a later date of your choosing. Donations may be made in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Please contact our Development Director, Connie Wintzinger, for help with your questions at 231.947-6453 or [connie@mymichaelsplace.net](mailto:connie@mymichaelsplace.net).

## GIVING OPTIONS:

- ✓ General Contributions
- ✓ Gifts of Stock & Securities
- ✓ IRA Charitable Distribution
- ✓ Planned Giving
- ✓ Endowment Fund

## JOIN US FOR STORIES OF HOPE & CONNECTION

Michael's Place invites you to attend the annual **Restoring Hope Luncheon**. This one-hour fundraising event provides a deeper understanding of the organization's mission and its impact on the community. Learn how Michael's Place programs and services are made possible through the generous investment of our supporters.

**Wednesday, October 4, 2023 / Noon - 1:00pm**  
**Park Place Hotel Conference Center**

Contact us to reserve your seat/table today at [events@mymichaelsplace.net](mailto:events@mymichaelsplace.net) or (231) 947-6453. There is no cost to attend.

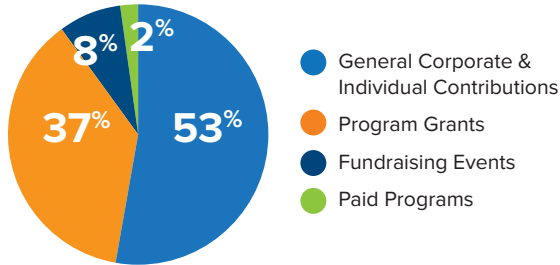


# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CASH BASIS)

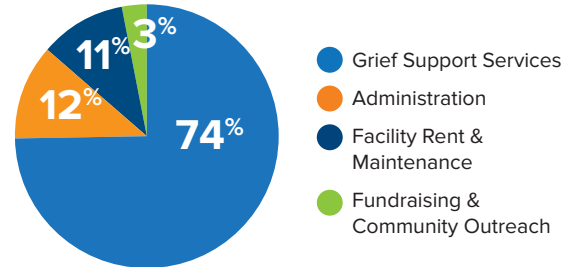
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023



## REVENUE



## EXPENDITURES



## OPERATING STATEMENT

REVENUE	
General Corporate & Individual Contributions	330,086
Program Grants	228,308
Fundraising Events	47,152
Paid Programs	10,026
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>615,572</b>

EXPENDITURES	
Grief Support Services	473,731
Administration	78,084
Facility Rent & Maintenance	69,781
Fundraising & Community Outreach	17,752
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>639,348</b>
<b>Operating Surplus or (Deficit)</b>	<b>-23,776</b>

BALANCE SHEET	
<b>Assets</b>	
Checking & Savings Account	236,383
Rental Security Deposit	3,250
Short-Term Pledges Receivable	75,550
Pledges Receivable Beyond One Year	217,283
Furnishings & Equipment (net of depreciation)	13,062
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>545,528</b>
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	
Accounts Payable	0
Payroll Taxes & Benefits Payable	272
Restricted Grant Balance	77,971
Unrestricted Net Assets	467,285
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Fund Balances</b>	<b>545,528</b>



Together,  
We *THRIVE*.

## **YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

The programs and services at Michael's Place could not continue without the investment of our community. We are humbled by the incredible generosity of thousands of compassionate supporters who give time, goods and services, and financial gifts.

# WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR 2022-2023 VOLUNTEERS



*This year, our interns and volunteers provided 1484.75 hours of service to our families totaling \$47,215.05 in estimated value.\**

Sarah Allaben  
Bill Anderson  
Fred Anderson  
Tony Anderson  
Dianne Baker-Hale  
Marlene Baldwin  
Marika BeVier  
Julie Bielman  
Thomas Bielman  
Julie Bluemlein  
Ann Bollinger  
Samantha Bonter  
Jasper Boomer  
Sawyer Boomer  
Dan Brady  
Michelle Broad  
Carol Brock  
Hannah Brown  
Jill Brown  
Karen Browne

Heather Bruce  
Zachary Bryan  
Susan Canright  
Ed Canright  
Gary Clifton  
Sandy Coil  
Amy D'Archangel  
Connie Debney  
Pamela DeMerle  
Chris Dennos  
Kristy Denny  
Mary Dillinger  
Julia Eikey  
Robin Flannery  
Jane Fochtman  
Karen Foisie  
Carolyn Francis  
Kay Goodall  
Amanda Gough  
Carolyn Green  
Michelle Greene

Jennifer Groseclose  
Erik Gruber  
Lisa Gruber  
Brad Harrison  
Judy Harrison  
Leslie Heimburger  
Karyn Hertel  
Jami Hirsch  
Ken Homa  
Susie Janis  
Mel Jones  
Bailey Judson  
Mike Kanitz  
Addie Kaupus  
Lisa Kaupas  
Will Kaupus  
Ayden Key  
Jane Kittendorf  
Pam Klump

Kim Koehler  
Harry Kroll  
Lori LaClair  
Sarah Lake  
Carole Lannin  
Mitch Lawens  
Cooper Lawens  
Amelia Lawens  
Emily Ledford  
Kathy Ledford  
Kelly Lively  
Michele Marshall  
Ming Mays  
Jim McCann  
Liz McCormick  
Mayme Mesa  
Jill Miklos  
Doug Morgenstern  
Sandra Morhardt  
Geri Morris

Mel Morris  
Penny Morris  
Pat Navyac  
Julia Nelson  
Evelyn Nowicki  
Matt Olson  
Penny Ort  
Gretchen Overbeek  
June Palumbo  
Lisa Peacock  
Nathan Pearson  
Laura Pearson  
Nicholas Pearson  
Melanie Preseley  
Paula Prusick  
Sydney Radamacher  
Jennifer Richardson  
Yasmin Richmond

Dylan Roe  
Libby Semeyn  
Karla Shappee  
Stacyann Smith  
Milly Stacey  
Andrea Stagg  
Meg Staley  
Laura Stuursma  
Marianne Swank  
Mishelle Vos  
Paige Waldron  
Danielle Wichern  
Kasey Wierzba  
Mark Wilson  
Katie Winslow  
Pat Woods



\*Based on the Current Estimated National Value



Together,  
We *REMEMBER.*

*What we once enjoyed and deeply loved we can never lose,  
for all that we love deeply becomes part of us.* **HELEN KELLER**

## THANKFUL FOR GIFTS MADE IN MEMORY OF:



Gladys Ann Alford  
Mike Ascione  
Joziena (Oma) Ballintyn  
Beth Bannister  
William K. Brady  
Dean Branson  
Joseph D. Browne  
Kalee Bruce  
Ted Bruce  
Greg Buell  
Karen Buell  
Onalee & James Cousins  
Richard Deneweth  
Pat Denny  
Gerald A. Dillinger  
Kurt R. Douglass  
Don Findley  
Joel Findley  
Jeanette Flannery

Zachary Fochtman  
Isla Kay Glaze  
Aurea Gonzalez  
Dan Goodearl  
B.J. Grewe  
James Hanneman  
Timmy Hautz  
Victor & Nancy Hirsch  
Lucy House  
Phil Hoyt  
Laila Jamil  
Julie Janis Finch  
Leta Kelley  
Scott King  
Cathy Layman  
Mimi London  
Julie Marshall  
Mary Matter  
Heather McAulay

Daniel "Beechie" Miller  
Michelle Morgenstern  
Catherine (Aunt Cathy,  
Grandma Catherine)  
Morgenstern  
Matthew Moyer  
John Ort  
Patricia Parsons  
Mitchell Pasinski  
David Peacock  
John Peacock II  
Althea Petrith  
Larry Phipps  
Sydney Grace Potjers  
Rex Reed  
David William Reincke  
Edward Russell  
Doc Spencer  
Susan L. Stoudt

Dona Stzelecki  
Treg Szerlong  
Little John & Kate Taft  
Keegan Tarrant  
Frank Tenbusch  
Nick Treacy  
Bernice & John Tylutki  
Hayden Vint  
Braiden Voss  
Michael Wagoner  
David White  
Reta Wight  
Marilyn Wilmot  
Phyllis & Roland Wintzinger  
Jack Davis Wittler  
Eric Yates  
Garrett Campbell Zamarron  
Joan Zupin



**" I am passionate about the mission of Michael's Place because I experience the emptiness, pain, and grief of living without my son every day. I understand how important it is for our children to have compassionate mentors and peers who understand their journey. This comforts and liberates them to open up and share the stories they are living.**

**Those two things, adult mentors who are present and actively listen, along with peers who understand their grief, help lessen the loneliness and incredibly isolating pain of grief. A critical network of support is opened up through the groups at Michael's Place."**

Karen Browne, Board President



1212 Veterans Drive, Ste. 100  
Traverse City, MI 49684



## OUR MISSION

Michael's Place serves the bereavement needs of the greater community through support, advocacy, and education.

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231.947.6453

[goodgrief@mymichaelsplace.net](mailto:goodgrief@mymichaelsplace.net)

[MyMichaelsPlace.net](http://MyMichaelsPlace.net)

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