



Michael's Place

let the healing begin

Together, We Restore *HOPE*.

2023/2024
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 BOARD & STAFF

Board of Directors

Karen Browne, President
Gretchen Overbeek, Secretary
Doug Morgenstern, Treasurer
Mindy Buell, Trustee
Chris Dennos, Founder, Trustee
Judy Harrison, Trustee
Leslie Heimburger, Trustee
Mike Mahn, 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
Sarah Schultz, Grief Services Coordinator
Elizabeth Boomer, Community Partnership Coordinator
Pam Jones-Robinson, Communications Coordinator
Marlee Harrison, Office Coordinator



A LETTER FROM THE CEO



Dear Friends,

It is an honor to present the Annual Report covering the period from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. At the heart of Michael's Place lies a steadfast commitment to support families in their grief journey, made possible through the trust of the families we serve, and the unwavering dedication of our donors and volunteers.

Michael's Place diligently pursues our mission by offering a diverse array of grief support programs tailored to people of all ages. We are proud to report that this year we welcomed nearly 300 new participants and saw increased program attendance, reaching close to 4,000 individuals* across 18 counties in northern Michigan.*



Central to our efforts in the 2023-2024 period was the expansion of in-school grief support groups and the building of our volunteer team. Serving as a beacon of hope and healing, Michael's Place strives to provide essential support to children and teens navigating the complex landscape of grief. Through nearly 200 in-school grief support groups conducted across 7 counties, we have endeavored to offer solace and encouragement, ensuring that students feel supported in their grieving process.

The continued success of Michael's Place is made possible through our volunteer team.. Our staff is small, yet our reach is vast due to the many volunteers who continue to give their time and share their talents.

Our on-site grief support programs continue to be no cost through the generosity of our benefactors who support us through one-time gifts, multi-year pledges, and planned giving strategies that include provisions in wills and trusts. Each form of support plays a critical role in sustaining our mission and enables us to offer our services at no cost to those in need.

At Michael's Place, healing is not just our mission—it is our commitment to building a healthier community today and laying the foundation for a resilient community tomorrow. We extend our deepest gratitude to you for your generosity and steadfast support of our vital work.

Warm Regards,

Mindy Buell, CEO

For more information on planned giving opportunities, please refer to **page 12** or reach out to the Development Director at **231.947.6453** or **connie@mymichaelsplace.net**.

**May include duplicate numbers if individual accessed multiple services*

IN-HOUSE PROGRAMS & SERVICES

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

PEER-FACILITATED SUPPORT GROUPS

Support groups are led by skilled volunteers and staff members who offer mentorship and peer support. Children and youth meet in groups tailored to their age and engage in grief-related activities and conversations. Adults join discussion-based groups to connect with others experiencing grief.

ROBIN'S NEST

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

WORKSHOPS & SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

Hands-On Healing • Coffee & Conversation
Seated Mindul Movement • GriefShare • Create-A-Keepsake
Educational and Creative Workshops & Presentations

Michael's Place is a safe place where you can share your feelings if you want. You will find kindness and love. You will find others that you can make connections with. Adult Group Participant



Michael's Place family enjoying time at the Robin's Nest Holiday Gingerbread Decorating event.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES



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

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 Grief Crisis Planning & Training, assistance following the death of a school community member, and ongoing grief education.*

COMPASSIONATE WORKPLACE

Michael's Place provides support and education to businesses and organizations who have experienced a death within their workplace.

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.



Michael's Place has been a true blessing at Kingsley Area Schools. They bring a warm, comfortable, welcoming environment to our schools. Our students have received immense support and guidance from the Michael's Place staff during some very difficult times in their young lives. I would highly recommend bringing these wonderful individuals into your schools. They have become an integral part of the Kingsley School family.

Josh Rothwell,
Kingsley Schools Superintendent



Together, We *GROW*

In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, growth was evident across various programs and services. The most substantial growth was observed in our services for students and schools, along with the recruitment of new volunteers to aid in sustaining the in-house support programs.

2023 / 2024 IMPACT

In a recent survey, our participants were asked if they felt safe, welcomed, and supported at Michael's Place.

98% of participants feel safe and welcomed.

94% of participants feel connected to peers within their support groups.

IN 2023-2024 MICHAEL'S PLACE PROVIDED:

IN-HOUSE SUPPORT

2,800*

Children, Teens,
and Adults
w/Grief Support

300

New Participants
Welcomed with
First-Time Support

725

Grief Support
Opportunities

400*

Youth and Families with
Monthly Robin's Nest
Program Opportunities

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

375

Community Members with
Grief Support and Education

45

Individuals in Local Businesses with Support
Following a Death in their Workplace

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

A Year of *GROWTH*

Participating in support groups reminds me there is growth in grief.

16 year old high school student

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

In the 2023-24 Fiscal Year, we saw tremendous growth in our service to schools, providing:

- > *Nearly 200 school groups throughout the school year with direct individualized service to 100 students*
- > *In-school support services to 14 school buildings and 3 new schools in Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Kalkaska, Antrim, and Wexford Counties*
- > *11 grief crisis and aftercare support opportunities, serving over 100 faculty and students following a sudden loss in their school community*



At Cadillac Area Public Schools, we deeply value our partnership with Michael's Place. Their unwavering support through in-school grief support groups and their immediate response during times of tragedy have been instrumental in helping our students and staff navigate through grief. Michael's Place provides a compassionate and essential service, ensuring that no one faces their journey alone. We are profoundly grateful for their dedication to the well-being of our school community.

Jennifer Brown, Superintendent,
Cadillac Area Public Schools

A Year of *GROWTH*



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

This year, our volunteer service hours rose by more than 40%!

Our volunteers are compassionate, dedicated individuals who give their time and energy to support our mission. They come with a wealth of experience and skills that enrich our organization and our community. Whether providing direct assistance, lending a listening ear, or helping with day to day operations, their contributions make a significant impact. Together, they create a network of care and support that uplifts those in need and inspires others to join in the effort.



*No one is more cherished in this world than someone who
lightens the burden of another.*

Joseph Addison

WITH GRATITUDE TO OUR 2023-2024 VOLUNTEERS

The dedication and commitment of our volunteers enable over 90% of Michael's Place programs and services to be offered to our bereaved community without any financial burden. **This year, our interns and volunteers provided over 2,200 hours of service to our families totaling \$74,716.19 in estimated value.***

Fred Anderson	Sandy Coil	Annabelle Gray	Michele Marshall	Karla Shappee
April Arnott	Matt and Melissa	Lisa Gruber	Jim McCann	Heidi Sleder
Sawyer Bak	Coolman	Mason Hoelscher	Julia McCloskey	Andy Sleder
Dianne Baker-Hale	William Corrigan	Judy Harrison	Liz McCormick	Ann Smith
Marlene	Mike Cotter	Brad Harrison	Kyley McLaughlan	Rustine Stachnik
Baldwin-McCann	Jill Coverdill	Leslie Heimbürger	Jill Miklos	Meg Staley
Thomas Bielman	Marguerite	Catherine Hendges	Courtney Miller	Tyler Telfor
Olivia Biggar	Davenport	Ken Homa	Doug Morgenstern	Andrea Thompson
Jennifer Birnbaum	Connie Debney	Carrie Irwin	Geri Morris	Paige Waldron
Dana Black	Kari DeBoer	Laurie Johnson	Penny Morris	Danielle Wichern
Julie Bluemlein	Pamela DeMerle	Mel Jones	Alex Moravec	Reef Wichern
Samantha Bonter	Chris Dennos	Rita Kane	Julia Nelson	Mark Wilson
Parker Bowman	Kristy Denny	Mike Kanitz	Penny (Penelope) Ort	Katie Winslow
Carol Brock	Mary Dillinger	William Kayuk	Gretchen Overbeek	Bryan Wood
Karen Browne	Heidi Fite	Kim Koehler	Glen Peterson	Pat Woods
Mike Buell	AJ Flannery	Harry Kroll	Jennifer Richardson	Christine Zimmer
Mary Burgin	Krystal Flateau	Laurie LaCross	Xila Richardson	Mike Zwarych
Samantha Charnes	Jane Fochtman	Carole Lannin	Yasmin Richmond	
Ellie Charnes	Kay Goodall	Mike Mahn	Libby Semeyn	<i>* Based on the Current Estimated National Value</i>



Every aspect of Michael's Place radiates a sincere sense of hope and community. As a volunteer, it gives me great joy and pleasure to share my positivity and talents with so many individuals experiencing grief.

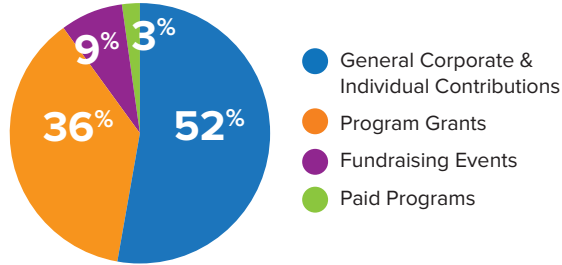
Kay, Volunteer,
Michael's Place 2023 Restoring Hope Advocate of the Year
(Pictured left)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CASH BASIS)

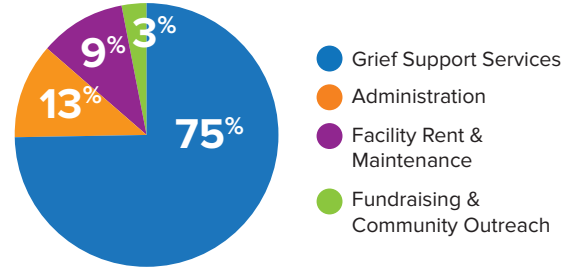
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024



REVENUE



EXPENDITURES



REVENUE	
General Corporate & Individual Contributions	377,219
Program Grants	260,438
Fundraising Events	62,841
Paid Programs	20,508
Total Revenue	721,006

EXPENDITURES	
Grief Support Services	571,000
Administration	100,288
Facility Rent and Maintenance	69,114
Fundraising & Community Outreach	22,639
Total Expenditures	763,041
Operating Surplus or (Deficit)	-42,035

BALANCE SHEET	
Assets	
Checking & Savings Account	204,286
Rental Security Deposit	3,250
Short-term Pledges Receivable	140,584
Pledges Receivable Beyond One Year	368,830
Furnishings & Equipment (net of depreciation)	7,968
Total Assets	724,918

Liabilities & Fund Balances	
Accounts Payable	7,506
Payroll Taxes & Benefits Payable	5,056
Restricted Grants Balance	245,057
Unrestricted Net Assets	467,299
Total Liabilities & Fund Balances	724,918

Together, We Find *HOPE*

It's helpful being around people who understand what each other is going through.

Sarah, 10 years old



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. Join us to bear witness to the stories of those directly impacted by the work of Michael's Place.

Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024 • Noon - 1:00pm
Park Place Hotel Conference Center



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

FINANCIAL GIFTS RESTORE HOPE

Ways to Support Michael's Place

- *General Contributions*
- *Gifts of Stock & Securities*
- *Pledge Gifts*
- *In-Kind Contributions*
- *Volunteerism*

Planned Giving and Endowment

Along with immediate gifts that support the mission, Michael's Place accepts deferred or planned gifts that help us look ahead strategically to ensure our programs and services are here permanently for our community.

Please contact our Development Director, Connie Wintzinger, for help with your questions at **231.947-6453** or connie@mymichaelsplace.net.



Together, We *REMEMBER*.

Michael's Place deeply appreciates donations made in memory of a loved one. We understand the significance of these meaningful contributions. We extend our gratitude to everyone who supports our grief support programs with such heartfelt generosity.

THANKFUL FOR GIFTS MADE IN MEMORY OF:



Aaron and Erie	Margaret Dendrinis	Roberta Kassa	Deborah Ritchie
Doris Abbott	Rick Deneweth	Leta Kelley	Derek Robinson
Gladys Ann Alford	Mike and Barb Dennos	George Kraus	Martin Ross
Linda Susan	Pat Denny	Paul Kujala	Kathy Rymal
Olger Anderson	Jim Drinan	Cathy Layman	Jeffrey Sandman
Mike Ascione	Frank Duncan	Mimi London	Thomas C. Sanfilippo
Daniel Baldwin	Jerome Fettig	Anthony Lucero	Ronald Guy Schlack
Stephen Ballance	Julie Janis Finch	John Lundquist	Ann Schmittling
Joziena Ballintyn (Oma)	Zachery Fochtman	Whitney Lyon	Gloria Schmude
Pat and Al Bishop	Bernie Gallagher	Donald Maidens	Damon Schopieray
Jo Black	Tim Gies	Scott Manning	Marilyn Skay
Jamie Blanke	Aurea Gonzalez	Julie Marshall	Allison Spencer
Mark Bonter	Dan Goodearl	William C. McCormick	Eric Spry and Little Preston
Susie Brace	Brad Graczyk	Logan McDonough	Susan L. Stoudt
William Brady	Alex Grizzel	Isaac Julian Ryan	Bruce and Sheryl Struik
Jennifer Lynn (Millward)	Abby Gross	McKinnon	Treg Szerlong
Broekhuizen	Justin Hansen	Gary McMill	Little John and Kate Taft
Bob and Elaine Brooks	Zach Harder	Daniel "Beechie" Miller	Keegan Tarrant
Joseph D. Browne	Mary Sue Hautz	Catherine Morgenstern	Kathryn K. Taylor
Ruth Elsie Browne	Timmy Hautz	Jamie Morse	Abby & Beth Troppman
Kalee Bruce	David J. Hendrickson	Matthew Moyer	Michael Wagoner
Greg Buell	Larry Henry	My Mom and Dad	Dave Walker
Karen Buell	Michael John Henry	Melvin and Ruth Nielson	Barry Ward
Tucker Byl	Albert and Catherine	John Ort	Anne Marie Warner
Peter Ralph Cano	Heustis	Patricia Parsons	Denise and Peggy Warrick
Paul Charette	Victor and Nancy Hirsch	Mike Perdue	Koshari Watts
Martin J. Cianciolo	James Hosking	Heidii Periard	Archer Wheaton
Claire the Greyhound	Donna Howland	Larry Phipps	Emily Wilson
Gary Clifton	Philip A. Hoyt	Sherry Pitcher	Jack Davis Wittler
Kerstin Colmus	Laila Jamil	Ron and Maureen	Nathan Wood
Sandy K. Coon	Diane Johnston	Pomaranski	Eric Yates
Alix Crawford	Clint Kane	Art Primeau	Joan Zupin
Kevin Connors Crowley	Stephen Kane	David William Reincke	
Pam Davis			



Wally & Carmen with Executive Director, Mindy Buell

I was 5 years old when I lost my father. Besides me, he left behind my sisters 12 and 13 years of age, and my mom 32 years of age. I was sheltered by my family from the grief; however, my sisters had a difficult time in middle school and my mom was now a working single mom. Had there been a resource available for my family to share their grief and an outlet for their concerns, fears, and uncertainties, their lives would've been less traumatic.

My wife Carmen and I support the mission of Michael's Place because they fill a need in our community where the unexpected loss of a loved one has a lifelong impact. Michael's Place offers guidance to restore hope and a vision for light after darkness.

Wally & Carmen Gonzalez, Supporters
In memory of Aurea Gonzalez



Michael's Place

let the healing begin

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



*Michael's Place is a place
of comfort, love, and care.
A place that makes you feel
so much less alone, that
makes you feel supported
and seen.*

Program Participant

231.947.6453
goodgrief@mymichaelsplace.net
MyMichaelsPlace.net