



Michael's Place

let the healing begin

Together, We Build
A Compassionate
Community



2021/2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission

Michael's Place serves the bereavement needs of the greater community through support, advocacy, and education for those grieving a death.

Michael's Place Board & Staff

Board of Directors

- Chris Dennos, Founder
- Karen Browne, President
- Dan Brady, Vice 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
- Julia Borucki, Office Assistant
- Breanna Broering, Grief Services Coordinator
- Pam Jones-Robinson, Marketing & Volunteer Coordinator
- Elizabeth Judson, Community Partnership Coordinator
- Kristi Spencer-Nemec, Grief Services Coordinator
- Connie Wintzinger, Development Director

I came to know Michael's Place through the death of an employee at our workplace. Being new to my role in Human Resources at Hagerty, I didn't know what the protocol was in this situation, and the people around me quickly introduced me to Michael's Place. The support and expertise they shared during this difficult time was incredible. Since then, I have become intimately involved as a board member and I have seen firsthand their impact in our community, within our workplaces and our schools. I am very proud to tell people that I am affiliated with Michael's Place because of how well they are run from a business perspective and more importantly how critical they are to our area.

GRETCHEN OVERBEEK, BOARD MEMBER

A Letter From Our Executive Director



Dear Friends,

This year, we welcomed over 375 new program participants and reached beyond our northern Michigan region to serve 2,580* individuals, schools, businesses, and communities across 16 counties.

To serve such a reach and be financially sustainable, the Michael's Place Board of Directors created an earned-income revenue stream by providing fee-based bereavement training and education for professionals in schools and workplaces. This allows us to meet the growing needs of the greater community while providing our core programs at no-cost for bereaved children and adults.

An example of this initiative is represented by our *Writing Through Loss for Educators* program delivered to a group of teachers outside the region. Devastated by tragic loss, our help was requested to support and guide their grieving students and school community. We quickly realized that to help their students, we first needed to address the grief and loss of the teachers. A seven-week series was created that focused on the needs of the educators, and the results were profound with one participant stating, *"I have grown by simply being given the chance to talk about grief."*

Recently, the New York Life Foundation, a national champion of bereavement work, awarded Michael's Place a two-year grant because of our strong, established partnerships with schools and focus on rural youth. Most importantly, this funding recognizes just how equipped Michael's Place is in serving the grieving child by empowering and educating the caregivers responsible for their emotional well-being.

With great excitement, the Michael's Place Board of Directors launched an endowment seeded by a recent bequest. This major step will lead to sustainability for years to come.

On behalf of the entire Michael's Place family, thank you for your generous support.

Warmly,

Mindy Buell



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

Programs & Services

IN-HOUSE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Michael's Place offers grief support services designed to ease the loss of loved ones and provides a safe environment to enable healthy healing after the death of a loved one, and a network of peers who understand.

PEER-FACILITATED SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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.

WORKSHOPS AND SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

Hands-On Healing | Create-A-Keepsake | Writing Through Loss
StoryCorps Inspired Sessions | Peer-to-Peer Social Opportunities
Educational Workshops and Presentations | Healing Garden

I am incredibly grateful for Michael's Place. The ability to be in a compassionate space with people who understand your pain, is priceless! Without it, I am not sure my daughter and I would have achieved the level of healing we have accomplished.

ANGELA M., PROGRAM ATTENDEE





COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES

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 the death of a loved one.
- > Guidance and training to schools to develop grief crisis 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 in the midst of a bereavement crisis and to professionals that work in high-loss environments.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

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

NEW! Writing Through Loss for Educators

This program not only gave me tools and helped me heal, but it also allowed me to create an environment for students and colleagues that will provide a space for them to express their feelings.

PARTICIPANT, WRITING THROUGH LOSS FOR EDUCATORS





Together,
We Serve

Demand Increases in Children, Adults, and Families

Since the beginning of the pandemic, children grieving the death of an immediate family member has increased by 35% nationwide. Overdose deaths and the rate of suicide and depression are on the rise.



2021-2022: BY THE NUMBERS

1,784*
Children, Adults,
and Community
Members Served

261
Grief Support
Programs
Provided

309
Youth and their families
served through Robin's
Nest 'Best Day'
opportunities

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



A close-up photograph of two young girls. The girl in the foreground has blonde hair and is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. She is wearing a blue denim jacket. The girl behind her has long, wavy reddish-brown hair and is also smiling, with her arms around the blonde girl. She is wearing a blue denim jacket. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting.

Together, We Build

Community Outreach Grows

Requests from regional schools for both in-school support groups, grief crisis training, and support for educators have increased dramatically. One small rural school sought services from Michael's Place after 20 elementary-age students experienced the loss of a parent.

07

A Year of Impact: Community Outreach



Prior to the pandemic an estimated one in 20 children experienced the death of a parent or sibling by the time they reached 18.

Today the number is closer to one in 13 children nationwide, and one in 12 in Michigan.

SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

IN 2021/2022 MICHAEL'S PLACE PROVIDED:

117

In-school
support groups

169

Students and Faculty
with Grief Support

44

School Faculty Members
with Grief Crisis Training

BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS

IN 2021/2022 MICHAEL'S PLACE PROVIDED:

61

Individuals in Local
Businesses & Organizations
with Grief Support

11

Community
Presentations

177

Community Members
with Education on
Grief and Loss

As a school, we felt pretty confident about our crisis plan because of earlier training and help from Michael's Place, but the refresher was exactly what we needed to bring us all up to speed. We're thankful for your help and hope we never have to use the plan, but if we do, we'll feel confident to handle what comes our way because you've prepared us with the right tools.

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Together, We Grow

Grief, Growth, & Finding Purpose



TODD & WYATT

THEN *We came to Michael's Place when it was on Boon Street, after my wife and Wyatt's mom died suddenly following what we thought was a minor surgery. Wyatt was four years old. We came because there were opportunities for both Wyatt and me and because we were grieving together, but differently. Wyatt needed someone else to talk with besides me! We both felt like each time we left a group night, or a Robin's Nest event, a little more of the burden was lifted.*



NOW *Today, we still enjoy a Robin's Nest outing once in a while. Wyatt feels a deep empathy for other kids and has developed listening skills that draw other kids to him for help and comfort in times of difficulty.*

We both feel equipped to help others and deeply appreciate the opportunity to give back at Michael's Place and share our story.

LAURIE'S FAMILY

Brian Nachazel,
October 19, 1982 -
August 23, 2014



THEN *We began coming to Michael's Place when our son Brian was killed in a tragic car accident. Our family didn't know how to cope with all of it.*

At first we didn't know what to expect, but as different family members came together, Michael's Place made it very easy to open up and have honest conversations about the tough feelings that needed to be talked through. We felt a sense of belonging, knowing others went through a similar situation, created bonds, and supported each other during the hard and easy times.

NOW *Although there have been trying times, we continue to try to live life to our fullest. We have four grandchildren now, all born after the death of our son, who we see frequently. We've found purpose in our loss by hosting a snowball tournament in our son's name yearly since his death, raising over \$100,000 for people in need.*

Grief is a lifelong journey and at times we seem to just go through the motions. But the softball and golf tournament fundraisers, lighting a candle during a holiday, all are a part of meaningful, new traditions.

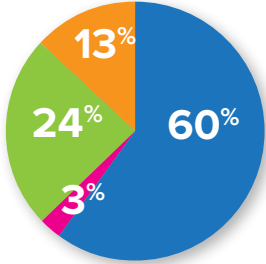
Michael's Place was there with us in the beginning of our grief journey, when we needed it most and we know Michael's Place will always be there.



Michael's Place Financial Statements (Cash Basis)

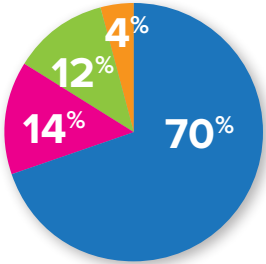
Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

REVENUE



- General Corporate & Individual Contributions
- Program Grants
- Fundraising Events
- Paid Programs

EXPENDITURES



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

OPERATING STATEMENT

REVENUE

General Corporate & Individual Contributions	298,543
Paid Programs	14,200
Program Grants	121,383
Fundraising Events	62,307
Total Revenue	496,433

EXPENDITURES

Grief Support Services	389,399
Administration	77,169
Facility Rent & Maintenance	65,660
Fundraising & Community Outreach	20,644
Total Expenditures	552,872
Operating Surplus or (Deficit)	(56,439)

BALANCE SHEET

Assets

Checking & Savings Account	266,638
Rental Security Deposit	3,250
Short-term Pledges Recv. (net of allowances)	105,000
Pledges Receivable Beyond One Year	183,960
Furnishings & Equipment (net of depreciation)	21,399
Total Assets	580,247

Liabilities and Fund Balances

Accounts Payable	910
Payroll Taxes & Benefits Payable	6,970
Restricted Grant Balance	50,000
Unrestricted Net Assets	522,367
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	580,247

Together, We Restore Hope



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 time, goods and services, and financial contributions from thousands of compassionate supporters.

Thank YOU:

To the interns and volunteers who have provided **2,050** hours of service to our families totaling **\$58,117** in estimated value.

To the Robin's Nest hosts who contributed nearly **\$9,000** value of in-kind support for 'best day' events for our families.

To Heidi, Alex, and all who organized and supported the **5th Annual Treg Szerlong Memorial Golf Outing** in memory of Treg and to benefit Michael's Place. The funds raised this year totaled **\$9,502**.

To the **22** sponsors and **169** participants who supported our *21miles for 21years* Challenge, raising over **\$40,000!**

To our Benefactor, Champions, Patrons, Pledge Supporters, each contributor and partner for your investment in our mission.

With Gratitude To Our 2021-2022 Volunteers!

Fred Anderson
 Karen Anderson
 Dianne Baker-Hale
 Daniel Baldwin†
 Isabelle Bauman
 Angie Bersok
 Marika Bevier
 Marty Bieganowski
 Samantha Bonter
 Jasper Boomer
 Oliver Boomer
 Sawyer Boomer
 Julia Borucki
 Dan Brady
 Carol Brock
 Hannah Brown
 Jill Brown
 Karen Browne
 Bella Busch
 Brady Buell
 Gus Buell
 Susan Buxton
 Molly Campbell
 Ed Canright
 Susan Canright
 Tonja Carlson
 Gary Clifton


Samantha Comai
 Betsey Coon
 Connie Debney
 Pam Demerle
 Connie Deneweth
 Janet Denton
 Chris Dennos
 Kristy Denny
 Mary Dillinger
 Kathy Douglass
 Margaret Fedder
 Kathy Fitch
 Robin Flannery
 Jane Fochtman
 Carolyn Francis
 Karen Garson
 Jim Goodall
 Kay Goodall
 Amanda Gough
 Ellie Gruber
 Erik Gruber
 Lisa Gruber
 Lucy Gruber
 Nancy Guido
 Shocko Hall
 Max Harder
 Wes Harder

Brad Harrison
 Judy Harrison
 Leslie Heimburger
 Macy Hill
 Bailey Judson
 Mike Kanitz
 Brian Klumpp
 Kim Koehler
 Whitney Krause
 Harry Kroll
 Carole Lannin
 Katy Lawson
 Bill Marsh, Jr.
 Rob Marsh
 Michele Marshall
 Alyssa Masiewicz
 Ming Mays
 Marci Michael
 Jill Miklos
 Doug Morgenstern
 Geri Morris
 Madelyn Mytty
 Pat Navyac
 Kevin Nelson
 Julia Nelson
 Adam Newth
 Sean O'Brien

Penny Ort
 Gretchen Overbeek
 June Palumbo
 John Phillips
 Anthony Ribel
 Christina Ribel
 Jennifer Richardson
 Yasmin Richmond
 Connie Schneider
 Karla Shappee
 Hayley Sherman
 Wendy Shutler
 Leah Serrine
 Jennifer Spranger
 Meg Staley
 Katja Stolsberg
 Nancy Sweet
 Alix Thorington
 David VanHorn
 Mark Wilson
 Pat Woods
 Peter Worden
 Linda Young
 Christine Zimmer

† *In memory of long-time Michael's Place volunteer, Dan Baldwin. Dan's compassion and dedication to serving our bereaved families was such a blessing and he is greatly missed.*





No one is immune to loss. We can't predict life's timing, but what we can do is support Michael's Place to ensure families and communities receive the support they need in times of great loss and grief. I am honored to be on the board of this organization.

LESLIE HEIMBURGER, MD,
MICHAELS PLACE BOARD MEMBER



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