

## History of The Cove

The Cove Center for Grieving Children was founded in 1995 by Jim and Mary Ann Emswiler and therapist Renée McIntyre. Their vision was to create a program to support children and families in their grief process and to help prevent children and teens from experiencing the devastating side effects of unresolved childhood grief.

Beginning with one site in Guilford, The Cove carried out its mission to “provide hope and healing to grieving children” and support for their families in their greatest time of need.

Since its inception, The Cove has grown into the largest children’s multi-site grief program in the Northeast with a Coordinating Office in Meriden, and satellite sites in West Hartford, Guilford, Meriden, New Haven, Stonington, East Hartford and Easton serving Newtown and Fairfield County, CT.

Providing an innovative, peer support based model of healing for children and families, The Cove Center for Grieving Children is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves families, schools and community based programs throughout the state of Connecticut.



In 2013, The Cove provided our first free bereavement camp experience for grieving children 6-17 years through Camp Erin® Newtown in collaboration with The Moyer Foundation. Today, we offer Camp Erin® Connecticut, part of a nationwide network of camps supported by The Moyer Foundation, providing a free weekend camping experience for grieving children and teens.

## Getting Involved with The Cove

### Join The Cove Volunteer Program

- Help with a Cove event or special project.
- Consider becoming a Cove facilitator or trainer, Camp Erin CT Big Buddy, or offering administrative support.

### Share The Cove Message

- Invite a trainer from The Cove to speak at a school, community or business event or meeting to share about the resources available to support children who are grieving.
- Visit the Cove website at [www.covect.org](http://www.covect.org) to learn more about our programs, then share our message with those we can help.

### Contribute Your Support Financially

- Sponsor a Cove event or program.
- Donate or pledge any amount to The Cove for general or designated expenses.
- Provide in-kind goods or services.

The Cove relies on the generosity of individual donors, foundations, corporations and civic groups to financially support its programs. We do not require a fee for services but look to those whom we serve to support fundraising efforts or volunteer in whatever capacity possible so we may continue to serve more children.



### The Cove Center for Grieving Children

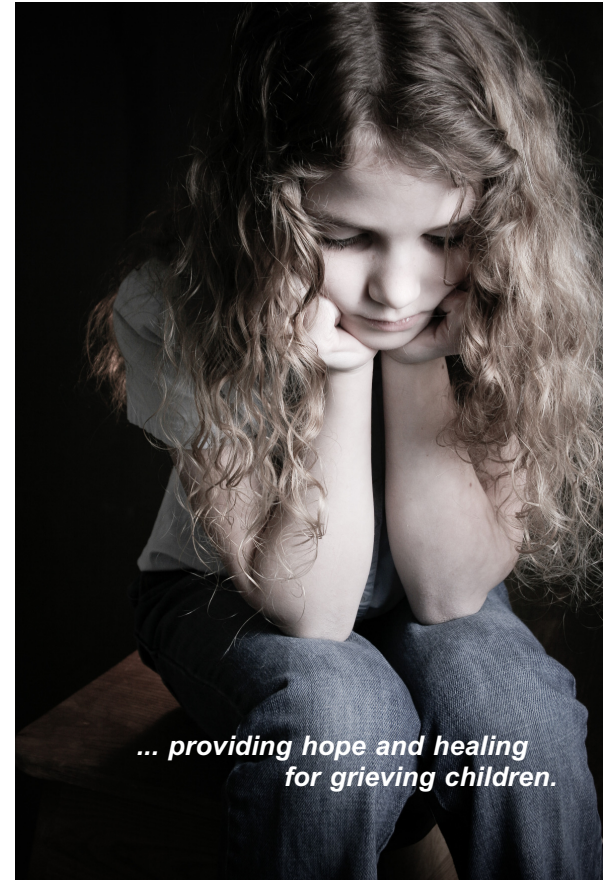
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## CENTER FOR GRIEVING CHILDREN



*... providing hope and healing for grieving children.*

[www.covect.org](http://www.covect.org)

**Comprehensive Grief Services  
for Connecticut's Children**

## Family Support Groups



The Cove Center for Grieving Children specializes in helping children and adolescents who are grieving the death of a significant person in their lives.

Children's needs, as well as their understanding and perception of the future, often do not incorporate the coping skills required to heal from loss. This can produce emotional and behavioral problems sometimes not easily recognized by family, friends or even professionals.

Unresolved grief in children and teens may result in:

- Significantly lower academic achievement
- Higher school dropout rates
- Substance abuse and risk taking
- Aggression/violence
- Depression

The Cove offers child-focused, family support groups at five locations throughout the state. These groups are based on a peer support model of healing and are facilitated by trained licensed professionals and volunteers.

Participants in these groups learn how to further develop skills to manage and express their feelings; effectively communicate through creative activities and group sharing; and identify strategies which support them in their journey through the grief process.

- Support groups are held in Meriden, West Hartford, Guilford, New Haven, East Hartford, Easton serving Newtown/Fairfield County, and Stonington, CT. All sites serve the surrounding communities.
- Groups are held twice a month from September through June.
- Children ages 4-18 are welcome to attend.
- Child, teen and parent groups are available.
- All meetings are FREE of charge.

## "Good Grief" School Program

The Cove "Good Grief" School Program provides students with peer group to address and manage their grief in a familiar school setting.

Cove facilitators work with school counselors by modeling the eight week curriculum using expressive arts and activities especially designed to help students move through the healing process.

Once school professionals are trained to deliver the program, they are equipped to facilitate the program at their schools at any time.

Upon completion of the program students often report feeling empowered. They find strength and hope increasing their repertoire of coping skills and sharing and learning from others, as well as comfort in realizing they are not alone.



### Participant testimonials:

*"Great program! The activities encourage students to share their grief experiences and develop new tools for coping with the death of someone they loved."*

~ Sherry Lewton, Social Worker  
Thomaston Center School

*"The most helpful part of being in the group was knowing that there are other students in the school with my problem."*

~ Nicole, age 10  
Wolcott Elementary School, West Hartford

## Professional Development



The Cove provides training for professionals at all levels to effectively support children who are grieving. Professionals are taught how to recognize, understand and support a child's grieving process.

*Families in Crisis, Suicide and Suicide Prevention, Holidays and Special Days, Accidents and Accidental Deaths.* These sessions are applicable for anybody who works directly or indirectly with children, including:

- Medical and Psychiatric Practitioners
- Hospital and Hospice Personnel
- School Administrators and Faculty
- Youth and Family Program Employees
- Social Service Agency Staff
- Therapists, Clinicians and Psychologists

## Community Outreach/Urban Program

The Cove works in partnership with civic, faith-based, and youth organizations to deliver Community Outreach and Urban Programs. These programs serve children who are living at-risk or in culturally diverse communities.



The 8-week, peer support program is facilitated by Cove trained professionals who assist children learning how to cope with and heal from their loss, unresolved grief or trauma.

Once the program is completed, The Cove remains available as a resource to the partner organization to ensure the needs of the kids continue to be met.