# See the Good in Ggief

#### Good Grief!

The summer just flew by, and now we are starting to think about fall and even the holiday time. But we don't want to get ahead of ourselves. This month we take a dive into the land of "back to school." All of those social media posts are flooding the feed with pictures of children holding a sign that says "I'm starting 4th grade today." At first glance, all of this looks pretty benign. It is intended to be so, just another transition time in the life of a family. Nothing is so constant as change.

For our grieving families though, we need to remember that this transition time might be more difficult for them than it appears. Grieving parents might not have a child returning to school because their child is gone. So those pictures remind them of the pain that is never far from their minds. Grieving children might struggle to return to a routine that they last had when both parents or a grandparent was living. Something feels off, not quite normal, for them as well. Does this mean that we should not celebrate our milestones because they cannot share theirs? Of course not. But we should try to be sensitive and compassionate to the grievers in our lives, knowing that this time might feel challenging for them.

The Baptist Centers for Good Grief provides support during "back to school" and other special (and not-so-special) times. Check out our Facebook page for information on grief in all its various shapes and forms, tips for coping for adults, teens and children, and updates on available services. Don't forget to tune into our podcast "Grief is...Real... Big...Better Shared" for more in-depth discussion and information on such topics as "Spirituality and Grief " and "Holiday Angst".

#### Sincerely,

Angela Hamblen Kelly, LCSW Administrator & Lauren Strini, LPC/MHSP Clinical Director



#### Back to School

"Back to school" time is not a time that non-grieving people often consider as challenging for grieving people. However, digging a little deeper and thinking about how relationships and activities of daily living change with loss can help to give this a little more context.

For children heading back to school after a major loss, everything is different: their day to day activities, the makeup of their family, the way their remaining family members are acting. Children and teens spend a lot of time in school. So, of course, their grief is going to be affected in the school environment and vice versa. It is important for supportive people to keep this in mind and help prepare the child to weather their waves of grief at school. Often working with teachers and staff at the school can help to make the child or teen feel safer and have a plan for "griefbursts." Conversely, it's ok if school is a refuge from grief for your child or teen. Any reaction that they have is all right and needs to be supported.

For parents grieving the loss of their child, it is important to give them the space they need to struggle during this time. Supportive people need to let those grievers know that they are not forgotten. It is all right for them to experience their waves of sadness, pain, anger, confusion, or whatever the reaction may be. These grieving parents might experience memories of this time of year that are bittersweet or overwhelming or troubling. Allowing them to express these memories or the thoughts that they have during this time will help them be able to cope.

All in all, we must remember that we may not always understand the challenges of the grieving individual (even if we are grieving ourselves). We need to listen with an open heart and mind and try to give them support as they see it is needed.



#### Dates to Remember

Series Adult Grief Support Groups



Homicide 6 week Grief Support Group: Milla's House September 11, 18, 25, October 9, 16 & 23 from 4:00-5:00pm

<u>6 Week Grief Support Group: Milla's House</u> October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2 & 9 from 4:00-5:00pm

<u>6 Week Grief Support Group: NEA Center for Good Grief</u> October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2 & 9 from 4:00-5:00pm

<u>6 Week Grief Support Group: Dorothy's Cottage</u> October 17, 24, 31, November 7, 14 & 21 from 11:30-12:30pm

Registration required. TN/MS call 901-861-5656 AR/MO call 870-936-7719

<u>Coping With Grief During the Holidays</u> - A workshop to help grieving adults prepare for the holidays. Grief education and practical tips to help you cope will be explored.

NEA Center for Good Grief: November 9 from 10-11:30 am November 9 from 3:330-5pm

Dorothy's Cottage: November 1 from 4-6pm November 8 from 12-2pm

Milla's House: November 6 from 4-6pm November 7 from 12-2pm

Virtual via Microsoft TEAMS: November 7 from 5:30-7:30pm November 9 9-11am

Registration required. TN/MS call 901-861-5656 AR/MO call 870-936-7719



Call us at 901-861-5656 for more information on upcoming groups and camps for children and teens.

### **Active Mourning**

- Go for a walk and take 10 minutes of that walk to focus on how your grief is affected this time of year. Reflect on that gently without judgement. Feel free to write down your reactions and/or discuss them with a trusted support person.
- See our Facebook page for things to remember as you prepare your child to go back to school after the death of a loved one
- <u>https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/supporting-children-through-crisis-and-loss/201809/supporting-grieving-kids-through-back-school</u>
  <u>Back\_to\_School\_with\_Grief.pdf (dougy.org)</u>
- <u>https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blo</u> <u>g/supporting-children-through-crisis-</u> <u>and-loss/201809/supporting-grieving-</u> <u>kids-through-back-school</u>
- <u>https://ourheartsofhope.org/back-to-</u> <u>school-grief-for-parents/</u>



#### **KALEIDOSCOPE SERIES**



#### **GRIEF SUPPORT SEMINARS**

Educational and supportive virtual grief seminars provided by grief counselors for grieving adults.

#### <u>Dorothy's Cottage:</u>

Finding a New Normal September 25 from 4:00-5:30pm

<u>Hybrid - Dorothy's Cottage</u> or virtual:

Grief & Anxiety October 26 from 4:00-5:30pm

Registration required. TN/MS call 901-861-5656 AR/MO call 870-936-7719 in memory of Collins Leach benefiting Camp Good Grief

# JOIN US ON OCTOBER 14!

8:30 Alston Construction Family Run 9:00 Sk 9:00-12:00 Festival

For more information and to register:

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#### Be the Good in Grief



Would you consider joining us in making a difference?

With just \$25, you can be a part of our mission to provide support groups, individual counseling, and workshops for children, teens, and adults in the Mid-South.

Scan the QR code or visit baptistgriefcenters.org/give/ to donate.





As always, you can like, comment, and share our messages on social media. Follow along on Facebook at Baptist Centers for Good Grief - Kemmons Wilson Family Ctr & Milla's House and NEA Baptist Center for Good Grief. Be the good in grief today: scan the QR code, visit https://baptistgriefcenters.org/give/, or call 901-227-7123 to make a gift!

#### Be the Good in Grief

Artists' Call Are you or someone you know an artist that would love to donate a piece to the 25th annual Art of Caring?

Join us for an artists' event on January 18 at Dorothy's Cottage.

Artists will get to hear about the Baptist Centers for Good Grief and the impact the Centers have on the community. For more information, contact Laura Cantrell at (901) 227-7002 or Laura.Cantrell@bmhcc.org.



Get Going for Grief Save the date for the 2nd annual Get Going for Grief!

On January 6, come try out CycleBar in Germantown and ride for a great cause!

All proceeds will go towards providing free grief counseling to children, teens, and adults in the Mid-South. More info coming soon!









#### Ways to connect to our resources



Our website www.baptistgriefcenters.org Here you will find a helpful FAQ section, and so much more.

Our podcast, Grief is... Real. Big. Better shared. There you will hear brave people sharing their grief in order to work toward healing and to support one another. You can find our podcast wherever you get your podcasts.

We also have a YouTube channel, Baptist Centers for Good Grief. Here you can find a variety of "Coping Skills

Toolbox" segments, which offer practical tips for coping

with grief.



Griefis...

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Follow us on Facebook at Baptist Centers for Good Grief -Kemmons Wilson Family Ctr & Milla's House and NEA Baptist Center for Good Grief.



Follow us on Instagram @centersforgoodgrief and @neabaptist\_centerforgood grief

## BAPTIST. | CENTERS FOR GOOD GRIEF

**KEMMONS WILSON FAMILY CENTER FOR GOOD GRIEF** 1520 W. Poplar Ave. Collierville, TN 38017

**MILLA'S HOUSE** 326 Ellsworth Memphis, TN 38111 baptistgriefcenters.org

NEA BAPTIST **CENTER FOR GOOD GRIEF** 1717 Executive Square Jonesboro, AR 72401