



FACT SHEET: CHILDHOOD BEREAVEMENT

Overview:

Childhood bereavement is one of society's most pervasive issues: one in twenty Americans will lose a parent or sibling before age 16 and the vast majority of children experience a significant loss by the time they complete high school. Yet bereaved children remain largely unseen and under-served within their communities and schools, with few outlets to express their grief.

Recognizing the critical need to provide greater support to grieving children and their families, the New York Life Foundation established childhood bereavement as a funding focus area in 2008. As our commitment to the bereavement "field" has grown, we've been proud to serve not only as a funder but as an active partner to a wide range of nonprofits, helping to raise public awareness about grief's impact as well as build communication and collaboration among grantees. The issue is at the heart of our company's mission and day-to-day business, resulting in robust employee engagement across the country in support of grieving children.

By the Numbers:

- Since 2008, the Foundation has dedicated more than \$30 million in grants and programs that support grieving children and their families
- In 2016 alone, we donated \$5.875 million toward the cause, working with 70 partners to reach over 18,000 children who lost a loved one
- Through our Grief Reach grant program – which is now in its seventh year – we have awarded 153 grants totaling nearly \$6 million to local bereavement programs and services across the country

Funding Strategy:

Currently, the Foundation has three core funding priorities for childhood bereavement:

- **Capacity-Building:** We are concentrating on sustainability initiatives for the field, professional development, and education/awareness building for the public, with the goal of increased understanding of the sector and preparing professionals to better support this underserved population. National grantees include the [National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement](#) and [The Shared Grief Project](#).
- **Research/Evaluation:** We have looked to create projects that will add value to the field by filling gaps and developing standard models, protocols, metrics, and assessments. Research grantees include Kent State, Columbia University's Center for Complicated Grief, Judi's House and Arizona State University.
- **Direct Service:** We also dedicate our support directly to programs and resources for grieving children and their families, aiming to increase access and services for bereaved youth. National grantees include [TAPS](#), [the Moyer Foundation](#) and [Comfort Zone Camp](#).