



COMMON GROUND
GRIEF CENTER

67 Taylor Ave.
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732.606.7477

commongroundgriefcenter.org

**GENERAL
INFORMATION**

ABOUT

Since 2009, Common Ground Grief Center has provided a special place where children, teenagers and their families who are grieving a death can come together and share their experiences.

No matter how the death occurred, our on-going peer support groups provide a safe and nurturing environment where individuals can begin the journey through their grief process.

Our program is based on the The Dougy Center peer support model, which is internationally recognized and respected in the childhood bereavement field. The use of art, play, sandplay, puppetry, music and talking are incorporated in groups to assist children in processing and coping with their grief.

Children and teens that are in a support group with others who have experienced similar losses help them feel less alone, less isolated and more understood.

PEER SUPPORT GROUPS

Common Ground provides support to children ages 6-18 who have experienced the death of a parent, primary caregiver or sibling. Parents and/or guardians have the option to meet concurrently in their own support group, which takes place at the same time their child or teen is participating in his or her group.

Groups meet every other week in the evening for 90 minutes. Our program takes place from September through June. Children and teens are placed in age-appropriate groups.

NONPROFIT

Common Ground is a 501(c)3 nonprofit center. We are supported solely by private donations through individuals, corporations, foundations and grants, as well as our fundraisers. Through this, we are able to keep our services free of cost to all families in need. All donations made to Common Ground are tax deductible under IRS regulations.

YOUNG ADULT SUPPORT GROUPS

We offer young adult support groups for ages 19-30 who have experienced the death of a parent, primary caregiver or sibling. The young adult support group is offered year-round.

GETTING STARTED

We do not allow children or teens to begin a group without scheduling a brief orientation at our center. This visit includes a tour of the facility and an opportunity to learn more about our program. Our staff will answer any questions you may have, and gather basic information about your family and the person who died.

Orientations are offered most days after school as well as throughout the summer and take approximately 30-45 minutes.

To schedule a visit, please call 732-606-7477.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are the heart of our program and play an important role in the healing process of our children and families. Volunteers who complete our facilitator training generously donate their time to facilitate our groups for children, teens and adults.

After completing our training, volunteers are asked to commit to one year of service in a support group, which meets twice monthly.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Common Ground staff is available to provide in-service trainings about children and grief to school personnel. We are also available to speak at community organizations and businesses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the program or to find out more about becoming a volunteer facilitator, please call 732-606-7477 or visit our website at www.commongroundgriefcenter.org.

RESOURCES

Our Center utilizes the peer support model pioneered by The Dougy Center in Portland, Oregon. Their model is incorporated by hundreds of grief centers throughout the country as well as internationally. This model is well recognized and respected in the field of childhood bereavement.

In addition, the following organizations offer excellent resources on childhood bereavement:

National Alliance for Grieving Children

www.childrengrieve.org

The Dougy Center

www.dougy.org

What's Your Grief?

www.whatsyourgrief.com

