



The Heart Connection
A Support Program for Bereaved Children
Little Company of Mary Hospital & Health Care Centers
2800 West 95th Street
Evergreen Park, Illinois 60805

The Heart Connection is a grief support program for children ages 5 to 18 years and their family members who are mourning the death of a loved one.

The children's groups are led by trained professional volunteers who guide the children through creative activities suitable to their developmental age, enabling the expression of grief and giving them the opportunity to talk about their loved one while enhancing their coping skills. The children are in groups of eight with children of their own age and guided in each session by two caring and competent adults group leaders.

Simultaneously to the children's groups, parents and family members will be offered guidance and support by professional grief counselors in caring for their children, as well as attending to their own personal grief.

Ordinarily, in the child's best interest, it is advisable that a child not enter the program until at least three months bereaved. However, special circumstances are always given sensitive consideration.

The program meets on Monday evenings from 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. for eight consecutive weeks. There is no fee for the program. Space is limited and early registration is suggested. For further information, please call the hospital's Pastoral Care Department and the Bereavement Coordinators: Peg Schneider, Chaplain, and Arlene Dulski, LPC, at 708-229-5484 or Meghan Llanes, LCSW for Hispanic Grief Support Services at 708-229-4299.

Spring Session begins, Monday, March 9, 2015 and concludes on Monday, April 27, 2015

“Until children are quite sure a person is no more, and will never be, they cannot finish the work of mourning, and if they cannot finish it, they cannot free themselves to go on with life and love and growing.”

About Dying . . . Sara Bonnet Stein



LITTLE COMPANY OF MARY
HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CARE CENTERS

The Technology to Heal, the Mission to Care

January 2015

Dear Colleague,

Little Company of Mary Hospital and Health Care Centers is offering
The Heart Connection, a childrens' grief support program beginning

Monday, March 9, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

A Spanish speaking grief support group will be offered
at the same time and on the same dates. Please see
Spanish flyer and feel free to copy and distribute to families.

The sessions are for eight weeks and are for children between the ages of 5 and 18 years of age. Each age group is facilitated by trained professionals with a real love and concern for them. We will only be able to accept 32 children, so registrations are accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

Your work continually puts you in a position to support families in grief. If you are aware of a family with children that could benefit from The Heart Connection Program here at Little Company of Mary Hospital, would you share this flyer with them? We will, at your direction, be happy to make a direct contact with a family.

Thank you for your assistance in this important service.

Most sincerely,

Peg Schneider, RN, MPS, Chaplain

Arlene Dulski, MS, MA, LPC, Grief Counselor
Co-coordinators of Bereavement Services

Meghan Llanes, LCSW
Coordinator, Hispanic Program

Pastoral Care Department

Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

708-229-5484

Or for Spanish speaking services please call:
708-229-4299