

The Neighbor Connection

Honoring and Celebrating Our Community Inspired to Serve

I Thought I was the Only One

For children that are grieving the death of someone close, the opportunity to join with other peers that have faced such painful experiences of loss, often facilitates the treasure of feeling understood. For young people in such a unique journey, the gift of realizing that the feelings they experience at different times of the grieving process are common, natural and normal -can open inner doors of healing, safety and transformation.

Ginna Maus, L.C.S.W and 15-year retreat visionary of the Bonner Community *Hospice Kids Camp*, shares her most moving observation for those children and teens facing the depths of mourning and grief. "It is amazing to me, that through this process of facing and working through grief, you see the light shining through". For Ginna, it is a gift to be in presence as a compassionate witness, as these young people grow and find empowerment through self-awareness and shared understanding.

Beginning in 1999, Bonner Community Hospice, first developed a pilot project to support children ages 8-17 that have experienced the death of someone close. Now, 15 years strong, the Hospice Kids Camp has served children and teens in both Bonner and Boundary County with an ongoing mission to help children cope with grief.

Reaching in, along a road-less-travelled, a team of trained Hospice bereavement volunteers and staff provide compassionate support and companionship for children and teens in this annual Kids Camp, scheduled **June 13-15, 2014**. The camp is offered *free of charge* to Bonner and Boundary County youth, and is an ongoing community service of Bonner Community Hospice.

Kids Camp, shares Ginna, provides a balance of FUN, supervised activities and laughter partnered with a safe environment in which each child has the opportunity to recognize their fears, concerns & feelings and explore tools to support them through grief. The week-end camp experience is nestled in a beautiful natural environment with professional staff and trained bereavement volunteers that are sensitive and present to the individual and unique needs of participating children.

For additional information and application for the 2014 Kids Camp, please call: 265-1185.

It is the creation of a sacred space where a stranger can
enter and become a Friend"

-Henry Allen

Lissa "Elisabeth" DeFreitas is an Advisory Board Member, Sandpoint Community Resource Center (SCRC) and advocate for compassionate and inspired service partnerships. For information about sharing your service group or organization, contact me at: elisabeth44@gmail.com