

# THE GRIEF BRIEF



Emma's Place – Staten Island Grief Center for Children and Families

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## EMMA'S PLACE SECOND ANNUAL WALK TO REMEMBER & 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Saturday June 17th, Emma's Place held their Second Annual Walk to Remember in Clove Lakes Park. The brilliance of the sunshine that beamed across the park was only surpassed by the light and warmth emanating from the approximately 75 members of the Staten Island community who participated in this event to honor lost loved ones and support others in their grief.

In addition to our Walk to Remember, Emma's Place commemorated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being Staten Island's only Grief Center for Children and Families and of offering bereavement services free of charge to bereaved families in the Staten Island community. The date was also meaningful as it was Father's Day weekend and we thought of those who lost fathers, fathers who lost children, those who are searching for their fathers, and those with complicated relationships with their fathers.

The support, community, and hope of those who attended could be felt in the air as Joseph Patella, the President of the Board of Emma's Place kicked off the event. Karen Goldman, the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Emma's Place briefly explained how Emma's Place came into existence, and Dr. Carolyn Taverner, Co-Founder and Program Director of Emma's Place gave a heartfelt message of how meaningful and necessary bereavement services are for children, adults, and families who lose a loved one.

We'd like to thank Amanda Wexler from the DA's Office and NYC Jessica Scarcella-Spanton's office for also speaking at our event. We also appreciate Community Media of Staten Island who covered the event, and a special thanks to Buono's Bakery, Jess Taccetta, and Robert Perkins for supplying delicious baked goods.

Adding to the festivities of the day were fire truck tours thanks to the FDNY, a tattoo and face-painting station run by our talented Emma's Place staff and volunteers, and delicious BBQ food and tacos by Joseph and Jaclyn Tacoronte from Bearded BBQ. Superstar Ice Cream Truck supplied refreshing ice cream treats, the start of the walk was adorned by festive balloon pillars by Francesca Navaro, and the crowd was dancing to the festive music of DJ Eric Hines.

Our walk would not have been possible without the support and generosity of the amazing Brighton Kiwanis Club, the creative and wonderful table vendors offering their goods and services, and our dedicated **Gold Level Sponsors**: SIUH/Northwell Health, NYCAN Builders, LLC, Tunnel to Towers; **Silver Level Sponsors**: Womble Bond Dickinson, and Northfield Bank; and **Bronze Level Sponsor**: PJs for Pals. We extend a heartfelt thank you to them all.

Dr. Carolyn Taverner, closed out the day with a prayer circle to honor those that we have lost. After a moment of silence, participants blue bubbles into the air thinking of a special message for their loved ones. Dr. Taverner's statement, "The Walk reminds us that we are not alone in our grief and that together we can find strength and healing," beautifully explains the reason why we do this walk on an annual basis. We hope to see you next year!

Since pictures are worth a thousand words, please view our Walk Photo Collage on the next page so you can get a true sense of how meaningful, fun, and memorable the day was.

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### At Emma's Place you will:

- Be supported by those who have journeyed through their own path of grief.
- Find a community of welcoming, caring, and committed individuals who will listen.
- Learn healthy grief processing in a private, safe-setting which facilitates healing while offering the hope and tools to move forward to a meaningful life.

The Emma's Place Second Annual Walk to Remember was a Picture-Perfect Day!



**Support~Community~Hope**

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**We Rely on YOU:**

Our Center is supported through donations, grants, memorials and bequests; which will allow us to provide grief services, at no cost, to children and families in the community.

If you would like to support Emma's Place and help grieving children and families you can:

- Mail a check, made out to Emma's Place, to:  
Emma's Place  
P.O. Box 10311  
Staten Island, NY 10301
- Donate online at:  
[www.emmasplacesi.org/donate](http://www.emmasplacesi.org/donate)

Emma's Place staff members are also available for training and educational presentations. To contact us please call: 347.850.2322 or email: [info@emmasplacesi.org](mailto:info@emmasplacesi.org)

*We greatly appreciate your generosity!*



Please call 347.850.2322 for Dates and Times

**In Person:**

Littles Ages 4-5  
Children Ages 6-10

**Virtually:**

Tweens Ages 11-14  
Teens Ages 15-17

**Upon Request:**

**In-person individual counseling sessions**

**EMMA'S PLACE COMMUNITY GRIEF EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE**

On May 20, 2023 Emma's Place hosted a conference at the Staten Island Hilton Garden Inn with national speakers. The topic of the conference was: *Becoming Grief Informed: How Professionals Can Support Families and Individuals After Traumatic Grief & Loss*, and was geared towards frontline workers (NYPD, FDNY, EMS), health care workers, social workers, school personnel and child advocates. Emma's Place is dedicated to providing educational conferences, seminars and trainings to professionals in the Staten Island community to enhance their skills in dealing with bereaved individuals and in turn, being better able to serve them. Please contact Emma's Place if you would like us to train your staff or create a program tailored to your needs.

We were fortunate enough to have the following speakers:

- *Dr. Sugi (Sugandika T. Subawickrama) spoke about: Immigrant's Resilience and Coping Mechanisms; Different Perspectives of Trauma*
- *Dr. Stephen Wakschal lectured on: Suicide Awareness for Law Enforcement Professionals, Friends and Those who Care About Them*
- *Andy McNeil, MA whose presentation covered: Family Dynamics and Adaptive Tasks: How Professionals Can Support Healthy Family and Individual Adaptation After a Death Loss*

It was a very interesting and important day. When evaluating the conference, 100% of the attendees rated the conference as excellent as illustrated in the chart below:

**Overall Rating of Training**



■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Fair ■ Poor



Andy McNeil



Dr. Stephen Wakschal



Dr. Sugi

Emma's Place extends their sincere gratitude to the wonderful speakers who went the extra mile to make their presentations relevant and meaningful.