



THE GRIEF BRIEF

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

Emma's Place Third Annual Walk to Remember June 2024 | Volume 8 | Issue 2

On Saturday June 1st, Emma's Place held their Third Annual Walk to Remember in Willowbrook Park. The brilliance of the sunshine that glistened around 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. The Emma's Place Walk to Remember is dedicated to honoring our loved ones who have passed away and to celebrate their lives and the impact they had on us. As each participant registered for the walk, they were given a bib to wear on which they could write the name of the loved one they were honoring as they walked around the track in the park.

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. 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 and the significance of walking together. Karen Goldman, the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Emma's Place also addressed the crowd and rang the bell to signify the start of the walk.

We appreciate Community Media of Staten Island for their coverage of the event. We extend a special thank you to Marina and Allie Perazzo and Buono's Bakery, for supplying delicious baked goods; Theresa Weissensee and Annie Decker for the coffee; and Macenzie Upshaw, Lead Crime Victim Specialist with the Office of the Richmond County District Attorney, for her support at the walk. We also would like to express our gratitude to Lyn Ferrante from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for tabling at the event.

Adding to the festivities of the day were fire truck tours thanks to the FDNY, a tattoo, face-painting, and balloon animal station run by our talented Emma's Place staff and volunteers. Ice Cream Mike supplied refreshing ice cream treats, the start of the walk was adorned by festive balloon pillars by Amber Doick from Fantasmical Creations, and the crowd was dancing to the energetic music of DJ Eric Hines. The walk came full circle as all participants enjoyed a free ride on the park's carousel, thanks to Meghan Wood and the Staten Island Greenbelt Conservancy!

Our walk would not have been possible without the support and sponsorship of the amazing **Brighton Kiwanis Club**, and our other generous sponsors: **Womble Bond Dickinson, SIUH/Northwell Health, Tunnel to Towers, Eden II Programs, Robert J. Reilly/RTR Financial Services, Blue Lives Matter, Scaran Oil, Richmond University Medical Center, Northfield Bank; Council of Churches; and Priya Idda.** We extend a heartfelt thank you to them all and to everyone who participated in and donated to the walk. Thanks to you, Emma's Place can continue to offer their necessary bereavement services to the children and families of Staten Island.

As Dr. Carolyn Taverner's stated, "The Walk reminds us that we are not alone in our grief and that together we can find strength and healing." This statement 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** at the end of this newsletter 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.

EMMA'S PLACE GROUP SCHEDULE

Support~Community~Hope

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

P.O. Box 10311
Staten Island, NY 10301

Contact us at:
Telephone 347.850.2322

Email:
info@emmasplacesi.org



Please Call 347.850.2322 for
Dates and Times

In Person:

Little's Ages 4-5

Children's Ages 6-10

Tweens Ages 11-14

Teens Ages 15-17

Upon Request: In-person individual
counseling sessions

SOFIA SCALA IS ON A ROLL AT THE STATEN ISLAND BIKE-A-THON!



Thank you to all who participated in the SI Bike-a-thon honoring The Scala Family and our Emma's Place Grief Counseling and Education Programs! A special shout-out to our wonderful Sofia Scala who rode her bike up to 35 miles to raise money for Emma's Place in honor of her dad, Jason Scala! We are so proud of you Sofia!!



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

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

We greatly appreciate your generosity!

Luv on a Leash

On Thursday, June 6th the Emma's Place children's group had a real treat when they were visited by Lacey, a six-year-old, English cream golden retriever. Lacey's handler is Michele and they are part of a program called Luv on a Leash which is affiliated with the Pride Center of Staten Island. Lacey and Michele visit nursing homes, hospitals and schools on Staten Island where they spread and receive love from all those they encounter. The children at Emma's Place had big smiles as they shook Lacey's paw and rubbed her belly.



Staten Island Youth Mental and Behavioral Health Symposium

On Thursday, May 30th Emma's Place participated in the Staten Island Youth Mental and Behavioral Health Symposium at the College of Staten Island. The Symposium was attended by community members, school personnel, parents, and students.

Emma's Place facilitated a workshop called, The Heart of Grief: Love, Loss and Learning. At the workshop participants learned about grief myths and facts, things that aren't helpful to say to a bereaved individual, why it is important to do your own grief work before helping others with their grief, and Alan Wolfelt's six tasks of mourning for children. The workshop culminated with attendees participating in an experiential activity similar to what we do in our Emma's Place group. For this activity participants were given a mask, markers, and paint pens as it was explained to them that often when we grieve, we think we need to put on a "mask" and show one face to the outside world, which is different from what we feel on the inside. They were told to think about a loss, and decorate the outside of the mask with how they felt they needed to present themselves, and the inside of the mask with how they were really feeling. The participants found the activity helpful and meaningful.

EMMA'S PLACE THIRD ANNUAL WALK TO REMEMBER PHOTO GALLERY

