

The SB355 Grief Support Trust Account Report 2018

Background

Adam's Place has provided free grief support groups in Southern Nevada for 9 years. The program was the first of its type to laser focus on the needs of children and teens coping with the death of a primary family member in a non-denominational, structured peer group setting. Initial funds to establish the 501c3 came both nationally and locally: Little Hope Foundation NYNY and the Tony and Renee Marlon Family Foundation LVNV. The parameters of the group facilitation, training, guidelines and resources were purchased from the Dougy Center, Portland, Oregon - the first children's bereavement program in the country with 30 years of experience and the Solace Tree, Reno, Nevada. Adam's Place gained further insight, support and expertise from area Child Life Specialists. Many, of which, volunteered their time, ideas and made referrals to our program. Over the time, Adam's Place developed a curriculum, of best practices, to incorporate specific coping skills education, into the peer group model. A new title for the 8 consecutive sessions is Adam's Place "Camp Cope", with the emphasis of empowering participants with tools, skills, coaching and peer support. The services at Adam's Place is focused on children 5-18, after the death of a family member.

We also provide parenting skills classes as a FACES partner of the Clark County School District. We are working on on-site Camp Cope programs at area schools, which would include children coping with a broader definition of the source of the feelings of grief and loss: deployment, incarceration, divorce, illness.

We conduct pre and post surveys with all participants. Our goal is to increase: self-esteem, self-reliance (resiliency) and communication skills. Our data indicates the participants gain the following by completing Adam's Place Camp Cope:

- 1) School absenteeism decreases
- 2) Communication with surviving parent or caregiver increases
- 3) Community engagement increases
- 4) Feelings of isolation and sadness decreases
- 5) Positive physical health indicators increase
- 6) Skills to manage anger, stress and social interaction increase

We conduct orientation with each participant and caregiver. Our application process tracks social demographics, income. We track attendance and certificates of accomplishments through Camp Cope.

Each child receives a backpack with activities and tools for healthy coping during orientation. Adam's Place conducts large group activities throughout the year to foster additional social interactions and community engagement: fall downtown project event, Halloween outings at UNLV, Thanksgiving Dinner, Mrs. Claus Tea at Opportunity Village and Spring Activity Day/Picnic.

Funding

Adam's Place is a 501c3 and relies on grants – public and private, fundraisers and individual donors. Adam's Place was awarded federal funds through the Judicial Assistance Grant process for 2016, 2017.

We have submitted but have not yet received funding from the Children's Bereavement Trust fund (SB355).

Student Participation

Gender Choice:

Female: 119

Male: 90

One Gender not chosen: 1

Total: 210

Self-Reported Minority Choice:

Hispanic: 32%

African American: 28%

Asian American: 1%

White Non – Hispanic: 39%

Age groups:

5-8-year-old (Littles) – 45

9-12-year-old (Middles) -55

Teens – 35

Adults – 75

Referral Sources:

Google search
School Counselors
School Social Workers
Area Hospitals
Word of Mouth

Summary of Surveys from Participants, Volunteers and Community Members

We capture surveys on skills obtained every Camp Cope. Every June we review program objectives, the choice of activities, the feedback forms completed by volunteers at the end of each group night, in order to assess if we are effectively reaching our goals in a cost effective – quality delivery system. Recommendations and findings are sent to our board by July 1, each year. We begin the next program year with a fresh attention to detail and changes but careful to always retain integrity to our mission driven commitment and the parameters of the scope of our practice of grief support group facilitation.

Adam's Place is five-star charitable foundation. Our services fill a gap. The ratio of school counselors in the CCSD system is 1 counselor to every 1500 students. The national benchmark is 1 to 500. The need for our program is felt by the school counselors and social workers that need services to refer children and families. A community based program like Adam's Place takes stress off the safety net system. Our program aims at prevention. Coping skills education empowers a child to navigate and integrate growth after a loss. An investment which will last for a lifetime.