

Peterson Hospice
1121 Broadway
Kerrville, TX 78028

As I reach out and touch these hurting children who have such deep hurts in their young hearts, please give me the words to help them sort through their confused feelings; and to let them know how really special they are; how good they are; and how lovable each one is.

Help me to instill in them the seed of a positive self-image. I shall try to be Your arms for hugging, Your ears for listening, and Your heart for loving.

I ask You to guide me in the discovery of the uniqueness and wonder of each child and be able to give this gift back to them.

-Written by an anonymous facilitator.

Bridging the Gap

is a program of Peterson Hospice

1121 Broadway

Kerrville, TX 78028

(830) 258-7799

bridgingthegap@petersonrhc.com

Peterson Hospice is a member of the Peterson Regional Medical Center Family of Services



A Peterson Hospice Program for Grieving Children

Bridging the Gap



Emotional support for children and families who have lost someone significant in their lives.

Purpose

Bridging the Gap is a free grievance program that provides emotional support to children and parents/guardians who have experienced a death of someone significant in their life. The 10 week program gives children the outlet and tools they need to express their grief while helping parents/guardians understand how to emotionally support the family through the loss.

Group Description

Small group sessions are held for children, ages 5-18, and adults every other tuesday from October-February. Each group is limited to seven children and is facilitated by a trained volunteer.

Bridging the Gap is an opportunity for children to experience unconditional love and caring while participating in creative activities that stimulate discussion about the grieving process.

Adult participation is encouraged and adult sessions are geared to help parent/guardians understand how to emotionally support the family through the loss.

Volunteers

Specially trained volunteers are the cornerstone of Bridging the Gap. Volunteers are trained on grief theory and the development aspects of loss and grief manifestation while learning techniques to use with individual age groups.

Principles

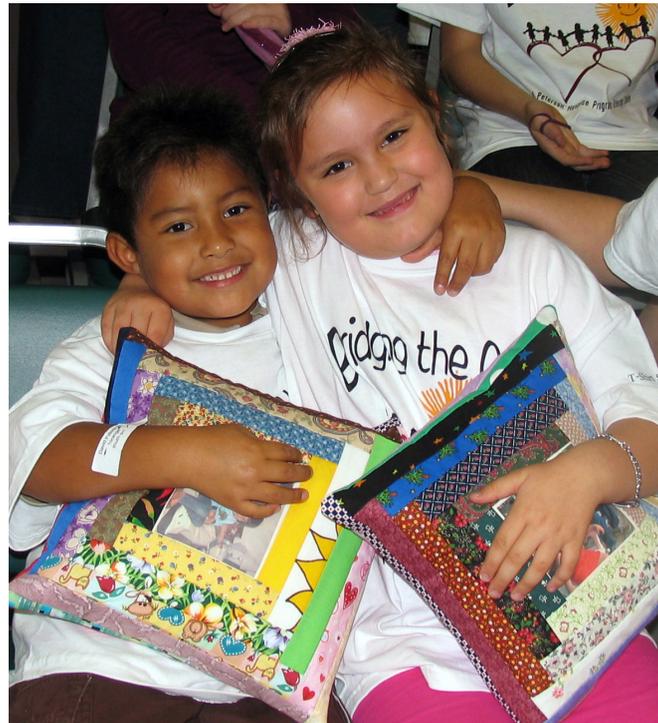
Peterson Hospice addresses bereavement needs throughout the community. The following principles guide our children's program:

Acceptance of the expression and experience of a wide range of emotions in a safe environment.

Validation of the unique quality of individual grief.

Guidance through the painful days of mourning and adaptation to family change.

Creation of skills and abilities which will effectively serve participants throughout life.



Referral Form

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Work: _____ Home: _____ Email: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Who is referring this child/family: _____

Please fill out and return to:



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