

Lost & Found

MENDING HEARTS

Celebrating 25 years of offering help, hope, and healing to grieving individuals and families in the Ozarks.



FALL 2025
REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Lost & Found
grief center



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Immeasurable Ripples of Hope

Lost & Found Grief Center is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. From a drop of an idea in 2000 that we could help grieving children in the Ozarks to a quarter of a century later, Lost & Found Grief Center has created immeasurable ripples of hope by serving an estimated 25,000 people.

The impact is exponential. Like a stone cast into a pool of water that creates ripples, each person who has walked through our doors is a ripple of hope.

We see them in our building every day.

- Ripples of hope occur in our therapeutic grief support groups when participants share their experiences, and new group members realize they are not alone.
- Ripples of hope occur when participants return to volunteer as group leaders, board members, or join our staff.
- Ripples of hope occur when former participants who found help, hope, and healing recommend Lost & Found to someone who is grieving.

For 25 years, Lost & Found has been a source of hope for grieving individuals and families, reminding them that they are not alone in their grief journey. Within our fall report, you will see what grief support looks like in our community.

We are grateful to the many people who created a ripple of hope over the years and to those who continue to do so today.

Mark Miller, Executive Director



Pictured Left: Community leaders who supported the acquisition and renovation of our current building on S. Glenstone which opened in 2015.

Front Cover: A collection of photos from the past 25 years!

Celebrating 25 years of
help, hope & healing in 2025

GRIEF CAMP

A Mosaic of Hope & Healing

During the summer, our family therapeutic support groups take a brief pause to allow time for busy schedules, vacations, and summer activities for participants and volunteers. While the pause is helpful, we know that grief doesn't take a break. One opportunity for connecting in the summer is our Grief Camp.

On July 24, we hosted a special evening for both current and new grief group participants, welcoming 25 children and adults to share in creativity, reflection, and connection.



One parent shared:

"You find a really great community with other people who know what you are going through."

This year's theme, *Art of Hope*, encouraged kids and teens to explore their grief journeys through art. Local teacher and artist Adrian Johnson guided participants in creating individual mosaic art pieces, and a larger collaborative *Hope Heart* piece.

The result was not only a beautiful work of art, but also a powerful reminder that even in the midst of heartbreak, something whole and hopeful can emerge.

These moments of healing and connection are only possible because of the generosity of our community – through gifts of both time and financial contributions.

Thank you for helping grieving children and families piece together hope and healing at Lost & Found Grief Center.



RIPPLES OF HOPE

Powered by Volunteers



This fall, we welcomed 19 new volunteers into the Lost & Found family – 9 group coordinators and 10 facilitators! Because of this dedication, we are able to offer 22 grief support groups every month, Monday through Thursday evenings, at no cost to families. Our new volunteers each completed an eight-hour training – many after already working a full day. That kind of commitment speaks volumes. Some know firsthand what these groups mean, having been participants themselves.

Now they are giving back in the most meaningful way. Group coordinators are professionals with a master's degree or higher in a human services field, while our facilitators are caring community members with a heart for our mission. Together, they bring compassion, skill, and steady support to children, families, and adults walking through grief.

We are grateful for this new group of volunteers who are creating new ripples of hope for those grieving in our community.



Why I Volunteer

CINDY CRABTREE

I began volunteering at Lost & Found a couple of years after we lost our oldest son, Jeremy, to a rare and aggressive cancer. My husband David and I attended Lost & Found's adult child loss group (our daughter-in-law and grandchildren also attended the appropriate groups). **Our time was very helpful in finding hope after our world had been shattered.**



Crabtree family & friends (Cindy & David pictured middle)

It was extremely important to me that I not let my grief be so overpowering that it made our surviving son feel less important. We also wanted to make sure our grief didn't impede our grandchildren's grief journeys because we wanted them to be successful people with strong coping skills.



Today, I volunteer because I feel the need to make my pain count for something.

Jeremy had a kind and giving heart, and he would want me to give back to others.

I do it to honor my son, I do it because helping others have hope is the right thing to do!

JAMES CRAIG CARR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Izzy Lord

Each year, Lost & Found Grief Center awards the James Craig Carr Memorial Scholarship to one former grief group participant attending college. Nixa High School graduate Izzy Lord is the 2025-2026 recipient. She is a freshman at Missouri State University.

Izzy first attended Lost & Found with her family in 2018 after her 15-year-old brother Daniel died. Like many young participants, she did not want to attend grief group, but, despite her reluctance on that first night, she now says she found it beneficial.



Izzy pictured back middle with her five siblings including her brother Daniel (back left).

“Being in group helps you know that you’re not alone,” Izzy said.

After her initial night at Lost & Found, Izzy began looking forward to attending. She said the group coordinators made it fun, and she enjoyed talking about her brother.

“I think the most important thing for a family who has experienced a death is to not let the memories of your loved ones die out.”

“When people ask about my siblings, I say I have four sisters and a brother. If they ask about Daniel, I tell them that he died when he was 15. I put myself in a vulnerable situation to honor him, because people deserve to know he existed,” she shared.

The James Craig Carr Memorial Scholarship opportunity supports current and former participants of Lost & Found Grief Center who are pursuing further education—whether through undergraduate or graduate programs, technical schools, or non-traditional academic paths. Our partnership with the Carr family and the Community Foundation of the Ozarks is another way we support grieving families.

Applications for the 2026-27 school year open on Jan. 1, 2026. Apply through the Community Foundation of the Ozarks.



Ways to Support Lost & Found

- MONTHLY RECURRING GIFT
- ONE-TIME DONATION
- IRA DISTRIBUTION*
- YEAR-END GIFT

*If you are 70½ or older, you can give directly from your IRA to Lost & Found Grief Center through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). This giving option may reduce your taxable income while making a meaningful difference for grieving individuals in our community.





HOLDING MEMORIES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

STEP 1

Find an empty plastic ornament with a removable top.

Tip: You can also fill a glass jar for a tabletop display.



STEP 2

Fill it with items that represent your person – this could be a photo, glitter, fake snow, a letter, or small mementos.

STEP 3

Seal the ornament topper, then add a ribbon or hanger.



Memory Ornament

As the holiday season approaches, feelings of grief can be especially strong. One meaningful way to honor your loved one is by creating a memory ornament.

In our grief groups, we invite participants to do this activity. Each ornament created represents a unique story and can be displayed year-round as a lasting tribute.



2025 SPRING EVENTS

A beautiful Ozarks spring day greeted a record 716 participants at Lost & Found Grief Center's **Run & Remember 2025**. Runners took to the 5K course, while walkers strolled a mile passing by the Memorial Sign Garden in Jordan Valley Park. As the sun set, friends and family gathered for the remembrance program, where current and past grief support participants, along with many others, rang bells to honor loved ones.

Run & Remember 2026 is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, at Jordan Valley Park.

Golf Fore Hope teed off on June 9, 2025, at Hickory Hills Country Club. Nearly 100 golfers enjoyed a Monday on the course, raising support for our therapeutic grief groups. **Save your tee time for Golf Fore Hope 2026 on June 8.**



No One Should Grieve Alone

Lost & Found offers therapeutic grief support groups at no cost to the families we serve. Consider attending an upcoming event as a way to help provide grief support for our community.



Our Junior Board will host GameDay on Nov. 2 at BigShots Golf. The day features fun, food, drinks, and golf games during a Chiefs vs. Bills Watch Party.



Evening of Hope

JANUARY 31, 2026

Our annual gala event is a key fundraiser for L&F, featuring fine dining, silent and live auctions, plus many stories about people who found help, hope, and healing at Lost & Found Grief Center.



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