Lessons In Grief...Fernside’s School Program Turns 10!

In 2004, Fernside piloted a new program offering grief groups on-site at schools during the school day. We started small, serving 16 children at Bond Hill Academy, but the program took off and has become a huge success. In the past 10 years, we have provided groups for students at 253 elementary, middle and high schools in Cincinnati, Kentucky and Indiana with 2,159 students benefiting! These groups allow children who, for a variety of reasons, are not able to participate in our Evening Program. We offer this free program to any school in our community. As districts face budget constraints, it’s often the counseling staff and services that are cut. Through the generosity of our donors, Fernside has been able to fill the gap to provide this critical support for children in our area.

Positive Outcomes

Top 5 positive changes in student behavior after participating in a Fernside group as reported by school staff:

- Interacting Positively with Peers 35%
- More Confident 35%
- Less Worrying 30%
- Less Angry 30%
- Better Able to Focus 25%

School Group Spotlight

When Mason High School students Spencer Cline and Matt MacLean learned that Fernside would be holding a grief group at Mason Intermediate School, they reached out to help their younger classmates.

Spencer’s dad, Lawrence Cline, died last year from a brain disease called Frontotemporal Degeneration and Matt’s father, Tom MacLean, died from a heart attack on July 4, 2011 while on a family vacation.

“I wanted to do this because we get this great obstacle thrown in front of us with the passing of a loved one and I know I couldn’t have gotten through it without the support of friends and teammates. I think it’s harder to try to get over this at a younger age so I wanted to be able to help.”
– Spencer Cline, grade 9

“I wanted to be able to help the kids see how they can get through the loss of a loved one and eventually be okay. I wanted to give the kids someone older they can connect with and also look up to. I think Fernside is great and I love helping their kids.”
– Matt MacLean, grade 12
**Fernside’s Fall 2013 Facilitators**
Welcome to our new volunteer recruits who completed training last November and joined our facilitator ranks working directly with the families who attend our Evening Program. We value each of you for the special talents you bring to Fernside. Thanks for being here!

![2013 Fall Facilitator Training Class](image)

**2014 Fernside's Camp Erin-Cincinnati Teen Retreat & Summer Camp**
Calling all campers! Come learn about yourself and find new ways to cope with your grief at our teen retreat or summer camp. *Living with Loss...Lyrics for Your Life*, April 26th-27th or *A Space Adventure... Exploring a Galaxy Called Grief*, July 25th-27th. Special thanks to The Dater Foundation and The Moyer Foundation for helping fund these special experiences. Call us to register.

**Beard Barons Donate a Hair-Raising $2,819.74 to Fernside!**
Fun was had by all, young and old, at the Cincinnati Beard Baron’s inaugural OktoBEARDfest on September 21, 2013. Thanks Beard Barons!

**Spring Into Supporting Fernside at These Events!**

**Cincy Nation Run's 2014 Dog 5K**
How often do you get the chance to race with your dog and help local charities? Join us for Cincy Nation Run’s first Dog Run on March 29th. Run a 5K or walk a 2K. Win prizes including one for trendiest dog outfit and matching owner-dog combo. Register at [www.cincynationrun.com](http://www.cincynationrun.com). Proceeds from the race benefit 10 local charities including Fernside!

**2014 Hospice of Cincinnati & Fernside Classic**
Our single largest fundraiser promises to be our most successful yet! Join our 2014 Classic chair, Margery Ward, and the hundreds of others who attend our 2-day event on May 18th-19th. Join us for Sunday dinner or Monday golf. Or both! For more information, contact Kim Best at (513) 865-1621 or kimberly_best@trihealth.com. Visit [www.bethesdafoundation.com](http://www.bethesdafoundation.com) for more details.

![Event Organizer, Conor Moore with Vicky Ott, Fernside ED](image)

Photos courtesy of Lisa Binns
Development News

Three Special Alumni Families Give Back by Remembering Sons

Thank you to these generous alumni families for giving back in a big way by celebrating the lives of their sons.

The Merk Family in Memory of Tony
Lynne, Rick, Alex, Ben and Max Merk shared their story in our annual appeal letter. The Merk’s attended our program after the death of their son and brother, Tony in 2011. Thanks to the Merk’s – and all of our wonderful donors – our end-of-year giving totaled over $55,000.

The San Marco Family in Memory of Robb
Mario San Marco is the President of Eagle Realty Group and as a sponsor of the 2013 Rusty Ball, ERG was asked to nominate a participating Rusty Ball beneficiary to be entered into a drawing for a $5,000 award. Kathy, Mario and their son John (older son Michael was a college freshman) attended our groups in 1994 after the death of their son Robb at the age of 16. At the November 9, 2013 event, two charities were selected and Fernside was one of the lucky winners!

The Young Family in Memory of Doug
To mark the 10-year anniversary of the death of their 25-year old son Doug, Debbie and Bill Young reached out to their friends and family asking them to make a donation to Fernside. In 2003, following their son’s death, Deb, Bill and their younger son Ross (David was in his late 20’s) participated in our program. Over $1,200 in gifts have been received in Doug’s memory.

With a little planning now, you can help ensure the future of Fernside. For more information on planned gifts, contact Mary Fischer at 513-865-1624 or mary_fischer@trihealth.com.
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Drop a Few Dollars for Fernside!
Two opportunities to purchase a raffle ticket and win big while helping Fernside!

Purchase a Pig
On Flying Pig Marathon weekend, pigs will fly! Or drop that is. Numbered pigs will be dropped onto a target downtown. If your pig hits the target, you win a 2014 Toyota Prius. Simply adopt a pig for two chances to win. Select FERNSIDE when you purchase your pig and the entire $5.00 of each pig sold for Fernside benefits our free programs. Visit www.piggestraffle.com for details.

Buy a Ball
If it’s a cash payout you’re after, purchase a chance in the Cincy Charity Golf Ball Drop sponsored by the Smith Family Foundation to be held April 17th at Marge Schott Stadium on the University of Cincinnati campus. The ball closest to the target in the charity drop will win $10,000. There’s even a chance to win $1,000,000! Call (866) 321-3767 or visit www.cincyclebration.com to purchase your chances. Balls cost $5.00 each or buy 5 and get 1 free. And don’t forget to designate FERNSIDE as your charity. We will receive 80% of the proceeds from your golf ball purchase.