The Cincinnati Museum Center is planning several commemorative events in observance of the 5th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, DC. The exhibit, Drawn Together: Children's Artistic Response to 9/11, opened on August 25th and will run through October 15th. Because of our work with grieving families, Fernside was asked to contribute to this amazing event.

We participated in a Compassion Fair which was held on Sunday, September 10th from 1:00-5:00pm. The fair invited organizations to promote their programs that help to make Cincinnati a compassionate place to live. On Saturday, October 7th from 2:00-3:00pm, Fernside will be offering a workshop for children entitled Unmasking Feelings: How Art Can Help Children Heal to encourage children to create something of their very own to express their feelings – where they’ve been and how far they’ve come. Come out and support this wonderful exhibit. We hope to see you there!
New Families Join Evening Support Groups
In August and September, 50 children and teens and 42 adults joined our evening support group program. We welcome all 92 new group participants to our program.

Orientation Sessions
Families interested in joining the support groups must attend an orientation. Orientations are held in Blue Ash on the third Monday of each month. Completed paperwork must be returned prior to attending an orientation. Please call the office for registration information.

2006 WeBelong Retreat
Construction Ahead: Rebuilding Your Life After a Death, Fernside’s retreat for adolescents ages 12 – 18, will be held November 4th-5th at Joy Outdoor Education Center. For registration information, please contact the office and ask for Lynn.

WeBelong Retreat 2006 is sponsored in part by a grant from the Mitzvah Challenge of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati.

“Sailing the Seas” a Success!

Fernside’s summer camp for children ages 7 – 11, Sailing the Seas: A Voyage Through Grief, was held August 10th – 13th at Joy Outdoor Education Center. Thank you to all of the children, families, volunteers, and HOC nursing and Camp Joy staff who made camp a wonderful success! A big thanks also goes out to Cincy Kids 4 Kids for once again providing expressive arts supplies; and to our Family Day healthy snack station leaders Ginny Weale of TriHealth and Jeffrey Kreines of A la Carte Dessert & Catering Company.

Camp highlights included swimming, fishing, canoeing, a water carnival, a campfire, camp songs and games, new friends and lots of great food. Along with all the fun camp activities, there were also sharing circle activities that were instrumental in helping campers navigate their voyage through grief.

Here’s a small sampling of what campers, families and volunteers had to say about camp:

The two activities I liked best about Camp WeBelong were...
“Meeting new people and singing.”
“The water carnival and making feelings hats.”

The two activities that helped me most with my grief were...
“The campfire and burning letters.”
“Burning letters and sharing circles.”

“She loved the whole experience and really did not want to leave camp on Sunday.”
Volunteer News

Fernside’s Annual Kick-Off on August 29th celebrated our 20th anniversary in a big way. Highlights included the screening of our new Fernside video and the recent article in the Cincinnati Enquirer profiling some of our families and volunteers that resulted in increased awareness and support of our program. In addition, everyone there enjoyed great food, door prizes and thank you gifts!

An Enrichment Program for our volunteer facilitators is scheduled for Monday, October 30th from 6PM to 8:30PM. The focus for the evening will be how to use expressive arts in our support groups.

The Winter 2007 Facilitator Training classes are scheduled for February 24th, 28th, March 3rd, 7th, 10th, and 14th. The training is a 25-hour course with 23 hours in the classroom and 2 hours of observation. Call the office for more information about this volunteer opportunity. We welcome your interest!

Many thanks to those volunteers who worked as counselors at Camp WeBelong in August. Read more about their camp experience on our Program Page. They are Ted Ackerman, Jillian Bennett, Tricia Boettcher, Brittany Broderick, Jack Byrnes, Maurice Brown, Linda Hill, Mark Koenig, Megan Owens, Chris Pankau, Katie Riestenberg, Kathy Stidham and Jessica Townley.

Support Groups Available

Blue Ash:
2nd and 4th Monday Parent Loss
2nd and 4th Tuesday Parent Loss
1st and 3rd Tuesday Sibling Loss
1st and 3rd Tuesday Young Extended Family Member & Friend Loss
1st and 3rd Tuesday Young Adult Support Group

Liberty Township:
1st and 3rd Tuesday Parent Loss
1st and 3rd Tuesday Adult Extended Family Member & Friend Loss

Bridgetown:
2nd and 4th Wednesday Parent Loss

Anderson Township:
2nd and 4th Tuesday Parent Loss

130 Attend Workshop

On Friday, August 18th, Fernside sponsored a workshop for helping professionals who were interested in learning more about how to help children who have experienced a variety of losses. We invited Linda Goldman, national grief expert and author, to present Children, Grief & Trauma: Supporting Them in Today’s World. From Linda’s gracious nature and wealth of information to the best Montgomery Inn buffet lunch in town, this daylong workshop proved to be a great success! Some of the agencies represented were:

Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati Public Schools, Hospice of Cincinnati, Hospice of Dayton, Hospice of the Bluegrass, Northern Ky, STARS, St. Joseph’s Orphanage, Talawanda High School and TriHealth.

Pictured l-r, Ann Lindy, Mary Schneider, Vanessa Jung, Ann Speed, Stacey Meyer, Steve Martin, Linda Hill, Kathy Stidham and Whitney Campbell

Staff with Linda, from l-r: Christi Kettman, Linda Goldman, Lynn Kitchen and Mary McCutchen
Ohio Troopers Coalition Supports Fernside

The Ohio Troopers Coalition donated $1,500 to Fernside. The donation represents proceeds from the Poynter Golf Outing. Elaine Poynter, Fernside volunteer facilitator, suggested that the Coalition donate the funds to Fernside from this year's event. The event is held annually in memory of Elaine's husband Gary, who was an Ohio State Trooper. “After retiring, I thought volunteering at Fernside would be a way to repay the debt I felt I owed such an empathic organization.” Troopers Dennis Gorski and Jim Adams presented the check in August. Thank you Elaine and the Ohio Troopers Coalition!

Pictured l-r: Jim Adams, Elaine Poynter, Dennis Gorski and Vicky Ott

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