Lindners Support Fernside

After reading the A Place to Face Loss article by John Johnston in the August 7, 2006 edition of the Cincinnati Enquirer, Carl and Edith Lindner made a $75,000 donation to Fernside and a $100,000 donation to Hospice of Cincinnati. Mr. Lindner had been kept abreast of the work that Fernside and HOC does in the community from his employee and longtime HOC volunteer and supporter, Sandy Heimann. Leigh Gerdsen, Operations Director at Hospice of Cincinnati, accepted the surprise donation from Mr. Lindner himself. Mr. Lindner expressed his encouragement to keep up the good work. This donation will go a long way towards serving the bereavement needs in Cincinnati. Thank you Mr. and Mrs. Lindner!

A Special Celebration

Traci Punch Alexander celebrated her 40th birthday with a party that would benefit others. Traci’s husband, David threw a party for her in July. Traci selected Fernside as one of the two charities her friends and family could make a donation to in lieu of gifts. Traci attended Fernside support groups with her two children, Maddie and Jake, in 2000 after the death of their father, James Punch. “By taking care of my kids, I took care of myself. Fernside is a program that I feel really strongly about. It made the difference for me, Maddie and Jake.” Over $500 was donated to Fernside in Traci’s honor.

Mitzvah Teens Make a Difference

The Mitzvah Challenge Youth Philanthropy Project of the Jewish Federation made a $1,500 grant to help support Fernside’s WeBelong Teen Retreat. The Mitzvah Challenge program teaches the teens in the program about Tzedakah (charity), Tikkun Olam (repairing the world) and Community. The Mitzvah students themselves served on the committee that reviewed each proposal and learned about our program before making the decision to fund Fernside.
**Program News**

**New Families Join Evening Support Groups**
This fall, 84 children/teens and 59 adults joined our evening support group program. We welcome all 143 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.

**Sharing Their Grief... Letters to a Facilitator**
The Middle Group (3rd-6th graders) at East Side’s Parent Loss Group made cards for one of their facilitators whose father died in November. The group wanted to make cards to express to their facilitator how they too have gone through a similar experience, as all of them have suffered the death of a parent, with seven of the eight group members having experienced the death of their fathers. The cards were very expressive and heartfelt.

**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

**Hamilton Area:**
- 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

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**2006 WeBelong Retreat**

*Construction Ahead: Rebuilding Your Life After a Death*, Fernside’s weekend retreat for adolescents and teens ages 12 – 18, was held November 4th & 5th at Camp Joy Outdoor Education Center. Thank you to the retreat campers, families, volunteers and HOC nursing and Camp Joy staffs who made this retreat rock!

Retreat highlights included the high ropes course, a campfire, outdoor games, art projects, group-building activities and new friends. Here’s a small sampling of what campers, families and volunteers had to say about the weekend:

- **What campers said they liked best about the retreat...**
  “Making new friends and the campfire.” “The ropes course and pond ceremony.”

- **What families had to say about the retreat...**
  “When my child returned she was in a better mood and happy.” “Fernside has helped my children so much since their father died. I don’t know what we would have done without Fernside. Thank you so much.”

- **What volunteers had to say about the retreat...**
  “The pond ceremony was outstanding, emotional and superb.” “Great kids = great fun!”
Volunteer News

Current volunteer facilitators are invited to attend a creative writing workshop on Tuesday, January 30th, 6pm to 8:30pm. We will meet in the 2nd Floor Community Room at Hospice of Cincinnati on Cooper Road. Call the office at 745-0111 to register.

Facilitator Training – The Winter 2007 classes began on January 6th, and continued on the 13th and 20th. The training is a 25-hour course including both classroom and group observation. Call the office at 745-0111 for more information about volunteer opportunities. We welcome your interest!

Adult facilitators at the volunteer enrichment in October 2006

It may be cold outside but planning for the Hospice Summertime Classic, benefiting programs at Fernside is well underway. This event is scheduled for June 3rd and June 4th. Volunteers are needed to help make this event a success. In particular, we are looking for individuals to work on the Silent Auction. Contact Erin Long at erin_long@trihealth.com or diana_fogel@trihealth.com if you would like to volunteer.

The Write Side

Groups created “targets” of things that are stressful and make them angry since the death in their family. Following discussion about their feelings, groups went outside, hung up their work and threw water balloons and stress balls at them as they talked about healthy ways to express these feelings. A great group-building activity!

We express our great appreciation to the following individuals who volunteered as camp counselors at the WeBelong Retreat in November: Ted Ackerman, Matt Fenik, Mark Koenig, Stacey Meyer and Kathy Stidham.
Fernside launches
new website

We are pleased to announce the redesign of the Fernside website. As we wrap up our year-long celebration of 20 years of serving grieving families, our website continues to reflect the spirit of our mission, the programs we offer and the people we serve. As you visit our site, we hope you’ll be reminded of how much we appreciate your support as we continue to meet the needs of grieving families in our community. You can visit our new website at www.fernside.org.

FERNSIDE:
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513-745-0111

Non-profit Org.
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wish list

- Colored pencils
- Gift cards to Hobby Lobby, Michael’s and Ritz
- Gift cards to Home Depot
- Gift certificates to Oriental Trading Company, Inc.
- Memory boxes – large, assorted shapes
- Model Magic tubs
- Stickers – assorted styles

Call with any questions or to arrange a pick-up time: 513-745-0111. Ask for Christi! Thanks!

FERNSIDE celebrates 20 years
An Affiliate of Hospice of Cincinnati, Inc.

We are very glad to get corrections. Address Service Requested
Dated Material, Please Deliver Promptly