More Than Ever Raised

Our annual fundraiser, the Fernside Classic, scored in a big way with featured speaker, Greg Mancz, an offensive lineman with the Houston Texans. Greg came to Fernside when he was 11 years old with his younger sister, Emma, and his mom, Mary Beth, following the death of his father, Brian, in 2003. “I want to thank Fernside, for being the organization to get me to feel like a kid who could do life again.” On behalf of all of the Fernside kids who “just want to do life again”, we’d like to thank all of our donors for their generosity by raising $164,000 in net revenue to help Fernside continue to serve grieving children and families in our community! Special thanks to TriHealth, our Presenting Sponsor, Bob Herzog from Local 12 for being our enthusiastic auctioneer and the staff at the Cooper Creek Event Center and Shaker Run Golf Course.

Go to Fernside’s YouTube channel to hear Greg’s remarks in their entirety.

More Than Ever Served

Last year, 1,399 children, teens and adults participated in a Fernside support group breaking the previous record set in 2015. We also supported more students than ever before... on-site, at their schools, serving 497 in our school, crisis and special collaboration groups! We’re proud that we’re able to continue to meet the rising demand for our services at no cost to families or schools in our community.

It’s been a family outside of my family, one that understands, one that doesn’t judge.”
– Fernside Adult Participant
Program News

What’s In A Theme?

Over the past 32 years, we have listened to and learned from the children and teens that have participated in a support group at Fernside. We learned that grieving children struggle with a lot of the same issues after a death. We identified themes and incorporate them into each group meeting. Facilitators address each theme using a variety of mediums. The themes can help facilitate discussion by allowing children and teens to focus on a specific aspect of their grief, which also helps them realize they’re not alone.

A Fernside Idea Book is a guidebook for working with children in grief support groups as well as individual settings. Over 300 structured activities, arranged by themes, are included. This book is an invaluable tool for working with children experiencing loss. This and other Fernside publications can be purchased via email at fernsidecincinnati@gmail.com or through Amazon.com.
Fernside Alumni Families Never Forget

Fernside families are having fun raising money for Fernside while honoring family members who have died. Thank you to all of our Fernside families for thinking of others as you remember your loved one who died.

Fireworks are Fernside’s Fortune
On July 4th, Fernside alum’s, the Koehler Family, including grandparents Kellie and Mark and their grandson, Peyton, hosted a party for friends and family which highlighted their very own fireworks show! They asked for donations to Fernside and $890 was raised!

“Fernside is an amazing organization that helps children realize they are not alone, that there are so many children going through the grieving process of losing a parent or loved one. We wanted to do something fun on the 4th of July and also wanted to give back to an organization that is so giving to so many children and their families including ours. We also want to say Thank You to all the volunteers at Fernside who give their time to help others and also our friends, family and neighbors who supported our event.”
– Kellie Koehler

Yoga Yields Big Returns
Fernside alum and yoga instructor, Kris Carnevale, held a class at Simply Power Yoga on July 21st benefiting Fernside. The owner of the studio, Bridget Henson, generously matched all of the donations. Kris (no surprise if you know her!) raised $2,343! Kris and her kids attended Fernside after the death of her husband, Caesar. The event fell on Caesar’s birthday making it an extra special gift that will help many grieving children.

Balloons Bring Big Bucks for Fernside
Each year in July, the Martini Family which includes, Greg, Lori, Robby & Tony have a balloon release to remember their son, Joey, who died on July 11th, 2010, shortly before his 3rd birthday. In addition to remembering Joey, the family collects donations for Fernside which over the years have totaled an incredible $4,516.10!

“Joey’s birthday is July 26th...He would tell everybody, ‘I am going to have a party and invite all my friends.’ Joey died July 11th. Since having a birthday party was so important to him, our family and friends gather at the cemetery to give Joey a birthday party. We sing happy birthday release balloons with messages of how much we love him and miss him. Fernside gave my kids a place to go were they could be around kids who, unfortunately, had experienced similar things.”
– Greg Martini
Fernside’s Fearless Receive their Capes

It takes a lot of heroic qualities to face your grief and 36 Fernside kids got to channel theirs by designing their very own hero cape with the assistance of an art apprentice from ArtWorks Cincinnati. The design sessions are special but the delivery ceremony is especially poignant as each hero is presented with a hand-made cape, many memorializing the person who died, while highlighting their superhero qualities deep within. The ArtWorks apprentices spent over 500 hours lovingly creating these keepsakes.

“...A huge thanks to George (and the other Apprentices), ArtWorks, and Fernside for putting this together for Natalie and the rest of the kiddos. The ceremony today was very special for the kids and families. Such a fun and unique way to help the kids remember their loved one and to help boost their confidence with a special super power!! Natalie was on top of the world today!”

– Fernside mom, Renee Hartman