Honoring Our Partners

Fernside relies on many in our community to help us provide free services and their generosity overwhelms us. The special donors below support us by allowing the use of their buildings where our group meetings are held. And when Fernside is meeting, we take over the space! On each night, seven groups (that means seven rooms) are meeting simultaneously and that’s after a pizza dinner is served! Read more about these invaluable partners in our community.

The Blue Ash Presbyterian Church
Since 2002, the BAPC has generously opened its doors to us seven nights each month!

“At Blue Ash Presbyterian Church, we are believers in the healing power of God at work in the world. It awes us to see that power at work in the relationships and programs of Fernside, and we are so happy to partner in that important work by providing a welcoming space...the sounds of Fernside kids bring a joyful noise into our congregational life.”

– Rev. Dr. Michael Brewer

Cornerstone United Methodist Church
“Cornerstone is pleased to be hosting Fernside this fall. We recognize and appreciate the excellent support that children and their families receive. Cornerstone has committed to be a ‘bridge between a broken community and a powerful God.’ Hosting Fernside is a fantastic way to be that bridge.”

– Pastor Jennifer Bailey

Immaculate Heart of Mary School
“I am very proud of my parish for allowing Fernside to meet at IHM. It lets grieving children come together to receive support.”

– George McGonigle, IHM parishioner & Fernside greeter

The Margaret Rost School
“The West Side of town is very fortunate to have Fernside and I’m very proud to be part of it.”

– Diane Hater, West Side resident & Fernside facilitator

Saint Xavier Church
“As a parish committed to the care of the whole person, we seek to be a place of healing in the center of the city. Collaborating with the good people and good ministry of Fernside we are delighted and privileged to offer them hospitality to further their mission.”

– Fr. Eric Knapp
Program News

Record-Breaking Year – More Than Ever Are Served

Fernside experienced incredible growth this year, serving more children and families than ever. 1,100 children, teens and adults participated in a support group meeting during our 2009-10 group year. Additionally, our Crisis Response Program broke an all time record helping over 1,000 people this year affected by a death. And more students than ever before, 304 to be exact, benefited from a grief group at their school.

Support Groups Available

Blue Ash:
2nd and 4th Monday Parent Loss/ Significant Adult Loss Groups
2nd and 4th Tuesday Parent Loss/ Significant Adult Loss Groups
1st and 3rd Tuesday Sibling Loss/ Cousin/Friend Loss Groups

West Chester/Liberty
Township/Hamilton:
2nd and 4th Monday Parent Loss/ Significant Adult Loss Groups

Anderson Township:
2nd and 4th Tuesday Parent Loss/ Significant Adult Loss Groups

Bridgetown:
2nd and 4th Wednesday Parent Loss/ Significant Adult Loss Groups

Downtown:
1st and 3rd Wednesday Parent Loss/ Significant Adult Loss Groups

Families interested in joining our support groups must attend an orientation, held in Blue Ash on the 3rd Monday of every month. Please call the office for registration information.
Outreach Program
“As an MSW student the information was very important for me. This is a wonderful resource.”
– Loss & Grief class, University of Cincinnati

Special Collaborations
“This donation is in gratitude for the great work that Fernside has done over the past few years particularly with Hamilton County Developmental Disability Services. We are appreciative of Fernside and their good work.”
– Frank’s Center Parents Association

“Thank you for helping me heal my heart.”
– DDS Group Member

Camp Erin-Cincinnati Program
“It can be a breakthrough for your children to know they are not alone.”
– Teen Retreat, Parent Evaluation

“The activities that helped me with my grief were group time because I got to learn about other people and their losses and the campfire because I got to see how other people are like me.”
– Summer Camp, Megan, age 10

School Program
“Thank you again for providing our students the opportunity to participate in a grief support group. It is interesting and reassuring to watch the growth of the members over the course of the group time. The activities and concern of staff helped the students move forward with hope and confidence.”
– New Richmond Middle School

Crisis Program
“We wanted to express our sincere gratitude for all that Fernside did for the Notre Dame Academy community. None of us could ever have been prepared for the tragedy we experienced. But YOU made all the difference! Whether it was with our faculty, parents, counselors or students, you were hugely important in helping us through this time. We could never thank you enough for the important work you do. God Bless!”
– Tessa, Chrissy, Mikey and the NDA Administration

Evening Program
“John’s come a long way in the last 3 years! Thanks to you and Fernside for helping John cope with his grief over his mother’s passing. I sincerely believe he would not have been prepared to make a successful move without your services. And thanks for the pizza!”
– Liz Ping, Pro Kids Volunteer
Volunteer News

Good Things Happening with Volunteers!

When the Cincinnati Enquirer contacted us to ask if we had a volunteer they could profile we responded that we have 120 of them! Choosing just one is a nearly impossible task but we suggested Stacey Meyer, a Fernside alumni and 10-year volunteer. Stacey has had her hand in just about every volunteer opportunity at Fernside, including sitting on our Summertime Classic committee. Stacey single-handedly obtained in-kind donations that directly contributed to the success of the event. To read John Johnston’s entire article about Stacey’s amazing contributions, visit our website. Congratulations Stacey on this well-deserved recognition.

PIT Crew call for new vols

Join this year’s PIT (Philanthropists in Training) Crew! If you are a high school student interested in using your talents to raise awareness and money for Fernside, contact Mary at mary_mccutchen@trihealth.com. What a great way to earn service hours, meet teens from area high schools and work together to support grieving families in our community.

High School Bake Sale

This past March, PIT Crew (Philanthropist In Training) member, Emma Wahl, held a bake sale during her lunch at Mt. Notre Dame. She is one of 18 teens who have committed to learn more about philanthropy by creating and participating in fundraisers that support Fernside. Her treats raised $91.63 for our programs!

Fernside 25 years

Supporting Children and Families Through Grief
An Affiliate of Hospice of Cincinnati, Inc.

We’re looking for enthusiastic, event-minded individuals who are interested in helping plan our year-long celebration! Please contact Mary with your areas of interest.

Do you have a favorite story or memory about Fernside? We’re looking for 25 years of quotes, photos and anecdotes from you. Please send your Fernside memories via email to marjorie_loran@trihealth.com. Original art and photos can be scanned or photographed and returned upon request.
Special Donors

Third Party Fundraisers

Book-signing Party

Fernside Alum, Anne-Marie Farley, welcomed about 45 people into her home for a book-signing and reading featuring her friend and author, Diane Falanga. Her guests were very generous – they raised $761.75 for Fernside!

“My very best friend, Diane Falanga, just published her very first book, a hilarious collection of camp letters called, P.S. I Hate it Here, Kids’ Letters From Camp. To help celebrate and congratulate her, I threw a book-signing party at my house. The bonus: I told my guests that I would donate 100% of the sales of every book to Fernside’s summer camp and teen retreat programs. It was the perfect collaboration – I got to celebrate two things that mean a lot to me…my dear friend and the great work Fernside does.”

Maddy Brewer had an awesome pizza party hosted by Mixing it up, Kids in the Kitchen. Maddy and her friends had a great time making homemade pizzas and decorating their own cupcakes. They also learned about cooking and nutrition. Best of all, they raised $375.00 for pizza for Fernside. Maddy and her two sisters, Katie and Abby, along with their Mom, Peggy, attended Fernside following the death of their Dad, Bill Brewer.

Michael and Maria Rodell sent a card sharing that their son, Ben, had his 10th birthday recently and instead of gifts, he asked people to make a donation to Fernside. Imagine our surprise when we received $200.00 in his honor! Thanks for sharing your birthday with Fernside, Ben.
Event News

2010 Hospice of Cincinnati Summertime Classic
Two-Day Event raises $120,000 for Fernside!

Presented by TriHealth, the 9th annual Hospice of Cincinnati Summertime Classic was held May 23 & 24 at Kenwood Country Club. The event raised over $120,000 to benefit Fernside, an affiliate of Hospice of Cincinnati. Jeff Brinkman, VP of Healthcare Financial Services at Fifth Third Bank and Bob Halonen, VP, Treasury/Investment Services, Bethesda Services served as this year’s chairs.

More than 300 guests enjoyed an outstanding dinner, silent auction and live auction led by Jay Karp of Main Auction Galleries. The highlight of the evening featured 12-year old Isaac Metz, who shared his Fernside experience and how instrumental Fernside was after his mother’s death. Monday’s afternoon golf scramble hosted 208 golfers.

Special thanks to Mickey Kamfjord and Samir Daoud from Gold Star Chili, Heidelberg-Liberty Dalton Printing for signage, Craig Kurz from Honeybaked Ham, Kroger for beverages, Maggiano’s pasta dinner, Jay Karp from Main Auction Galleries and Terry Ramstetter from Prestige Audio Visual.

Planning for the 2011 Hospice of Cincinnati Summertime Classic is underway! Please contact the Bethesda Foundation at 513-865-1616 if you’re interested in serving on next year’s committee, volunteering at the event, golfing or considering a sponsorship.
From Isaac Metz’s Speech...

Hi. My name is Isaac Metz. I am 12 years old and I have 6 siblings. When I was 9 years old my mom died in a car accident that happened when she was picking my sister Michelle and I up from school. All I can remember is that I woke up in the hospital with head and back injuries and mom was gone. That was 3 years ago in January 2007.

When my mom died we had just moved into our new house. I miss many things about my mom. I especially miss her picking me up from school. I really enjoyed telling her about my day and laughing together in the car. I also miss saying prayers together at night when she tucked me in.

I came to Fernside about 4 months after the accident. I felt nervous and lonely and uncomfortable the first time I went. After a few times I began to feel more comfortable. I learned that it was OK to feel sad. That it was normal to feel sad when someone that you love dies. Everyone there was the same as me, grieving for someone that they love and lost. At school I felt different than all the other kids. They didn’t really understand what I was going through.

Fernside really helped me with my grief. One night we decorated bags with favorite memories and put a candle inside. Another time we made masks with hidden faces in the inside and other faces on the outside. My favorite was when we decorated balloons and made notes to our loved ones. On my note I told my mom what was going on and told her that I love her. We attached the notes to the balloons and stood in a big circle. Then we all let the balloons go at once. For a long time I very much missed my mom but I know that she is always with me.
The Dog Days of Summer Camp

Some very happy campers greet Doc, with owner Kim Fultz. At right, Brodie and owner Linda Jones make a new friend.

This year we had some very special guests visit our summer camp. Four pet therapy dogs (and their owners) made a trip to camp to provide some fun interaction with the campers. We want to thank Toby (June Austin), Doc (Kim Fultz), Brodie (Linda Jones) and Shelby (Rich Williamson).

We are excited to be able to incorporate the benefits of pet therapy into our programs and we’re looking forward to enjoying more visits from our new friends at Canine Angels in our evening support group program. Thank you to Chris Miller from Canine Angels who contacted us to donate this unique opportunity for Fernside.