


From Our House to Yours

A publication for the friends of Olivia's House

Summer 2013

Our summer has been warm, to say the least. I don't remember such an oppressive stretch of days in a row... but then, our memory often protects us from remembering things that are unpleasant. It can also be this way with the passing of our loved ones. We find it very easy to remember their wonderful qualities and difficult to pull up the times they frustrated us. Perhaps this is a good thing. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had a brain that only allowed us to experience good feelings? If we were unable to be affected by the barbs and criticisms of others, what would our day feel like? If we were immune to the many negative feelings associated with our lives, would we be better people?

I suspect it would not be as wonderful as it seems. There is an important reason for feeling all kinds of feelings, and we are blessed to experience them all. Our families in the programs at Olivia's House work through a week of lessons concerning the gamut of emotions we "identify" as feelings. It takes great effort to accurately identify a feeling and process it. We commend the program families for participating in this week of our eight-week program, Hearts Can Heal, as this often is the most difficult part of our program for them.

So, the next time we experience a feeling, or we find life too unpleasant, we should remember to be thankful for the ability to feel it, process it, and heal it. Oh, and we look forward to cooler days this fall!

Blessings,



Leslie Delp, MA
Founder and Bereavement Specialist



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Programs

So much is happening around Olivia's House, and, as always, a lot of it has to do with the children. We recently graduated 15 children from our summer Hearts Can Heal program. The families were wonderful, and we feel blessed to have had the chance to work with them. The children all climbed in the Cadillac hearse that was provided by Mr. Al Kuhner of Kuhner Associates Funeral Directors during their funeral home field trip. We enjoyed hearing the stories of the alumni who came to visit in week five, and even had an alumna visit in our elementary school group for the first time. Our graduation ceremony was wonderful and meaningful as always!

Many children are already enrolled in our fall Hearts Can Heal program that begins on September 19th at the York facility. The Little Ones preschool program, scheduled for November at our new facility in Hanover, is also filling up. We have trained our Companions for all the programs and look forward to providing grief and loss education for York and Adams Counties, as well as northern Maryland, through the end of the year.



Volunteer Spotlight

When you walk up to the front of Olivia's House, you will be greeted by a plethora of blooming flowers and a beautifully landscaped rock wall. The idea behind this landscaping is that it puts children at ease when they arrive at our center for the first time. The person responsible for the beautiful flowers this summer is our Volunteer in the Spotlight, Jonny Renn. He is known to all as Jonny of "Jonny B's Landscaping," and he is also our neighbor! We are blessed to have some of the best neighbors on the 800 block of South George Street and Jonny is one of them. He began his landscaping business a few years ago by selling flowers in front of his house and garnering small local landscaping jobs and today, he is well known as a hardworking, dedicated businessman. We are blessed that he cares for our gardens out front. He donates flowers to our mission regularly and landscapes each spring and summer for us at no cost. Because of Jonny's dedication and grace, our gardens are an extension of the beautiful profusion of color and fragrance from early spring until late fall emanating from two doors down!



Olivia's House Events



Are you looking for a way to support Olivia's House while enjoying a great day with your family and friends? Look no further!! Olivia's House is holding its second annual Walk to Remember at John Rudy County Park on Saturday, September 28, 2013. We are coming together in teams of five to ten people to raise money to benefit Olivia's House and to walk in memory of our loved ones.

There is no fee to register for this event; however, we encourage each team member to raise \$100 or more. Each team's fundraising contributes to our overall goal of raising more than \$50,000. All proceeds from the Walk benefit the programs and services provided by Olivia's House.

Come and join us from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the wondrous outdoors. This event will be held rain or shine. There will be fun activities and prizes awarded to the top fundraising team! Food from Red Cheetah Barbecue and Rita's Italian Ice will be available! We'll have a bounce house and great live music! There's something for the entire family!!

The Walk to Remember promises to be an event you will not want to miss- a meaningful opportunity to honor friends and family members who are no longer with us. We will walk down "Memory Lane" as a community, in the spirit of remembrance and celebration, as we raise funds to benefit Olivia's House.

Sponsors of the event include: North Metal Chemicals, Gettle, Inc., Vicki Friedman, WiseKraft Solutions, Hobby Stop Multi Shop, J.D. Witman Landscaping, MediaOne PA, and Wagman Construction.

For more information on Olivia's House or the Walk to Remember, please call 717-699-1133 or visit www.oliviashouse.org.



"Everything Changes"... and that included many of the details of our 11th annual Olivian Gala and Auction. Held on Saturday, June 8, at the Country Club of York, the evening benefitted the children's grief education programs at Olivia's House. From the date to the room, from the auction to the band, we changed it up this year!

"The Antares Musicians" changed well-known contemporary songs and played them in a classical format. Guests purchased keys to try to open our diamond lock box that held a \$3,000 diamond necklace! Everyone enjoyed getting their pictures taken in the photo booth! Lastly, there were some generous bids at the live and silent auctions!! We can't wait until next year!!

The 12th annual Olivian Gala and Auction will take place on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at the Country Club of York. For more details, visit www.oliviashouse.org or call Olivia's House.



Community Partners

The York Young Revolution recently raised \$986 for Olivia's House through their season-long wristband sale. The team sold silicon "York Young Revolution" blue and gold wristbands for \$1 each during several Revolution games. Thank you, Young Revs, for all your hard work and support of the children of Olivia's House!!

Vibes in the Vineyard was held at the Naylor Wine Cellar on June 23. The event consisted of good vibes and great people. Amazing beats and great tasting wine welcomed everyone who attended this first time festival in York County! Special thanks to program graduates, Riley and Angel Kellison who helped organize the event. In the photo, Riley and Angel present a check for \$927.02 to Leslie Delp.

Thanks to Donald H. Currie, DMD for their recent donation to Olivia's House. Dr. Currie's office donated \$1 for each "like" they received on their Facebook page. In the photo, Chris Currie is presenting the check to Leslie Delp, Olivia's House Founder and Bereavement Specialist.



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Olivia's House

a grief and loss center for children

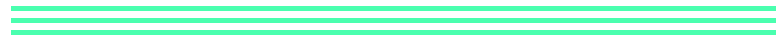
www.oliviashouse.org



The Backpack of Healing

In the Spring 2013 newsletter, we recounted our community's efforts to support the school psychologists in the Newtown School District following the tragic shootings there this past year. We have worked feverishly to complete what we believe is the professional's ultimate guide to helping children, through long-term, post-traumatic interventions. We want to once again extend our thanks to all the professionals in our community who gave their time and talents to this effort. We also wish to thank WITF Public Television for its extensive series on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Olivia's House was featured on this special, which aired April 3, 2013 on public television and which can be viewed on WITF's website (www.WITF.org). In the search bar, type Health Smart – PTSD - In The Wake Of Trauma. The program was produced by Keira McGuire.

Finally, we wish to thank Andrew Erdley at FedEx for his role in shipping our, 40 pound Back Pack of Healing, full of games, books and teacher's units to Newtown, CT at no cost! What great support we have at Olivia's House.



Companion Training

Olivia's House spent 12 hours with six of the most dedicated and wonderful people, training them in the Olivia's House model of "Companioning" children through grief. The following new Companions spent time watching grief-related videos, playing games, reflecting on their own grief history, touring a funeral home, creating art activities that lead to healing, and practicing skills for effective listening! We congratulate Megan Brougher, Jane Snyder, Jan Mattare, Tina Snyder, Jennifer Baney, and Katie Warehime.



Our mission has been able to succeed and come to fruition in a second center because of the selflessness of our adult Companions. We have some volunteers who have traveled from Hanover and will plan to volunteer at our second site, some who are from the York area, some who just moved into the county and are finding out all about both centers! All in all, Olivia's House is blessed by dedication, generosity of spirit, and hearts of gold that make its mission one of the finest in the country. We sincerely thank ALL of our volunteers.

Commemorative Bricks

Once a year, program families and others enjoy the opportunity to come back to Olivia's House to place their personally inscribed bricks in the pathways of the Healing Garden of Hope. On the evening of August 14, more than 75 folks gathered in our garden to remember someone they loved. We thought it would take a long time before it would seem that the space was filling up with inscribed bricks. Lo and behold, the pathways are looking full. Not so full that we have to worry, but the beautiful sentiments, names and dates that adorn each curve and turn along the way have certainly brought meaningful expression to the garden pathways. Whether you are out front contemplating David Tome's brick, or walking down the path to reflect upon Todd Leik's brick, or standing at the fish pond observing the numerous bricks of family members who chose that nature filled spot... it makes you stop and remember just how special they all are to each of us. We want to thank Todd Smith of TODS Landscaping for his role in manicuring our garden in preparation for our families to come and share in this special ceremony. We also wish to thank Jane Gordon, who donated ice cream sundaes again this year, straight from the freezers at Friendly's Restaurant. What a treat it is, after spending energy to put the bricks in the path, to eat that luscious sundae!!!!

Hanover Updates

The signs are up, the phones are on, and the walls are starting to come tumbling down...and then built up again!

Construction is officially underway at Olivia's House Hanover. JR McManus and his crew are working hard to turn the former Bell Insurance Company building into the region's first grief and loss center for children. This of course entails knocking down some walls to make the welcoming room, taking down a wall to make the teen suite more open, removing a vault door for the Miniature World and of course constructing the technical components for "The Confessional". In the meantime, program alumnus Jack Durange is lending his expertise to help construct some special design features for the Miniature World, Lending Library and Middle School Room. Sandy Long of The Sandy Woods is looking at colors and furniture in preparations of furnishing this brand new center once it is ready! In the very near future we will be calling on all painters, muralists, decorators, carpenters and able bodies to help pull together the final touches, hopefully in time for a November opening! The NEW Hanover phone number is 717-698-3586. While we may not always be able to answer the phone (construction has us running all over the place) we will always return your calls. Keep checking back as we continue to update you on our progress!



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