The Moyer Foundation’s
2017 National Bereavement Camp Conference
October 23 & 24, 2017
The James Chicago
Chicago, IL
The National Bereavement Camp Conference (NBCC) is an event hosted by The Moyer Foundation. The Moyer Foundation is a public, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to provide comfort, hope and healing to children and families affected by grief and addiction. Founded in 2000 by former MLB pitcher Jamie Moyer and child advocate Karen Phelps Moyer, The Moyer Foundation supports thousands of children and families each year through its free signature programs and services. Camp Erin® is the largest national bereavement program for children and teens grieving the death of someone significant in their lives and Camp Mariposa® is a national addiction prevention and mentoring program for youth impacted by a family member’s substance use disorder. The Moyer Foundation Resource Center extends The Foundation’s continuum of care by providing a curated set of online resources with personalized phone and email support for families experiencing grief, addiction and other related issues. For more information, please visit moyerfoundation.org.

The New York Life Foundation is the presenting sponsor of the National Bereavement Camp Conference. The Moyer Foundation is grateful for their support in making NBCC possible.

History:
The NBCC has been proudly offered in the following locations:
- Cleveland, OH - 2010
- Seattle, WA – 2011
- Philadelphia, PA – 2013
- Washington, D.C. – 2015
- Chicago, IL – 2017

Purpose:
The NBCC provides an overview of bereavement camp structures and best practices nationwide through an interactive forum of exchange, learning and collaboration. Participants will share advances in research, timely clinical information, and programmatic ideas and support for new or existing bereavement camps. Attendees will walk away with knowledge on how to create, implement and evaluate quality bereavement camps.

NBCC brings together professionals including bereavement support providers, hospice and hospital administrators, educators, resident camp professionals, development directors, volunteers, and advocates who work with bereaved youth and families.
THANK YOU

to our Presenting Sponsor

New York Life Foundation

The 2017 National Bereavement Conference is made possible by the generous support of the New York Life Foundation, our presenting sponsor.

General Information
2017 National Bereavement Camp Conference
Chicago, IL
October 23 & 24, 2017

Registration:
Conference registration is $200 and includes breakfast and lunch daily, as well as a networking reception on Monday evening. Continuing Education Units (CEU’s) are available for an additional cost of $35.00.

To register, visit moyerfoundation.org/events.

Hotel Accommodations:
The James Chicago
55 East Ontario, Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 337-1000

The Conference will be held at the The James Chicago, which is ideally situated in the heart of downtown Chicago, just steps from Michigan Avenue. In addition to its proximity to numerous dining, shopping and nightlife choices along the world famous Magnificent Mile, The James is within easy walking distance of such celebrated cultural attractions as Millennium Park and The Museum of Contemporary Art. The James is also conveniently located near all public buses and trains.

Our initial room block has sold out. Due to the high demand, additional hotel rooms are now available at a new discounted Conference rate of $259/night (plus tax) for single and double occupancy. Click here to reserve your room online and be sure to include the group code: CTMF17.

To book a room with two beds or a stay that includes nights outside of the room block dates, contact The James Chicago’s in-house Reservations Department at reservations@jameshotels.com or 312-660-7131, Monday – Friday, between 9:00am – 5:30pm. Mention The Moyer Foundation, as this is how NBCC is listed in their system. To ensure you receive the lowest rate possible for dates outside of the room block, it is encouraged you book your stay as soon as possible.

ADA Accommodations:
For accommodations on the basis of disability or if you have special needs, please contact Bethany Gardner at bethany@moyerfoundation.org or 206-298-1217.

Cancellation policy:
Cancellations received by September 22 will be fully refunded. Cancellations received after September 22 and up to five days prior to the conference (October 23), will receive a refund minus a $50 cancellation processing fee. No refunds will be given for cancellations received less than five days prior to the conference (October 18 and following).

For more information:
Contact Bethany Gardner, Director of Bereavement Programs, at bethany@moyerfoundation.org or (206) 298-1217, or visit moyerfoundation.org/events.
Travel & Transportation

The James Chicago
55 East Ontario, Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 337-1000

Airport Information:

- O’Hare International Airport (ORD) is approximately 24 miles from The James Chicago or 50 minutes by car.
- Midway International Airport (MDW) is approximately 13 miles from The James Chicago or 30 minutes by car.

Taxi Services & Public Transportation:

O’Hare International Airport:

- **Taxi:** There are Taxi Stands at the lower level curb front (outside of Baggage Claim) at each terminal. The average fare from O’Hare to downtown Chicago is $30-40.
- **GO Airport Express:** Offers daily shared ride and non-stop direct service to/from ORD. Departures are approximately every 10-15 min. from each terminal. [Click here](#) to reserve a shuttle in advance.
- **Chicago Transit Authority (CTA):** The trains in Chicago are known as the "L," and the 24-hour CTA Blue Line connects directly to O’Hare. You can walk to lower level Terminal 2 to reach the station. You can purchase fare with cash or credit. There are vending machines located outside the station.

  **The “L” from O’Hare International Airport:** Take the Blue Line train to Forest Park and get off at Washington. Walk North towards N State St toward E Randolph St. Take the Red Line train to Howard and get off at Grand. Walk North towards Ontario, turn right on to East Ontario. This trip will take approx. 50-60 minutes.

Midway International Airport:

- **Taxi:** Taxi stands are located on the lower level curbfront of the terminals, and taxis are available on a first come, first serve basis. The average fare from Midway to downtown Chicago is $28-30.
- **GO Airport Express:** Offers door-to-door service to and from Midway and most city and suburban neighborhoods from 6 am to 11:30 pm. Departures are about every 15 minutes. [Click here](#) to reserve your shuttle in advance.
- **Chicago Transit Authority (CTA):** The CTA trains in Chicago are well known as the "L," and the Orange Line train service operates from approximately 4:00 am to 1:00 am every day with more frequent service during weekday morning and evening rush hours. The fully-accessible station is located just east of the airport terminal building at the Midway Transportation Center and is connected to the airport via an enclosed walkway. Follow the signs in the airport that read "CTA Trains" or "Trains to City." You can purchase fare with cash or credit at the vending machines located outside the station.

  **The “L” from Midway International Airport:** Take the Orange Line to Loop and get off at Roosevelt. Take the Red Line train to Howard and get off at Grand. Walk North towards Ontario, turn right on to East Ontario. This trip will take approx. 30-40 minutes.

Parking:

- **Valet:** Valet parking is available for day use as well as overnight guest usage. Current rates are as follows but can be subject to change, $65 per day with in/out privileges.
- **Self-Park:** There are parking garages nearby with various rates. Use this [fully-interactive parking map](#) to search for parking options in downtown Chicago.
Continuing Education

Continuing education credit for this event is co-sponsored by The Moyer Foundation and The Institute for Continuing Education. The Conference offers a total of 12.00 contact hours (7.00 contract hours on October 23rd; 5.00 contract hours on October 24th). Continuing education credit is awarded on a session-by-session basis with full attendance required for the sessions attended. Partial session credit is not offered.

The Conference offers a total of 12.00 contact hours:
- Monday, October 23: 7.00 contact hours
- Tuesday, October 24: 5.00 contact hours

The processing fee is $35.00 per person, and is payable with online registration or on site. On site payments can be made by credit card or check, payable to “The Moyer Foundation.” Staff at the CE desk will have a listing of attendees who pre-paid the CE processing fee.

Conference attendees who wish to receive continuing education MUST check in at the Continuing Education desk to receive CE materials for completion; sign in/out daily; and complete an evaluation of sessions attended. CE verification is mailed to applicants following the event. If you have questions regarding continuing education, the program, faculty, grievance issues, or for a listing of learning objectives, please contact The Institute at: 800-557-1950; email: instconted@aol.com.

**Note:** It is the responsibility of the attendees to check with their state licensing/certification board to determine if CE credit offered by The Institute for Continuing Education meets the regulations of their state board.

**Who Should Attend:**
This conference is appropriate for mental health and allied professionals who work with children, adolescents, and their families.

**Skill Level:**
All scheduled sessions are appropriate for professionals of all levels of expertise: beginning, intermediate, and advanced. Participants are urged to review session description for appropriateness for professional and personal development.

**Instructional Methodology:**
May include lecture, didactic, audio-visual, demonstrations, experiential practice of techniques, small and large group discussions.

**Non-Credit Activities:**
Continuing education credit is not offered for breakfast, lunch, and events such as registration and networking/social events. CE Packet Attendance Logs will indicate any non-credit sessions for professional disciplines of psychology, social work, counseling, MFT. For questions regarding activities that offer continuing education credit, you may contact The Institute at the email listed above.

**Conflict of Interest:**
Participants are hereby advised that The Institute for Continuing Education receives no commercial support for is participation in this event as the continuing education sponsor.
CE Credit is offered for:

_Psychology:_
The Institute for Continuing Education is an organization approved by the American Psychological Association (APA) to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Institute for Continuing Education maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Not all sessions may be approved for psychology credit. The CE materials received at the time of check-in at the CE desk will indicate any non-credit sessions.

_Counseling:_
The Institute for Continuing Education and the Moyer Foundation are co-sponsors of this event. This co-sponsorship has been approved by NBCC. The Institute for Continuing Education is an NBCC approved continuing education provider No. 5643. The Institute for Continuing Education is solely responsible for this program, including the awarding of NBCC credit. A listing of non-credit workshops for counselors will be included in the CE materials received at the Conference at check-in; or if you wish a listing of the non-credit workshops prior to the Conference, please contact The Institute at: instcont@aol.com.

_New York:_ The Institute for Continuing Education is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed mental health counselors. Provider MHC-0016.

_Marriage/Family Therapy:_
The Institute for Continuing Education is recognized as a provider of continuing education by the Illinois Board of Marriage/Family Therapy, Provider 168-000108.

_New York MFT:_ The Institute for Continuing Education is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists. Provider MFT-0012.

_Illinois MFT:_ Provider 168-000108.

_Ohio MFT:_ Provider RTX 100501.

_Texas MFT:_ Provider 177.

_Florida MFT:_ The Institute for Continuing Education is recognized as a provider of continuing education by the Florida Dept. Health, Division Social Work, MFT, Counseling, Provider BAP 255, expiration 03/2019.

_Social Work:_
The Institute for Continuing Education, provider 1007, is approved as a provider for social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), www.aswb.org, though the Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. The Institute for Continuing Education maintains responsibility for the program. ASWB Approval Period: 4-13-2015 - 4-13-2018. Social workers should contact their regulatory board to determine course approval. Not all sessions may be approved for social work credit. The CE materials received at the time of check-in at the CE desk will indicate any non-approved sessions.

_New York:_ The Institute for Continuing Education is recognized by the New York State Education Department’s State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers. Provider No. 0025.

_Ohio:_ Counseling and Social Work Board, Provider RCS 030001.


_New Jersey:_ No CE Offered

_California Professionals:_ The CA Board Behavioral Sciences accepts programs sponsored by APA, NBCC, and ASWB providers.

_Nursing:_
The Institute for Continuing Education is an approved provider of continuing education in nursing by the California Board of Nursing, Provider CEP 12646. Nurses are responsible for checking with their state board to determine if continuing education credit issued through an approved provider of the CA Board of Nursing is accepted by their state board.
# 2017 NATIONAL BEREAVEMENT CAMP CONFERENCE

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Monday, October 23

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>7:45 – 8:45am</td>
<td>Breakfast &amp; Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 – 9:15am</td>
<td>Opening Remarks &amp; Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 – 10:30am</td>
<td>Keynote 1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Play with Purpose: Building community at camp</td>
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<td>Allison Wittenberg</td>
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<td>10:45 – 12:00pm</td>
<td>Breakout Session 1</td>
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<td>1A:</td>
<td>Leaning on Your Wisdom: Keeping camp alive year round</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Robin Dixon, Cindi Gray, &amp; Sally Green</td>
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<td>1B:</td>
<td>Growth Mindset: Lessons for camps</td>
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<td>Lance Ozier</td>
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<td>1C:</td>
<td>What Lies Beneath: Understanding the basic needs of children</td>
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<td>Corrie Sirota</td>
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<td>12:00 – 12:45pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1:00 – 2:15pm</td>
<td>Breakout Session 2</td>
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<td>2A:</td>
<td>The Evidence is Here! Culminating bereavement camp study outcomes</td>
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<td>Pam Furgeson, Sue Maxymiv, Abby Moncrief, Rhonda Richardson, &amp; Lisa Willis</td>
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<td>2B:</td>
<td>Camp Rituals - What’s the big deal?</td>
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<td>Robin Murphy &amp; Earline Vann</td>
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<td>2C:</td>
<td>Serving Children and Teens with Special Needs at Bereavement Camp</td>
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<td>Jennifer Wiles</td>
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<td>2:30 – 3:45pm</td>
<td>Breakout Session 3</td>
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<td>3A:</td>
<td>Compassionate Leadership: Transitioning participants to leaders</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tina Barrett &amp; Molly Murphy</td>
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<tr>
<td>3B:</td>
<td>5 Simple Ways to Engage Teens at Camp</td>
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<td>Melissa Lunardini</td>
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<td>3C:</td>
<td>The Grief Practice: Supporting grief with yoga and mindfulness</td>
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<td>Monique Minahan</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 – 6:00pm</td>
<td>Keynote 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Promoting Resilience and Healthy Outcomes for Transgender Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Noreen Carrington &amp; Jason Wheeler</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 – 8:30pm</td>
<td>Networking Reception</td>
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2017 NATIONAL BEREAVEMENT CAMP CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, October 24

7:45 – 8:45am  Breakfast

8:45 – 10:00am  Breakout Session 4

4A: When Difference Comes to Camp: Inclusion & intersectionality in camp programming  
   Alesia Alexander

4B: The Campers are Coming! ARE YOU READY?  
   Rhonda Mickelson

4C: Utilizing Music Therapy at Grief Camp  
   Ashlee Slavin

10:15 – 11:30am  Breakout Session 5

5A: Are We Making a Difference? Evaluating bereavement camps in simple steps  
   Rene McClatchey & Jane Wimmer

5B: "Come Out, Come Out Wherever You Are": Supporting grieving children after death  
   caused by invisible diseases (mental illness or addiction)  
   Lauren Schneider

5C: Stop, Collaborate and Listen: The exciting world of organizational development  
   Rhonda Knotts & Courtney Williams

11:30 – 12:30pm  Lunch (Table Topics)

12:45 – 2:00pm  Breakout Session 6

6A: Power of Partnership: How to fund, grow, and sustain your grief camp  
   Suzanne Kelly

6B: Bereavement Camps and Aftercare for Families  
   Michelle Lewis

6C: The Beat Goes On  
   Josh Robinson

2:15 – 3:45pm  Keynote 3  
   Cultivating the Courage Habit: Creating resilience in a messy, wonderful world  
   Kate Swoboda

3:45 – 4:30pm  Closing Ceremony
MONDAY MORNING KEYNOTE

Allison Wittenberg, B.S.

Play with Purpose: Building community at camp

Creating a space where campers feel safe and comfortable to be themselves and open up is essential for them to connect with others. The camp environment offers a unique opportunity for campers to express their personality, share their story, and create meaningful relationships. Teambuilding and collaborative activities allow campers to develop friendships, discover strengths, and build memories that can last a lifetime. This interactive session will equip participants to implement fun and meaningful community building activities for a variety of age groups, comfort levels, and learning styles.

Learning objectives:
1. Participants will learn about and participate in activities that build a sense of community within the camp setting.
2. Participants will share ideas and experiences with colleagues in order to enhance the knowledge of the group.
3. Participants will identify strategies for implementing fun and meaningful activities, including variations for age groups, comfort levels, and learning styles.

References:

Allison Wittenberg, BS: In her role at the American Camp Association, NY & NJ, Allison interacts with various summer programs throughout the year to discuss membership, networking, and training opportunities. She is passionate about the benefits of the camp experience and facilitates workshops highlighting the importance of teambuilding and leadership within the camp setting. After spending many summers as a camper and staff member, Allison truly appreciates the power of the community that can be formed at camp. She loves connecting with youth development professionals and sharing tools for engaging staff trainings, building a camp culture, as well as developing meaningful content for youth programs.
MONDAY AFTERNOON KEYNOTE

Noreen Carrington, MA, LMFT, FT & Jason Wheeler

Promoting Resilience and Healthy Outcomes for Transgender Youth

This session will highlight the best practices for supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQ) youth, with a focus on transgender youth and their families. Together, participants will explore how one bereavement camp supported a transgender camper and their family. This real-life example will provide a context for understanding gender identity and expression, and feature the experiences of young people, parents and professionals who have successfully navigated this terrain. Participants will learn effective strategies and best practices to increase awareness, prevent bullying and harassment, foster resilience and promote a healthy and safe camp environment for all youth.

Learning objectives:
By the end of this presentation, participants will:
1. be able to articulate and use correct LGBTQ terms and definitions
2. better understand the experiences of transgender youth and families
3. be more knowledgeable about policies, practices and resources that support transgender youth and families
4. be aware of the research on the factors that promote resilience and positive outcomes for LGBTQ youth
5. increase their comfort and confidence in talking about gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation and camp climate, and in supporting transgender youth and their families

References:

Noreen Carrington, MA, LMFT, FT is a licensed marriage and family therapist and a fellow in thanatology, who has worked in the fields of death, dying and grief and loss for the past 20 years. Noreen’s extensive experience in the field includes creating and directing a comprehensive educational and clinical rotation for marriage and family therapist graduates and post-graduates in the specialty of grief and loss. As Executive Director of The Center for Grief Care and Education, she partnered with UCSD Extension to create a Certificate Program in grief and loss. Noreen has served as a faculty member at the CSU Institute for Palliative Care and the at the Institute for Palliative Medicine, training health care professionals
and the general community. Noreen’s love of working with bereaved children led her to direct Camp Erin San Diego (5 years) and Camp Erin Orange County (3 years). Noreen says that she “Is in awe of these young campers who have dealt with considerable loss. Their bravery, their compassion for their fellow campers and their ability to find meaning in the loss is astounding.” She also says “Each camp brings new meaning and value to my life as I learn from these young spirits the capacity to heal and grow - even in difficult situations.” Currently Noreen is on the board at Our House Grief Support Center Orange County and is a consultant and a clinical lead at Camp Erin Orange County.

**Jason Wheeler** has been professionally committed to inclusion, youth development and leadership for the past 25 years. His experience was catalyzed by his extensive involvement in a variety of national and community-based programs focused on topics related to education, inclusion and social justice. His areas of expertise include; training and technical assistance, organizational and staff development, inclusion coaching, competency assessment and curriculum development. Jason works nationally on issues related to the meaningful inclusion of traditionally underserved or underrepresented communities; including people with disabilities, individuals from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. Jason works extensively with schools and community organizations on issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Jason specializes in developing comprehensive support plans for individuals, families and schools when youth and adults transition gender. Jason serves on the Board of Directors for GLSEN Massachusetts and consults with the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students, GLSEN National and the Human Right Campaign Foundation’s Welcoming Schools program. Online: [http://www.jp wheeler.com](http://www.jp wheeler.com)
Cultivating the Courage Habit: Creating resilience in a messy, wonderful world

Helping professionals give an enormous amount to the clients and communities they serve, often leaving themselves little time to process their own feelings of overwhelm, anxiety and doubt, or to turn their attention to their own personal dreams and goals. With time, this leads to decreased energy and burnout—but that can shift with an understanding of the psychology of courage and with the implementation of small habits that lead to big personal shifts. Author and facilitator Kate Swoboda will share the four-part process of the Courage Habit, a bio-psycho-social approach to building emotional resilience, feeling less overwhelm and anxiety, and staying connected to the things that matter most even as you do messy, wonderful work in the world.

Learning objectives:
1. Recognize signs of overwhelm/fear/anxiety avoidance in the helping professional.
2. Learn about the connection between habit-formation and emotional resilience.
3. Understand the four-part process of creating and implementing so-called “courageous habits,” for helping professionals and for use with clients.

References:

Kate Swoboda, MA, CCLC, is Director of the Courageous Living Coach Certification and creator of YourCourageousLife.com, where she teaches people how to change old patterns of self-doubt and create courageous habits (and courageous lives). Using the psychology of courage and the neuropsychology of habit-formation, Kate has helped individuals, companies, and teams start connecting to their most courageous selves.

Kate was deemed one of the top 50 bloggers in health, fitness and happiness by Greatist. She has contributed to Entrepreneur, USA Today, Forbes, Lifetime Moms, The Intelligent Optimist, MindBodyGreen, Business Insider, and more. In addition to business consulting, Kate has facilitated numerous workshops and taught at the college level, and she’s spoken at conferences and held seminars on the topic of courage as it relates to personal development, releasing overwhelm, business and marketing, increasing emotional resilience, and healthy goal-setting using habit-formation techniques. Her first book, *The Courage Habit: How to Accept Your Fears, Release the Past, and Live Your Courageous Life* (New Harbinger Publications) will be on shelves in spring 2018.
SESSION 1A

Leaning on Your Wisdom: Keeping camp alive year round
Robin Dixon, MA; Cindy Gray, MSW, LCSW; Sally Green, MS

How do you keep your organization informed and excited about camp year after year? Heading into Hospice of Santa Cruz County's fourth year of Camp Erin, the team has turned camp engagement into a year-round conversation that inspires staff, leadership, volunteers, and donors to stay connected throughout the year. This presentation will offer practical tips of what's worked for them and why, and will promote discussion with participants to brainstorm new approaches, as well as to identify what they're already doing well and how they can package it for success.

Learning objectives:
1. Making media outreach personal to get better and earlier coverage
2. 'Knowing your why' and communicating with donors for greater impact
3. Learn volunteer engagement ideas to hold a safe and fun camp experience

References:

Robin Dixon, MA, leads marketing with an audience-focused mindset and a background in domestic and international philanthropic and non-profit organizations. She has a love for authentic marketing that adds meaning to people's lives.

Cindi Gray, MSW, LCSW, has worked in the hospice field for 26 years supporting children and adults through grief and loss. She has presented locally and at state conferences on volunteer support and retention.

Sally Green, MS, is dedicated to helping people and organizations get what they need to thrive. She connects mission with donors and their passions to make good things happen.
SESSION 1B

Growth Mindsets: Lessons for camps
*Lance Ozier, Ed.D.*

Mindsets are beliefs—beliefs about yourself and your most basic qualities. Think about your intelligence, your talents, your personality. Are these qualities simply fixed traits, carved in stone and that’s that? Or are they things you can cultivate throughout your life? In her research-based Ted Talk, Carol Dweck discusses the power of believing you can improve!

Campers with a fixed mindset believe that their traits are just givens. Campers with a growth mindset, on the other hand, see their qualities as things that can be developed through their dedication and effort. The emphasis that camps place on instruction and skill-building allows children and adolescents to learn to perform skills that might have seemed unattainable. More importantly, it teaches children and adolescents that they can learn to perform daunting tasks, and develop new skills and abilities. Research also suggests that a growth mindset is cultivated when effort is recognized in the midst of setback and adversity.

In this session we will consider the role of camp settings that support the development of campers' mindset and enhance coping skills post-camp.

**Learning objectives:**
1. Understand the research indicating adversity and setbacks are an opportunity for growth (versus only negative).
2. Discuss why camp is an opportunity for growth given the safe environment for risk taking.
3. Experience activities for a camp setting that support the development of campers and enhance coping skills post-camp.

**References:**

*Lance Ozier, Ed.D.*, has worked and taught at the elementary, middle and secondary education levels. Having also spent 15 seasons in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York at Morry’s Camp, he serves on the American Camp Association’s 5-year impact study task-force on camp as an out-of-school time context that prepares youth for college, career, and life-long success.

Lance's work has been widely published and referenced in several national publications, including Camping Magazine, The Journal of Democracy and Education, English Journal, and the Journal of Experiential Education.

While completing his doctoral studies at Columbia University, Lance was on the English Education faculty of Teachers College. Currently he is Assistant Adjunct Professor of English Education at CCNY, and a founding instructor in the Bank Street College of Education's Summer Camp and After-school Leadership Certificate.
SESSION 1C

What Lies Beneath: Understanding the basic needs of children
Corrie Sirota, MSW, PSW, OPQ

As is commonly understood, there is no such thing as a “bad child” merely “bad behavior.” Therefore, in this workshop, Corrie Sirota, Grief, Loss and Bereavement Specialist, will help participants focus on understanding the WHY behind children who act out and/or present with challenging behaviors ranging from anxiety to bullying. Through a combination of lecture and interactive exercises participants will learn a variety of strategies to address behaviors. The presentation is seen through the lens of a Strength Based perspective.

Learning objectives:
1. Participants will learn to identify and understand the underlying needs associated with children's behavior.
2. Participants will learn intervention strategies that will de-escalate situations when a child's behavior appears unmanageable.
3. Participants will practice the concepts and strategies discussed in the workshop so that they are able to easily implement them long after the workshop is completed.

References:
5. Ogen, Pat Dr., Minton, Kekuni, Dr. (2000) Trauma and The Body, WW Norton.

Corrie Sirota, MSW, PSW, OPQ, holds a Masters degree in Social Work from McGill University, (Montreal, Canada) as well as a Graduate Certificate in Loss and Bereavement where she continues to teach as a sessional lecturer in the School of Social Work. As a licensed psychotherapist, Corrie maintains a private practice specializing in Loss and Bereavement, Parenting, Stress management, and Relationship issues. She has authored her first book entitled, “Someone Died...Now What – A personal and professional perspective on coping with grief and loss” available on Amazon. She has also written numerous other articles and blogs posts for ME Magazine, Cappino Physio and Wellness Centre, and Risk within Reason. Most recently, Corrie has been appointed as the Clinical Director of Camp Erin® Montreal – a weekend bereavement camp for children ages 6 - 17.

Corrie is a well-known guest speaker, having presented at numerous conferences and workshops, both locally and internationally and continues to develop and facilitate psycho-social prevention and intervention workshops for school professionals, students, camping staff, various community agencies, organizations and businesses. Some of her recent presentations have included Creating a Positive Reality, The Art of Giving Feedback, The Pressure to Be Perfect, How to Run Effective Parent/Teacher Conferences, The Secret to De-stress and When Bad Things Happen to Good Students.

Corrie is frequently interviewed on many local radio, news and TV programs on various issues relating to loss and bereavement, how to cope with crisis, child development and parenting.
SESSION 2A

The Evidence is Here! Culminating Bereavement Camp Study Outcomes
Pamela Furgeson, MA; Sue Maxymiv, MA, CT; Abby Moncrief, M.Ed., NCC; Rhonda Richardson, PhD, CFLE; & Lisa Willis, BA

Since 2013, the New York Life Foundation has provided funding and vision to The Moyer Foundation, Comfort Zone Camp and Kent State University to study the impact of bereavement camps on positive youth development. The resulting research, conducted by this collaborative team, is the largest known longitudinal study of its kind to date. Over 1,500 Camp Erin and Comfort Zone Camp campers and families have participated. This presentation shares the culmination of this 2-year study sharing data outcomes and real applications to camp programs. Both short-term and long-term trajectories of positive youth development and the grief process will be explored. Campers' perceptions of the impact of various camp components over time will also be discussed.

Learning objectives:
1. By the end of this session, participants will be able to recognize the short-term impact of bereavement camps on children and adolescents from a positive youth development perspective.
2. By the end of this session, participants will be able to identify the long-term trajectory of positive youth development and grief progress in children and adolescents who attended bereavement camps.
3. By the end of this session, participants will be able to differentiate between the longitudinal impact of traditional camp activities and bereavement-related camp activities on children and adolescents who attended bereavement camps.

References:

Pamela Ferguson, M.A., Director of External Client Services at the Research and Evaluation Bureau at Kent State University, is a medical sociologist with extensive experience in research development and implementation, mixed method data analysis, and findings interpretation. Ms. Ferguson served as the director of research for the Community AIDS Prevention Project in Houston, Texas, and she has conducted diverse research documenting the psychosocial impacts of HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other illnesses on family systems. Currently she is the primary investigator for a variety of initiatives, including research examining policies for a variety of initiatives, including research examining policies for strengthening public health infrastructures in low-income U.S. communities funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Study of Bereavement Camps for Children funded by the New York Life Foundation.
Sue Maxymiv, M.A., CT, CFLE, is an adjunct professor at Kent State University where she developed the course, Bereavement, Trauma and Other Losses which is now an optional required course for the Human Development and Family Studies majors. As a bereavement consultant and certified family life educator, she has developed training materials for bereavement centers, schools, hospices, funeral homes and senior centers in northeast Ohio for more than twenty years.

Rhonda Richardson, Ph.D., is Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at Kent State University and a Certified Family Life Educator. She teaches and conducts research on the topics of parent-child relationships and positive youth development, with a particular interest in early adolescence. She is author or coauthor of numerous articles and two books: Attachment in Middle Childhood (© 2005 Guilford Press) and What Kids REALLY Want to Ask: Using Movies to Start Meaningful Conversations (©2007 VanderWyk and Burnham). Currently, she serves as faculty associate on the National Study of Bereavement Camps for Children funded by the New York Life Foundation.

Abby Moncrief (B.A., University of Virginia; M.Ed., Virginia Tech) NCC, is a program resource on a national level, designing and managing the clinical components of all the region’s programs, collaborations, and partnerships. In addition, she stewards relationships and manages implementation of all partnerships with other organizations. She administers the clinical training all professional mental health volunteers must complete in order to volunteer for our programs as a Healing Circle Leader, works directly with the Clinical Advisory Council, and oversees all research involvement and Comfort Zone’s internal research. Prior to coming to Comfort Zone, Abby performed outpatient therapy in a community mental health agency.

Lisa Willis, BA, serves as the Vice President of Programs for The Moyer Foundation, responsible for the sustainability and expansion of the Foundation’s programmatic initiatives including Camp Erin, Camp Mariposa and The Moyer Foundation’s Resource Center to directly support youth and families impacted by grief and addiction. Joining the Foundation in 2011, Lisa has more than 20 years of experience working in corporate responsibility, sports philanthropy, program management and marketing. Lisa worked extensively and in multiple capacities with The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation - funded Sports Philanthropy Project, a national organization that maximized the power and assets of professional sports to impact sustainable social change. Lisa has spent her career dedicated to improving the health of America's children. Prior to joining The Moyer Foundation, Lisa worked as an independent consultant for a variety of non-profit and for profit clients including Nike, Inc. and the Clinton Global Initiative, the Seattle Seahawks, The Food Trust, Everyday Health and Friends of the Children. She began her career working for FOX Sports and Clear Channel Communications where she specialized in marketing, business development, community outreach and public relations. Lisa holds a BA in psychology and business administration from Wittenberg University.
SESSION 2B

Camp Rituals - What's the big deal?
Robin Murphy, BS, CT & Earline Vann, BS, CT

Rituals are the healing glue that binds the individual soul to humanity. Ritualistic practices create sacred spaces for healing, connect individuals in the grieving experience, and are unique in the environment in which they are practiced. This presentation will provide insight on how camp rituals have a tri fold impact on the camp experience. In addition, presenters will highlight cultural, religious, and age appropriate practices when planning rituals. Participants will have an opportunity to share, and exchange rituals and practices.

Learning objectives:
1. Highlight how rituals can have an impact on the camper and their family, camp staff and their environment.
2. Identify developmental and age appropriate camp ritual practices.
3. Engage participants in sharing rituals unique to their camps.

References:

Earline Vann, BS, CT, and Robin Murphy, BS, CT, are New Hope Coordinator’s and Camp New Hope Directors for Delaware Hospice Inc. New Hope is a nationally recognized program for grieving children. The New Hope Program for grieving children has been available to Delaware families since 1990. Both Earline and Robin serve as bereavement counselors for children, teenagers and Delaware families supporting family’ pre and post the death of a loved one. As Directors of Camp New Hope, Robin and Earline have nine and eight years respectfully collectively serving Delaware families in this capacity. As Camp Directors, they both supervise over fifty volunteers and plan and facilitate Camp New Hope for 100 children annually. In addition, both are considered to be very knowledgeable in the area of childhood bereavement and conduct grief support groups throughout the state of Delaware, and provide consultation and education to school departments, hospitals, universities, and community organizations. Both Robin and Earline are Certified Thanatologist.

Prior to employment with Delaware Hospice Inc., Robin served in the United States Air Force for ten years. She has taught Pre School and Kindergarten and earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Behavioral Science from Wilmington University where she graduated magna Cum Laude.

Earline worked as the Program Coordinator for Child Inc’s Family Resource Center for almost twelve years. She earned her Bachelors of Science in Individual and Family Studies from The University of Delaware.
SESSION 2C

Serving Children and Teens with Special Needs at Bereavement Camp
Jennifer Wiles, MA, LMHC, BC-DMT

This presentation will focus on adapting bereavement camp programs for children and teens with special needs. The challenges and rewards of developing an inclusive program will be explored. We will discuss approaches and strategies for referrals, programming, and positive, trauma-informed intervention that maintain the dignity of every participant. Experiential activities that include adaptations and modifications will be shared. The importance of rituals will be highlighted. Case examples will be shared. Particular attention will be paid to educating and training camp volunteers in this aspect of camp, and how we can best support the entire camp community as we strive to provide the best possible experience for all. Time will be allotted for discussion among participants to give peer support for our work in this important field.

Learning objectives:
1. Participants will be able to identify the range of challenges (cognitive, physical, psycho-social and behavioral) that face many grieving children and teens.
2. Participants will be able to apply specific adaptations to best serve campers and volunteers in their programs in terms of intakes, preparation and planning, staffing and volunteer engagement, programming and interventions.
3. Participants will be able to practice and utilize grief activities and rituals that are adapted for the special needs population in the bereavement camp setting.

References:

Jennifer Wiles, MA, LMHC, BC-DMT, is the Director of Children’s Services at CareGroup Parmenter Home Care & Hospice, Inc. in Wayland, MA. She is the director of Camp Erin Boston and of HEARTplay, an award-winning Children’s Bereavement Program. Jennifer is a Clinical Instructor in Lesley University’s Graduate School of Arts and Social Sciences. She is a Board-Certified Dance Movement Therapist. She is the founder and director of the Dance Therapy program at the Performing Arts Center of MetroWest. She has over 25 years’ experience working with individuals with special needs, and is committed to serving them in the bereavement field.
SESSION 3A

Compassionate Leadership: Transitioning participants to leaders
Tina Barrett, EdD, LCPC & Molly Murphy, LCPC

Comprehensive bereavement programs face the challenge of providing developmentally relevant programming for individuals throughout the grief journey. Years after a loss, many individuals benefit from continued personal support coupled with the opportunity to companion, support, and mentor peers. At TGRC, teens and adults have opportunities to engage in programs in a leadership role. To maintain program quality, the progression from participant to leader involves deliberate training tailored to each program. All leadership and volunteer programs must integrate adequate training, continued support, and mentor debriefing in recognition that caring adults are inevitably touched by genuine, painful, and heart-felt exchanges and to ensure mutual beneficiality for program participants and for emerging leaders.

Learning objectives:
1. Introduce three models involving the transition of grief program participants to leadership roles.
2. Identify mutual benefits of effectively integrating past participants into teen leadership roles at grief camps.
3. Review ethical considerations when transitioning participants to leadership roles.

References:

Since 1994, Dr. Tina Barrett, EdD, LCPC, has specialized in family systems, strength-oriented and outdoor-based support following grief and trauma. Co-founder and Executive Director of Tamarack Grief Resource Center, Barrett focuses on best practices of nature-based support with trauma survivors and family-systems. Barrett has developed and directed various models of over 100 grief camps since 1996 in Montana and six other states. She has facilitated bereavement groups since 1995 and has assisted with group facilitator training and supervision for over 18 years. She serves on the Advisory Board for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and serves as a Senior Consultant for the National Military Suicide Survivors Seminar. Barrett also serves on the Leadership Team of the Western Montana Suicide Prevention Initiative. She provides interactive, inspiring trainings throughout Montana and at national conferences, has published numerous chapters and articles, and serves on the Standards Committee for the Bereavement Camp Standards of Practice.

Molly Murphy, LCPC, serves as the Assistant Director at Tamarack Grief Resource Center in Montana, providing support for youth and adults following loss. In the years since her father's death by suicide, Molly has immersed herself in healing settings with a special focus on healing after suicide. She completed her graduate degree in
Counselor Education at The University of Montana. Pulling from her experience in group homes, university clinical settings, classrooms, and bereavement camps, Molly weaves together her personal and professional experience to support kids, teens, adults and families. She coordinates and directs various models of grief camp including women’s retreats, teen retreats and wild land outings, day camps, overnight youth camps, family camps, and mini-camps. Molly has been a group leader at numerous TAPS GGCO’s and National Military Suicide Survivors Seminars.
If you are like most of us, then you know that it can be challenging to sell a teen on going to a grief camp. Once you secure them, then the next hurdle is finding simple but effective ways to engage them while at camp. Over the years, we have tried several different approaches to figuring out the best way to engage teens while at camp. This presentation will disclose five simple ways to win over your teens during the camp weekend.

Learning objectives:
1. Attendees will learn five simple ways to engage teens while at camp.
2. Attendees will be able to use examples immediately at their next camp.
3. Attendees will have an opportunity to collaborate on this topic and share some of their own examples.

References:

Melissa Lunardini, MA, has dedicated over a decade towards supporting grieving children, teens, and their families. As the Children’s Bereavement Manager for The Elizabeth Hospice, she oversees the program development of their year round grief support groups, school based programming, and she is the Camp Director for Camp Erin San Diego. She enjoys presenting nationally and locally on topics related to childhood bereavement. Melissa strives to remain active with current trends and emerging research within the field of Thanatology. She is a National Training Associate for Boys and Girls Club of America for their Youth and Grief segment and she also sits on the Marketing Committee of the National Alliance for Grieving Children. During her free time, she is working on completing her MBA program and she volunteers with several local non-profit agencies. She is passionate about suicide prevention and awareness and stays closely aligned with American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.
SESSION 3C

The Grief Practice: Supporting grief with yoga and mindfulness

Monique Minahan, Registered Yoga Teacher with Yoga Alliance

This presentation will explain a trauma-informed approach to grief through yoga and mindfulness in the following ways:

*where and why the body holds grief
*hows to explore grief through yoga in a safe and anchored way
*mindfulness practices for arriving in the present moment, the place where healing can happen
*hows yoga invites grief to flow without rushing, crowding or denying it
*the power of presence and how to access it on and off the yoga mat
*when moving yoga is appropriate and when non-moving yoga is appropriate
*why trauma-informed yoga is helpful for grief
*how yoga can facilitate deep healing

Learning objectives:
1. Three techniques for arriving in the present moment.
2. Four anchoring practices to stay present when emotions or memories start to overwhelm us.
3. Five areas of the body where grief is commonly held.

References:

Monique Minahan is a mother, writer and bereavement yoga teacher. After losing her husband unexpectedly in 2002 she struggled with complicated grief and major depression for many years until stumbling upon mindfulness and yoga. With the help of these tools she found a path that took her from surviving to thriving.

Today Monique is the mother of a sweet and energetic toddler and leads bereavement yoga groups at a local hospice center, an offering that grew out of her belief that grief needs welcoming, not fixing. These classes blend Western and Eastern approaches to how the body holds grief, old and new traditions of yoga, and arranges these pieces within the framework of trauma-sensitive teaching, creating a safe space for people living with loss to explore their grief and nurture a harmonious sense of being full of life and full of loss. Additionally, she offers monthly "Replenish" workshops for professionals attending to end-of-life care and grief.

Monique's writing has been featured on The Huffington Post and elephant journal. In 2016 she published The Unedited Heart: Letters on Loss, a compilation of her many conversations with her grief. Her current project is The Grief Practice, a book she hopes will contribute to expanding the conversation and lifting the bar on grief globally.
SESSION 4A

When Difference Comes to Camp: Inclusion & intersectionality in camp programming
Alesia Alexander, MSW, LCSW, CT

This will be an interactive, safe environment for processing challenges and opportunities for camp program growth and development. This session will offer perspectives and strategies on supporting the identification of barriers to more inclusive and diverse camp programming. Facilitation of issues of managing outreach, community engagement to the camp model, trust and community building will be session focal points. Participants will be invited to share their own unique journeys with difference to include special needs populations, along with cultural, racial, and social constructs and considerations for practice.

Learning objectives:
1. Participants will develop tools for engagement, responsive programming, and follow-up post program within their program strategy and implementation of camp centered programs for communities and populations of difference.
2. Participants will be able to identify at least three barriers to inclusive practice, recruitment of staff and volunteers of difference, and stakeholders of difference in current and future program plans.
3. Participants will develop and design at least three strategies for camper of different recruitment, family systems engagement, retention and follow-up considerations for working within special populations and communities of difference.

References:

Alesia K. Alexander, MSW, LCSW, CT, is the new CEO and National Program Director of Comfort Zone Camp. Alesia has a wealth of experience in the arena of grief. Most recently, she served the Founder and Executive Director of Project KARMA, Inc., a healing community and forum for educating and supporting at-risk youth and families on issues of grief and loss. Alesia has over 20 years of experience in community-based, non-profit, hospice, and mental health settings. In her new role at Comfort Zone, she is responsible for strategic leadership, management, and oversight of all Comfort Zone Camp programs and services. Alesia is also an accomplished author, having published several books, including one called Dream Clouds, a beautifully written and illustrated book that offers a child’s perspective into the experience of grief, and Tapestries: A Creative & Inclusive Approach to Grief Support for Youth & Communities. Alesia in a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and has served on numerous boards and community organizations. She is a past board member for National Alliance for Grieving Children, 2009-2013, and has lent her time and talent to the National Alliance for Grieving Children and the Association for Death Education and Counseling.
SESSION 4B

The Campers are Coming! ARE YOU READY?

Rhonda Mickelson, M.Ed.

The date and location are confirmed, campers are registered, and the program is planned (well, sort of!). Do thoughts of "what have I forgotten" keep you up at night? Knowing what all to include in the "ready for camp checklist" will be the focus of this session. We’ll discuss staff training, programming, what risk management areas are critical to address and more! Bring your burning questions to share as part of the discussion.

Learning objectives:
1. Participants will identify at least three critical areas to address in the pre-camp planning.
2. Participants will be able to identify resources and tools for their use on the American Camp Association website.
3. Participants will be able to identify at least two tasks specific to their camp to add to the checklist provided in this session.

References:

Rhonda Mickelson, M.Ed., has worked in the camping profession over 30 years starting as a summer camp counselor, as a Program Director and onto being a Camp Director. Her experience includes the private and non-profit sector as well as day and resident camp. Rhonda has also worked with short term, volunteer organized camps. She served as an American Camp Association volunteer at both the local and national level prior to accepting the position as the Director of Accreditation with ACA in May 2007.
SESSION 4C

Utilizing Music Therapy at Grief Camp
Ashlee Slavin, B.M. Music Therapy, Board Certified Music Therapist (MT-BC)

Music therapy is an important complementary therapy that is beneficial in implementing at grief camps. Music is a powerful tool that can be used to connect children to each other, allow them to express themselves freely and nonverbally, as well as promote emotional expression. Learn the benefits of music therapy and where to find a music therapist to get involved with your camp. Music alone is a powerful connecting tool, but used in a therapeutic setting can make your camp even more beneficial for the children attending.

Learning objectives:
1. Educate professionals about music therapy services versus music support at grief camp.
2. Describe benefits of music therapy for grieving children at grief camp, as well as benefits for volunteers.
3. Illustrate music therapy interventions for self-expression, emotional and social validation and relaxation.

References:

Ashlee Slavin, B.M., is a board certified music therapist working in hospice care and grief support services through State of the Heart Care. Ashlee graduated in 2014 from Ohio University after completing a 6-month internship in hospice care. Ashlee has been the Camp Director for Camp Encourage for three years, and music therapy has been utilized at the grief camp for the past ten years. Music therapy is utilized in the large group setting, but Ashlee also uses music therapy interventions when working with small families or in one-on-one settings.
SESSION 5A

Are We Making a Difference? Evaluating bereavement camps in simple steps

Rene McClatchey, Ph.D., MSW, LCSW & Jane Wimmer, Ph.D., MSW

In this workshop the presenters discuss the importance of and reasons for bereavement camp evaluations, different types of evaluations, how to use staff and volunteers to evaluate, what to measure, and simple ways to measure camp outcomes. In addition, the presenters discuss a recent survey of camp evaluations across the nation. Finally, a synopsis of current research on a state-wide camp is presented.

Learning objectives:
1. At the conclusion of this workshop, the participants will be able to identify reasons for conducting evaluations of bereavement camps.
2. At the conclusion of this workshop, the participants will be able to describe different types of evaluations.
3. At the conclusion of this workshop, the participants will be able to create an evaluation tailored to their own organization.

References:

Irene Searles McClatchey, Ph.D. Social Work, LCSW, has an undergraduate degree from the University of Lund in Sweden and received her Master and Ph.D. degrees in Social Work from the University of Georgia. Rene is an associate professor and Director of the Master of Social Work Program at Kennesaw State University. She teaches death, dying and bereavement and her research focuses on grief experiences of children and teens. She is the Founder of Camp MAGIK, an independent non-profit organization, which provides healing camps for bereaved children and adolescents; first held in 1995 it serves 200+ children and their families a year.

Jane Wimmer, Ph.D. Social Work, received an MSW from Rutgers University and pursued a career in U.S. and international child welfare. Her specialties include program development and research, particularly in areas of adoption and child permanency. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Georgia. Jane was president of Child & Family Associated Consultants, doing research in varied areas of child and family wellbeing. U.S. research includes the impact of Marriage Enrichment programs and post-adoption services. International research includes domestic violence programs in Romania and community intervention for AIDS impacted orphans in Zambia. Jane is a retired college professor.
SESSION 5B

"Come Out, Come Out Wherever You Are": Supporting grieving children after death caused by invisible diseases (mental illness or addiction)

Lauren Schneider, MSW, LCSW

Children who experience a death due to THE INVISIBLE DISEASES or diseases on the inside, mental illness or addiction, may grieve in different ways than those who've experienced a death due to natural causes, accidents or other types of disease. With Opioid related deaths and death by suicide on the rise therapists; social workers and grief specialists need to be aware of the unique set of circumstances impacting the grieving process for children and teens who have experienced these types of deaths. In this workshop we will examine the multiple factors that impact children's grief including trouble with the Four Tasks of Mourning as described by JW Worden, PhD, leading grief expert in the world. Participants will acquire intervention strategies to use with individuals, families and groups in private practice, grief camps and agency settings.

Learning objectives:
1. Utilizing Worden’s Four Tasks of Mourning, participants will learn factors affecting the grief process of children impacted by Addiction or Mental Illness related deaths.
2. Participants will learn and practice using age-appropriate language to use when explaining deaths due to mental illness, addiction, or overdose.
3. Participants will also acquire practical interventions from the expressive arts to use with children ages four through eighteen.

References:

Lauren Schneider, LCSW, is the Clinical Director of Child & Adolescent Programs at OUR HOUSE, Grief Support Center. Lauren, a nationally recognized authority on Children's Grief, has provided trainings for mental health clinicians, educators, clergy, health care providers and graduate students throughout the community since 2000. Lauren is the author of "Children Grieve Too: A Handbook for Parents of Grieving Children". She also created “My Memory Book...for grieving children” as well as grief-related curricula for use at Camp Erin- Los Angeles and in OUR HOUSE grief support groups. Lauren is the Associate Producer of “One Last Hug...and a few smooches” an Emmy award winning HBO documentary about Children's Grief. She trains and supervises OUR HOUSE group leaders, camp volunteers as well as MSW and MFT clinicians and students. Lauren maintains a private practice in Los Angeles specializing in grief and loss.
SESSION 5C

Stop, Collaborate and Listen: The exciting world of organizational development
*Rhonda Knotts, MS in Community Counseling & Courtney Williams, BA*

Starting from the conclusion of the camp program, Courtney and Rhonda will take you through how they prepare for the next camping season to ensure preparedness. Camp New Dawn serves more than 100 campers annually at their grief retreat and relies on nearly 140 volunteers to successfully offer their camp. In developing an inclusive grief retreat program, these camp directors will outline how they have elevated the roles of select volunteers to delegate key program functions.

Using organizational behaviors, job shadowing and leadership training, Camp New Dawn boasts volunteer retention of more than 60%, and has created opportunities for both campers and volunteers to grow within the program. This presentation will explore how the creation of a firm procedural framework allows more individuals to become involved with important pieces of camp preparation and execution. Additionally they will expand on the training and orientation schedule that ensures volunteers feel secure and prepared to support grieving campers. As well as reviewing the off-season strategies they have found to be successful to promote volunteer and camper connectivity to the program.

**Learning objectives:**

1. Outline a staffing structure that creates sustainability of volunteer involvement while offering quality bereavement support and a well-supervised program.
2. Demonstrate methods for the development of systematic personnel policies and procedures that promote professional development, leadership, diversity and volunteer satisfaction.
3. Review how to foster collaboration among volunteers and develop community partnerships and connections.

**References:**


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Rhonda Knotts, MCC, is the Grief Support Coordinator/Grief Counselor for Compass Regional Hospice and The Hope and Healing Center, and is also the Camp Director for Camp New Dawn. Rhonda's involvement with Camp New Dawn began in 1999, when she volunteered as buddy for several years, which led to her role as a group leader and eventually she took on the role of camp director in 2009. Coordinating grief support services for children, teens and families is an important part of Rhonda's job at hospice and one that she is particularly passionate about. She recognizes the importance of helping to educate and normalize a person's grief journey.
Courtney Williams, BA, is the Manager of Volunteer and Professional Services for Compass Regional Hospice, and also the Assistant Director for Camp New Dawn. Starting her hospice career as a volunteer in the bereavement program, Courtney has been involved in Camp New Dawn for more than seven seasons in addition to supporting teen grief support groups. Volunteer management and logistics is a passion of Courtney’s, and outside of her work with Compass Regional Hospice she has worked with professional networking groups and her church to facilitate service learning projects and volunteer activities. Courtney received her Bachelor’s Degree from St. Mary’s College of Maryland.
SESSION 6A

Power of Partnership: How to fund, grow, and sustain your grief camp
Suzanne Kelly, MS in Organizational Development

Using Grief Camp at Hillside Farms as the working example, this presentation/workshop focuses on funding and sustainability – key elements to a successful grief camp. While funding is vital to the launch of any program camp, charitable revenue streams do not equate sustainability. Day, weekend, and overnight camps need to think and run like a business, which includes credibility and strategic planning. Participants will learn how to secure funding beyond common “low hanging fruit” approach. This includes individual donors, corporate donors, community and private foundations. Attendees will learn how to read Form 990s of two private and one community foundations as part of the prospecting. Furthermore, attendees will learn methods of data collecting (qualitative and quantitative) for reporting and promotion purposes. The presentation/workshop will include proven ways to engage board members, volunteers, community leaders, and medical professionals in grief-related programs.

Learning objectives:
1. Participants will be able to identify giving levels within the donor pyramid; what motivates the donor on each level; how to reach the donor on each level.
2. Through supplied tools and resources, participants will be able to identify prospects within their individual areas (demographics) and apply fundraising methods best suited to prospects.
3. Participants will learn how to implement key methods and practices of sustainability to help operations vulnerability.

References:

Suzanne Kelly, MS, is founder and operating manager of Kelly Green & Associates, LLC (KGA). KGA offers a range of expertise in broadly based areas including fundraising, public relations, marketing and market research, political campaigns, government relations, media strategies, corporate event management, and strategic planning.

In 2014, Ms. Kelly coordinated, launched, and secured funding for one five-day Children's Grief Camp at Hillside Farms (www.hillsidefarms.org). Hillside Farms is a historic, non-profit, 412 acre teaching farm located in Shavertown, Pennsylvania. Grief Camp combines daily farm- and animal-assisted activities and therapies with grief education and activities. Under her direction, 2017 Children's Grief Camp has expanded to three weeks and partners with numerous organizations and professionals that serve children throughout Luzerne and Lackawanna counties, Pennsylvania, including Luzerne County Orphan's Court.

Ms. Kelly has over 20 years’ experience in fundraising and development. For over a decade she performed extensive on-air fundraising for PBS/NPR affiliate, WVIA Public Media. She also served as producer and host of WVIA's public affairs program, State of Pennsylvania. Ms. Kelly has a master of science in Organizational Management with a concentration in non-profit from Misericordia University, Dallas, Pennsylvania.
SESSION 6B

Bereavement Camps and Aftercare for Families
Michelle Lewis, MSW, LICSW

There is evidence that demonstrates parental reactions to death, influences children and teens grief reactions. When a bereavement camp can incorporate family care, the potential for individual healing is greater. But, what happens after the family leaves camp? Providing resources for family aftercare needs to become a standard of practice for bereavement camps. In this presentation, we will discuss the history, development and ongoing collaboration between HospiceCare’s Camp Nabe and the West Virginia Family Grief Center. Best practices for collaboration and strategies for incorporating aftercare into your camp will be discussed.

Learning objectives:
1. Participants will be able to name 3 strategies for incorporating aftercare into camp curriculum
2. Participants will be able to name 3 benefits of establishing a collaboration with aftercare resources
3. Participants will be able to identify how parental grieving styles effect children and teenagers.

References:

Michelle Lewis, MSW, LICSW, is the Director of the West Virginia Family Grief Center (WVFGC). The WVFGC provides peer grief support services to children, teens and adults. In addition, she owns a private mental health practice, Integrative Counseling Solutions, that focuses on grief and trauma therapy. Michelle has volunteered at WV HospiceCare’s bereavement camp for the last nine years. She has volunteered as a “buddy”, a group leader, a consultant and a special topics presenter. Michelle resides in Morgantown, West Virginia.
SESSION 6C

The Beat Goes On

Josh Robinson, Teaching Artist/Facilitator/Percussionist

Josh Robinson has been working with at risk youth for 15 years and a fixture at Camp Erin Philadelphia for 10 years. The presentation is mostly experiential; attendees can expect to engage in a percussion exercise and have some insight into the power of this therapeutic technique for their programs and camps. Josh will share his techniques creating rhythmic tributes, fun and interactive trust and community building processes, and suggestions for low-cost homemade instrument building ideas. Josh will also share some feedback and “stories from the road” about the lasting impact his work has had around the country with grieving children. After engaging in a percussion session attendees will be encouraged to share experiences and discuss the therapeutic potential for working with grieving children and children coping with loss.

Learning objectives:
1. Increased understanding about the potential of expressive arts in working with grieving children and families.
2. Have a clear understanding of the impact of non-verbal interventions which can improve quality of life for at risk youth.
3. Have alternative approaches and increased understanding of working with youth at risk groups.

References:

Josh Robinson is a percussionist, teaching artist, and facilitator who has used his life’s challenges and lessons as motivation for finding purpose and creating meaningful work that helps, unites, and inspires others. His personal narrative of growing up with a father who was an addict, combined with a life-changing experience of playing music by his grandfather’s bedside for the last month of his life (when words lost meaning) became the foundation for his heart-centered approach to facilitating drumming experiences. For the past 15 years, he has been teaching people from a variety of populations to use the drum as a tool and outlet for stress and emotional release, building community, and empowering voices.

Josh grew up around the music business and began drumming on pots and pans in the basement in his hometown of Woodstock NY. Early musical influences include hanging around the Woodstock recording studio for sessions, sitting in on “Blues Break”, his father’s weekly radio show, and getting to sound check Levon Helm’s drum set while his father worked as a sound engineer for “The Band.” In 1989 he joined “Sankofa” drum and dance ensemble where he was introduced to the instruments and rhythms of Latin and Brazilian music. The rhythmic quest has taken him to places such as Cuba and Brazil where he has studied with masters of percussion. He is currently a member of "Alo Brasil", a 14 piece Philadelphia based Samba group, and “Spoken Hand Percussion orchestra” a group that blends drumming traditions from Cuba, 

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Brazil, Africa, and India. Josh is affiliated with many organizations such as Young Audiences (2013 Performing artist of the year), The PA and NJ State Arts Councils, and Live Connections.org.

Josh has been working with Camp Erin and Camp Mariposa around the country for the past 10 years and presented his work at the NAGC 2015 Symposium with 350 participants in a closing plenary session. He recently received a “Community Hero” award from The Center for Grieving Children in Philadelphia and “Service Award” from the Future Scholars program at Rutgers working with at-risk youth.