



Gerard's House
...for grieving children

VOLUNTEER ROLES & OPPORTUNITIES

When a child's parent dies, is incarcerated or is separated by borders, many adults want to help that child, but don't know how. That is where Gerard's House and our trained volunteers come in. Our programs would not be possible without the volunteers who donate their time and energy to supporting the grieving children, teens, families and adults in our care.

Explore the many ways you can get involved by reviewing the list of opportunities below:

Grief Connections groups are after school at Gerard's House, led in English, for any youth ages 4-21 who has experienced the death of a loved one.

Volunteers work directly with participants providing support to group leaders as they facilitate children's grief support groups.

Due to the nature of this work, we ask for a one-year commitment. Our grief support groups are held twice a year in the Spring and Fall for 8-10 sessions. Groups occur Monday through Wednesday ranging from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. The total weekly time commitment per week is 3 hours.

Nuestra Jornada groups happen in the public schools and at Gerard's House. They are led in English and Spanish for students K-12 who have immigrant roots. Students in these groups may have experienced the death of a loved one or separation because of deportation or incarceration, or parental abandonment. Moving from the country where they were born and leaving behind family and friends are also major losses. It is not necessary to speak Spanish to volunteer in this program.

Volunteers work directly with participants providing support to group leaders as they facilitate children's grief support groups in the schools.

Due to the nature of this work, we ask for a one-year commitment. Our grief support groups are held twice a year in the Spring and Fall for 8-10 sessions. Groups occur Tuesday through Thursday ranging from 9:00am to 4:00pm. The total weekly time commitment per week is 2 hours.

Adult grief support groups are open to anyone in our community who is grieving. There are groups led in English and Spanish. A variety of losses are represented in these groups.

Volunteers work directly with participants providing support to group leaders as they facilitate adult grief support groups at Gerard's House.

Our offering of adult groups varies in response to community need, please inquire for more details.

Stepping Stones is a mobile grief support program for children who have family members living with a life-threatening illness or whom themselves have a life-threatening illness. In these in-home encounters, a gentle mix of art and conversation help to explore the needs of the child and their caregivers.

This program is tailored to the specific needs of each family and their interest in ongoing services. Please inquire for more details.

Community/Office volunteers help us to maintain our community presence. Projects and time commitments vary. We provide training when necessary.

- Program outreach at health fairs, community events, etc.
- Administrative tasks
- Fundraising for events

Volunteer Requirements:

- Submit Volunteer application
- Attend in-person orientation with Gerard's House staff
- Complete and cover cost of background check
- Attend volunteer facilitator training
- Actively participate in a weekly group

Facilitator Application

Name: _____

Pronouns: _____

Birthdate: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Please indicate which program(s) you are interested in:

Grief Connections

Nuestra Jornada

Adult Support

Stepping Stones

Community/Office Volunteers

(For following questions, use back of paper if needed.)

Please describe what drew you to Gerard's House and what you are hoping for from your experience here.

Please tell us about any reservations or hesitations you have about facilitating grief support groups at Gerard's House:

Do you speak Spanish? Yes No

At Gerard's House we value the diversity of our group participants. How has your background and experience prepared you to be supportive of people with different lived experience than your own?

Have you experienced a death in the last year? Yes No
If yes, please tell us a little bit about that:

Please list other significant deaths or losses in your life:

Nature of loss/death	Approximate date of loss/death

Please list any medications you take or physical or medical conditions you have that we should know about, for example, in case of an emergency:

Whom should we contact in case of an emergency?

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Phone Number: _____

Gerard's House will complete a background check for every volunteer before they work with our families. You can help us by answering the following questions:

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes No

Are you on record as a sex offender or physical abuser?

Yes No

If you answered yes to either of the above, please explain:

Please list three references with phone numbers:

1.

2.

3.

Because Gerard's House facilitators work within a specific model that is not a fit for everyone, because we work with children, and because we work with grief and loss, we reserve the right to accept or reject potential volunteers.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this application. We appreciate it! We also thank you for your interest in helping children, teenagers and their families at Gerard's House.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____