



Hospice of North Idaho

Offering Grief Groups for Children & Teens



Hospice of North Idaho is a non-profit, Medicare-certified hospice serving Kootenai, Benewah and Shoshone counties. Hospice services are designed for people living with a life-threatening illness who have begun the comfort care stage of their illness. This special kind of compassionate care strives to provide comfort, medical and spiritual support for patients and their families. Bereavement services offered to patients and their families are an important part of Hospice care. The Hospice team of professionals has a commitment to promoting human dignity and a spirit of compassion, choice, respect, cooperation and support with each other and the public it serves.

Did you know that Hospice's Bereavement program now includes Children and Teen grief Groups? In October 2005 Hospice of North Idaho started grief groups for children and teens who have suffered a loss. The groups are patterned after The Dougy Center in Portland, Oregon. The Dougy Center is the national center for grieving children and their families. The grief groups are designed to provide loving support in a safe place where children, teens and their families grieving a death can share their experiences as they move through their healing process. Last October we piloted our first groups and found them very helpful to our grieving families at Hospice. This year we would like to expand the groups to families in the community who have suffered a loss through death. Find out more about this beneficial program by contacting Cristy Garrett, or Teri Schmehl at Hospice of North Idaho, 9493 N Government Way, Hayden ID 83835 208/772-7994 www.honi.org



Advocates for Children

The CASA Program is a non-profit organization funded solely by donations and grants. Our mission is to recruit, train, and support dedicated Guardian ad Litem volunteers to represent abused and neglected children. Our vision is to ensure that every child in Idaho's First Judicial District lives in a safe, healthy and nurturing family environment.

Our program is appointed to every abuse, neglect, or abandonment case in the First Judicial District. This district includes Kootenai, Shoshone, Benewah, Bonner, and Boundary counties. We serve over 550 children in all 5 counties, and have approximately 118 volunteers.

Our program also offers community outreach training to promote awareness on abuse and neglect. Providing information on indicators, reporting, and explaining the role of all service agencies, the judicial system, and CASA.

Our volunteer CASAs advocate for the children's best interests in court. We investigate every allegation by interviewing family, friends, co-workers, and service providers. The CASAs review records that are obtained through legal, medical, psychological, and assessment venues.

Once all of the information is collected and researched, the CASA will collaborate with community agencies to identify the needs and appropriate services for the children. We work as a team with the Department of Health and Welfare, Children's Village, NIBH, and other social service agencies involved, to develop a case plan that everyone involved agrees to follow. Throughout the case, the CASA presents written recommendations and testifies in court as to what they believe to be in the best interest of each child, as well as reporting the progress on each case. The CASA serves as the eyes and ears of the court. He or she follows each case until the child is permanently placed. No child goes unrepresented.

We all have an investment that we can commit to today to do everything we can individually and as parents, groups we belong to, people that we work with and get involved in addressing the needs of these kids. Whether it's to volunteer as a CASA, to make a donation of time or money to CASA, or any service in the community that directly impacts the lives of these kids and their families, your involvement matters.

We all need to work together in changing a life of hurt into hope, and one day the children will thank us.

First Judicial District CASA Program, Inc.
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