

Dr. Jay Children's Grief Centre

CENTRAL HUB // GREATER TORONTO AREA

CUSTOMIZED EVALUATION
SUPPORTS (CES) PROFILES



ORGANIZATION NAME

Dr. Jay Children's Grief Centre

PROGRAM NAME

Family Night & Youth Support Group

STEPPING UP THEMES

- Diversity, Social Inclusion & Safety
- Strong, Supportive Friends & Families
- Health & Wellness

PROGRAM TARGET POPULATION

Children, youth and families living with the dying and death of a family member

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Individual and family counselling incorporating psychoeducation, therapeutic art, music, drama, physical activities, and psychotherapy
- Facilitating a Youth Group and Leaders in Training (LIT) program
- Hosting family events, which include therapeutic activities aimed at remembering the person who died, emotional expression, supporting communication and community building
- Camp Erin, a weekend bereavement camp for bereaved children and youth
- Education, training and consultation for professionals involved in caring for children and youth

"My life felt over at that point. My health took a steep downturn and I didn't know what to do to save it. That was when I started going for grief counselling and it very well saved my life."

- ROBERT M., A BEREAVED SON

CONNECT WITH

DR. JAY CHILDREN'S GRIEF CENTRE!

www.drjaychildrensgriefcentre.ca

@drjaycentre

The mission of **DR. JAY CHILDREN'S GRIEF CENTRE** is to provide care, support and education to grieving children, youth and their families around death and dying, while building strength, resilience and hope.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Dr. Jay Children's Grief Centre offers a range of services, including: counselling for children, youth and families before and after the death of a family member; group support for bereaved youth; monthly events for bereaved families, and a weekend bereavement camp for bereaved children and youth. These programs aim to support and strengthen children, youth and families' capacities to care for themselves and one another as they grieve; to be included and supported to understand their experiences of illness, death and grief; and to have opportunities to connect, share their experiences and support with others, including a community of grieving peers.

WHAT ARE YOUR EVALUATION HOPES AND DREAMS?

"We have piloted an outcome evaluation with a modified version of a 'Parenting Concerns Questionnaire' developed and validated by a team at the Dana-Farber, and Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Centers in Boston. We would be grateful for support in implementing this assessment tool more broadly, as well as developing a parallel assessment based on children and youth's perspectives, and guidance with regards to data management." We also hope to compile results of various, program-specific evaluations into a comprehensive, clear and compelling report, highlighting the unique elements and common threads and strengths of our services."

WHAT ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION?

As a relatively young organization supporting grieving families since 2006, we have been collecting participant feedback and outcome data since 2008. Last year we became our own free-standing charitable organization, needing to better understand our impacts and the needs of our clients. However, as a small and mighty team we did not have the resources to conduct a comprehensive program evaluation including all of our historic data, without YouthRex's support.

HOW IS YOUTH LEADERSHIP IMPORTANT TO THE EVALUATION?

Young people are at the helms of various initiatives and this evaluation will provide them with evidence that further strengthens their innovations and projects. Youth evaluation not only builds strong leadership but it allows them to gain a deeper understanding of the various roles involved in entrepreneurship.