



We are so thankful for the Arizona Women's Partnership's support of Billy's Place. This funding was essential to ensuring program sustainability. The programs supported were peer-to-peer support groups, remembrance activities, education activities, and a grief resource center. As a result, BP achieved many programmatic successes despite the incredible surge in community needs for grief support due to the impact of the COVID19 Pandemic.

Due to the incredible damage caused by widespread isolation and school closures BP received 371 inquiries about services. These inquiries resulted in 94 families participating in orientations. Both inquiries and orientations drastically increased from those in 2020 which produced 141 inquiries and 52 orientations.

AZWP grant support contributed considerably to BP ability to expand its efforts to train educators in the community. BP proactively engaged schools and districts in becoming grief-informed by preparing educators and school staff to create supportive environments to engage with students who are experiencing grief. In 2021, BP increased school education services by providing grief sensitivity training to 354 participants in 50 schools. This too was a significant boost from 2020 when 197 participants were trained at 34 schools.

Additionally, BP experienced an astounding 180% increase in participation in community outreach events. The BP remembrance activities aim to offer opportunities for grieving families to embrace the memory of their loved ones in an uplifting and supportive environment. Overall, BP hosted 11 remembrance activities where 733 community members participated, compared to the 407 participants in 2020.

BP offers twelve different peer-to-peer grief support groups. Attendance in 2021 averaged 118 group members per month when BP hosted 89 peer-to-peer grief support groups. This was a 45% increase over the 61 in 2020.

For the 2021 calendar year, there were over 116 families served through BP programs. Participation included attendance at 89 peer-to-peer support groups, 11 remembrance activities, and resource center services. The families served comprised of 137 adults and 165 kids. Of those served, 61% were female and 39% were male.

BP often receives anecdotal feedback from program participants which included the following:

- "I have never felt uncomfortable or judged by anyone at Billy's Place. And because of how much love they show Stefanie's little sister, I wanted to make sure they would be able to continue this for everyone else going through the same things we are." – Mom of SM
- "Every chance we had to come in and be at Billy's Place and be part of the Billy's Place family, we did. Everyone understands that the loss is real, and so is the recovery. It's not something you ever get over, but you can move forward." – Dad of JR
- "This couldn't have come at a better time. I have had 2 students share their family losses due to COVID with me in these first 2 weeks back to school. I am so grateful!!!" – Elementary School Reading Specialist

Thank you for your continued support of Billy's Place. We look forward to future opportunities to partner with AZWP. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kris Friedman

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Executive Director

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