OUR MISSION

At Adam’s House we believe every child should never grieve in isolation. Each child deserves a supportive and understanding community to learn and explore their feelings of loss. All grief journeys are unique. Grief is a natural reaction to a loss of a loved one. We strive for children to understand their complex grief feelings, increase resiliency and boost their self-esteem while they create their new normal.
THE NEED

1 in 16 children in Connecticut will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age of 18—that’s more than 41,000 children.*

Grieving children often feel different, alone, and misunderstood. While they return to school, activities, and seem “normal” they are struggling. Children need their voice to be heard, to be given the tools to grieve and express their emotions, and to surround themselves with other children who understand what they are experiencing.

*Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model
"Helping Hearts Heal" is an 8-week program that guides participants through their grief journey to draw support from their peers and gain new strategies for coping with loss.

Meeting once per week in the evenings, participants are divided into four groups: Littles (5-9), Middles (10-13), Teens (14-18), and Parent/Caregiver and through play, arts and crafts, and age-appropriate activities focus on a topic pertaining to grief, following a curriculum.

Over the eight weeks participants build trust and camaraderie with their peer group, helping them feel understood, less isolated, and better able to express their emotions. Regardless of age, participants leave Adam’s House feeling loved, supported, and with a sense of community.

“There was solace in being with people who knew how hard the days could be. Adam’s House held space for us to feel what we were going through while doing something constructive through the programming each week. The experience will always be a light in an uncertain time.”
"There is always a light. If only we are brave enough to see it. If only we are brave enough to be it."

This excerpt from “The Hill We Climb” by Amanda Gorman beautifully describes how we feel about the service we offer at Adam’s House. This year was challenging, difficult, isolating, exhausting and stressful- both financially and emotionally. BUT there is always a light. It’s why Adam’s House exists, to be a light for those struggle to cope with grief. To shine a light on hope, on healing, on rebuilding a new life.

In the midst of uncertainty, anxiety, fear, social injustice and political strife, our organization rose to the challenges to support our bereaved community. We were brave to face our own anxieties and fear to adapt to the changing environment.

When I reflect back on 2020, I am so very proud of our response and deeply grateful to our small, yet mighty staff, our Board of Directors, our dedicated program volunteers and our many partners for their unyielding support of our program.

There were many moments of “light” for our organization. We swiftly moved to host all of our program groups virtually.

Groups were in the middle of their grief work when they pandemic hit. We extended “Helping Hearts Heal” by 6-weeks to continue to support all groups during this COVID crisis. We hosted two FIG volunteer trainings. Both 12-hr. trainings were held in-person and with COVID protocols in place. We safely held an eight-week Fall “Helping Hearts Heal” in-person. We even produced our first podcast called "Good Grief Connecticut" to offer grief advice to our community. We converted our in-person shopping event into a successful virtual fundraiser.

I am continuously blown away by the commitment of our families and volunteers to the healing process. But more so this year. I’m so proud that Adam’s House showed up to be the light to so manybereaved families when they needed it most!
When her husband of 15 years of marriage died at age 35, Tanya was left to figure out how to pick up the pieces. She had two young girls, ages six and nine. Time was marching forward, but Tanya and her girls were stuck.

What she saw happening was that her life wasn’t really about living. Then, a friend recommended Adam’s House. And that’s when everything changed for the better.

LIVES TRANSFORMED

watch video
WEBINARS & TRAINING

Good Grief: Connecticut
The loss of life resulting from the coronavirus pandemic caused a wave of anxiety and grief in Connecticut. At our grief Center, we were in touch with people who were suffering every day. In an effort to promote healing by openly talking about grief and loss, Adam’s House proudly hosted its first webinar, “Good Grief: Connecticut” in July.

Friends in Grief Training.
At Adam’s House we refer to this special group of volunteers as a “Friend in Grief.” During the 12-hours of training, FIGs learn about the grieving process, how children deal with it, the trauma a death can cause if it was not dealt with properly, and how you can help children of all ages find a place of comfort in their time of loss. It is a wonderful and fulfilling program, and an inspiration to those lives you are lucky enough to touch. We host FIG training throughout the year. If you’re interested in completing the training to join our team, we would love to hear from you.

Photos:
Top right: Good Grief Connecticut Moderator: Mercedes Velgot. Host: Allison Wysota, Founder & Executive Director, Adam’s House. Guest: Licensed Therapist Caitlin, Licensed Professional Counselor, MAAT, LPC, ATR-BC, CBC, Shelton, CT
Middle: Fall 2020 FIG Training Graduates
Bottom: July 2020 FIG Training Graduates
VOLUNTEERS

While 2020 was not ideal for in-person events, that didn't stop our incredible volunteers from doing their part to help Adam's House! From Peer to Peer (P2P) campaigns and individual fundraisers, to becoming “Friends in Grief” (FIGs) for our “Helping Hearts Heal” program, and much more, our volunteers are hugely important to our mission.

One of our biggest fundraisers of 2020 was “The Great Give,” a 2-day, community online giving initiative benefiting Greater New Haven non-profits. Our success would not have been possible without direct P2P fundraising volunteers. Adam's House had 17 individual P2P fundraising campaigns, which raised a total of $13,528.40, xx% of our $xx,xxx total for “The Great Give.”

Our wonderful FIGs are the cornerstone of our “Helping Hearts Heal” program, and 2020 did not disprove this. Twenty-three amazing FIGs donated over 120 hours of their time to support “Helping Hearts Heal.” They showed up every week, both in-person and virtually, to ensure each child was supported and had an outlet to express their feelings, while learning important tools to manage their grief.

Photos: top: Lexie, our resident Adam's House canine volunteer. Bottom left: The incredible mother-daughter volunteer team Alana and Eileen who cleaned, organized and put away three car loads of donations from “The Wonder Years Learning Center.” Top right: Cathy & Fred Pesavento and Staci & Alyssa Vergati with special guest Amber the Dog. This amazing family volunteer team weeded, trimmed, planted and pruned our gardens that had been neglected during the pandemic. Bottom right: Marie and “The Waterview” staff donated blankets, toys, games, crafts supplies and more for our Winter “Helping Hearts Heal” program families.
CREATIVITY FUNDS OUR MISSION

In 2020, the Adam’s House community raised $xx,XXX to help fund our grief education and peer support programs. From Facebook fundraisers to Pub Crawls to streamed events—we’ve witnessed dozens of campaigners prove that creativity and love can inspire the most awesome fundraising activities.

FMG Termite and Pest Control showed us that volunteering your time isn’t the only way to make a difference in a grieving child’s life. In celebration of their 20th anniversary in business, FMG Termite & Pest Control Services of Shelton conducted a creative FB campaign to boost their following and show their support. For each “Like” and “Share” their page received, they donated $1 to Adam’s House.

“The Badadumper Players,” a local Valley volunteer group, had performed at Mistletoe & Margaritas in the past and wanted to continue their service in 2020. They tirelessly performed an amazing table-read of the classic “Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer,” requested a suggested donation of $10 per viewer. The final rendition was amazing, and the campaign raised over $2500 for Adam’s House.

As the saying goes “The show must go on” and our annual “Giving Tuesday” Shopping Event, Mistletoe & Margaritas, was no exception. This critical fundraiser went 100% virtual this year, and featuring 40+ amazing small businesses, and community volunteers on our Main Stage. This event raised $xxxxx for Adam’s House, more than our in-person event ever had in the past!

VOLUNTEERS, cont.

In total, 50 Friends in Grief volunteers gave 200 hours of their time, totaling $48,524.80 in 2020! (Based on national avg of $27.20 per hour. Source: https://independentsector.org/value-of-volunteer-time-2020)

Newtown Savings Bank volunteers made blankets, keychains and name tags for our program families.
COMMUNITY

Program Partners
Aquarion Water Company
FSP Foundation
Valley Community Foundation
Matthews Children Foundation
Bruce F. Griffing Foundation
Ion Bank Foundation
Mutual Security Credit Union
Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce

Great Give 2020
Matching Gift Donor: OEM Controls
(Shelton, CT)
Individual Donations: 280

Mistletoe & Margaritas
Vendors: 45, Tickets: 194
Corporate Sponsors:
Your CBD Store
CT Basement Systems
South Street Self Storage
Mutual Security Credit Union
OEM Controls
Nutmeg State Networking Group
Valley Community Foundation
Masquerade Lashes
Finance IQ LLC
Milestone
Lincoln Tech
Innovative
The Whelk
Newtown Savings Bank
## DONORS

### $5,001-$10,000
- Mutual Security Credit Union
- Valley Community Foundation

### $1,001-$5,000
- The FSP Foundation
- Carole Guglielmino
- Bruce Griffing Foundation
- Lee Kamlet
- Darsh Mariyappa
- Susan O'Reilly
- OEM Controls
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Debra Venech

### $501-$1,000
- Bad Sons Beer Co, LLC
- Bearingstar Charitable Fund
- Cindy Dunlop
- Marc Fontaine
- The Garrison Family Foundation
- Your CBD Store
- Cintas
- Ankit Mehta
- Sony Corp. of America
- Last Chance Racing - Joseph Staurovsky
- First Congregational Church of Derby
- Allison Wysota

### $251-$500
- Aquarion
- Big Y
- Behar Cami
- Chatfield True Value
- Connecticut Basement Systems
- Finance IQ
- Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Michael Guthrie
- Karen Hartje
- Susan Lee
- Matias Martinez
- Masquerade Lashes
- Danielle Mastrony
- Austin McAnenny
- Matthew McGlynn
- South Street Self Storage
- Randi & & Doug Olin
- Angela Petitti
- Nutmeg State Networking Group
- Mark Roman
- Jill Rutsky
- Shelton FC Soccer
- Stuart Shaw
- Bill Taibe
- Lisa Tobin
- Kristen Vineyard

### Up to $250
- Russ Abraham
- Adorn Accessories
- AMG Catering
- Vicky Amidon
- Elizabeth Anderson
- Bozena Antoniak
- Patricia Arick
- Brenda Arrasate
- Debra Arrato
- Barbara Arthur
- The August Family
- Avon
- Elisa Ayala
- Sara Aylyard
- Steven Bader
- MJ & Michael Baird
- Rachel Barnett
- Cara Battistoni
- Jeff Bauml
- Shelley Bayer
- The Beach Family
- Beautycounter
- Kirsten Bent
- Patty Biotti
- Angela Bird
- Heather Blakeman
- Kelly Blanchard
- Blanchette Sporting Goods
- Sue and Chris Blaser & Chris Blaser
- Suzanne Bliven
- LouAnn Bloomer
- Samantha Boardman
- BD Provision
- Big Foot Chair Co

---

*We sincerely apologize if you donated to Adam’s House but your name was inadvertently left of this report*
DONORS

Up to $250

Bodi-Wear
Britt Bothe
Lisa Bronte
Barbara Brown
Colleen Brown
Brenda and Edward Bryce
Julie Buckley
Tamara Bugarchich
Steve Burrows
Clement Company LLC
Marlene Bryce Callan
Brighteyed for Treasures
Cynthia Capodagli
The Carpenter Family
Aida Cartagena
John Catizone
Pat Caton
Sharon Cayer
Ceconi Family
Celebrate Shelton
Betsey Chadwick
Chaves Family
Lisa Cheney
CL Jewelry Co
Sharon Closius
Samuel Cole
Color Street
Lindsay Collins
Yvonne Comey
Kevin Convey
Luke Cormier
John Corraro
Kleber Cormier
Lynzy Coughlin
Jessica Crafton
David Cribbins
Fred Cronin
Adam D’Errico
Curtiss Ryan Honda
George DeMesquita
Lisa Devine
DF Builders LLC
Donna DiBenedetto
Karen Dmochowski
Jake Doherty
Michelle Domena
Jason Domena
Joe Domena
Karen Domena
Sarah Domena
Rachael Donohue
Katie Dowling
Yolanda Drapala Gaidis
Ursula Drapala Zajkowski
Brian Dwyer
DVTD Marketplace with a Mission
Eileen Marie’s Chalk Couture
Amanda Ely
English Tealeaves
Judith Epstein
Bobbi Essagof
Eye group of CT
Jaedin Falcone
Stewart Family
Farmer Family
Howard Fendell
Katie, Kevin and Emily Fennell
Carly Fine
Janice Fischer
Jill Fisher
Renea Flokk
Rebecca Flynn
FMG Termite & Pest Control Services
Andrea Fodor
Danielle Fontaine
Alexandra Fontaine
Patrick Fontaine
Chris Fontaine Maloney
Fredericks Family
Jamie Fragale
Olga Fryz
Matt Gade
Leigh Gage
Nicholas Gambardella
Sharon Garrow
Brent and Glenda Garrow
J. Michael Geiger
Ellice Geller
Christien Gilson
Greg Giordano
Glista Family
Karen Goering
Jim Golden & Marie Reynolds
Helen Goldenberg
The Good Coin Foundation
Roger & Laurel Goulet
Tanya Grant
Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce
Diana Grazia
Linda and Ned Greenberg
Pamela Greenhouse
Guilt Free Pastries
Heidi Guerrero
Lindsey Guerrero
Maria Guglielmino
Juliana Guido
Ogulcan Guney
The Haberkerns
Sarah & Mark Hale
Kate Hall
Creative Gems
Maureen and Sean
Monique Hartl
Karyn Harwood
Barbara Hayes
Dianne Heaney
Andrew & Julie Hecht
Monique Henderson
Shannon Hernandez
John Holmes
James Holmes
Christina Iorfino Grant
Innovative CPA
Tracey Irby
Ceasar Irby
The Jamison Group LLC
Gerard & Deb Jamieson
DONORS
Up to $250

Donna Jedynak
Jessica Jensen
Claude and Maureen Johnston
Leilani Kalama
Charlee Brodsky and Mark Kamlet
Barb Kamlet
Harlow Kamlet
Benjamin Kamlet
Dennie & John Kamlet
Jenna Kamlet
Rick Kamlet
Carolyn Kamlet
Jeffrey Kaplan
Sally Kaplan
Ken Kashiwahara
Joan Kayser
KB Essentials
Pat S. Keegan
Don Kendall
Josh and Sharon Kesselman
Armen & Dede Keteyian
Karen Kiely
Olivia Kingston
William Kohlhepp
Amy Kohn
Samuel Kolthay
Alan Kraft
Alice Krall
KSS Made
Marilynn Kurpiewski
Cassie Maloney
Alison L. Hong, MD
Elizabeth Laden
Laurel’s Tupperware
Learning Advantage Network
Diversified, LLC
Paul Lenihan
Paul Levin
Warren Lieff
Jeff and Tamie Lieto and Family
Lillie Mae Handmade Aromatherapy Products
Charles Litty
Leroy Boys
Lesko & Polke Funeral Home
Catherine Lombardi
Matthew and Barbara Lombardi
Cookie Martini
Rebecca Lowden
Catherine LeStrange
Donna Madronal
Fran Magenheimer
Frances Mahoney
Bill & Janet Maley
Matthew Malok
Christine Maloney
Kaitlin Maloney
Kayla Manton
Erik Martire
Stephen Martoni
Jackson Marvin
Mary Kay
Lisa McCombs
Pam McCoy
John McFarland
Laura McHugh
Leigh Meccay
Jacklyn Meeker
Tamara Rusty Meier
Katie Miller
Regina Mills Kijewski
Chris Mingolello
Joseph mingolello
Rose and Chris Mingolello
Marybeth Mohr
Helga and Jay Moody
Patricia Moonan
Rachel Moore
Kathy Moran
Lawrence Moses
Jessica Mottram
Michele Nangle
Lincoln Technical Institute
Tracey Pearl Neal
Laura Nelson
Quinn Nelson
Newtown Savings Bank
Nod Hill Brewery
Martine Nolletti
Stephen Norris
Tracy Norton
Susan Ochman
Suzanne O’Hara
Tina Oliveira
Kristen Olivo
Kevin O’Reilly
Jennifer Orr
Kaitlyn Mohr
Lisa P. Sandler
Linda Padell
Michelle Pagliaro
Rosemary Pagliaro
Bill Palmer
Heather Patrick Moura
Janice Paul
Kerry Pawlyk
Peach Athleisure Wear
Carol Pendagast
Cathy Pesavento
Jeanne Penta
Judith Perrin
Allison Peyton
Barbara Pierce
The Pink Bakery, Inc
Jennifer Pisco
Kimberly Plourde
Pop’s Kernel Gourmet Popcorn
Bernard Possidente
Tamie Proscia-Lieto
Brian Puttre
Taneil Quattrucci
Quinn & Co. Apothecary
Kathy Radin
Matthew Reardon
Amy Reed
Wendy Regan
Kathryn Regan
Jim & Paulette Regan
Katie Regan
Samantha Regan
Katelyn Regan
Michael Reilly
DONORS
Up to $250

Patty Reilly
Lyndsey Resto
Kathy Riddle
JJ Boutique by Jen
Julie Robbins
Lisa Roberto
Monica Roberto
Nancy Roberts
Amy Rodia
Andrew Rodriguez
Virginia Rodriguez
Judy Rodriguez
Jeff & Debby Rogart
Lexi Roma
Sharon Roman
Aaron Rome
Robert Ross
Jaime Rotatori
Fred Rothenberg
Christina Rothstein
Gwendolyn Rowe-Lanham
Monique Russo
Kate Sabatini
Rayna Salemme
The Samons’
Anne Santa-Maria
John Santos
Lesley Sareen
Salli Sareen
Say It Wear It Tees
Elise Schepeler
Mitzi Schindler
Corrine Schlabach
Laura Schlossberg
Beth Schweitzer
Seacret Wellness
Robert Sekas
September BODY & Bath
Celina seraful drapala
Lin Serena
Seymour Blank Canvas
Paul Shapiro
Riverview Funeral Home
Jill Ship
Laurel Sibley
Mark Silverman
Jen Silvestain
Glenn Simpson
Rachael Singh
Michael, Nicole and Jimmy
Brad and Marianne Smythe
Suzanne Solensky
Star 99.9
Stella & Dot
Stephen Staurowsky
Alisha Stripling
Dora Sung
Suzanne Sutton
Sydoni Skincare and Beauty, Inc.
Ila Szeto
Frank C. Szajkowski
L D Tanner
Brenda Tarzian
Barbara Tenerowicz
Mary Tesla
Jodi Thomas
Margaret Thomas
Darlene Tickey
David Tillman
Traveling Vineyard
Laura Tobe
Robin Tobin
Red Torley
Mike Torley
Touchstone Crystal by Swarovski
Sarah Tougas
The Trumans
Patty Tubin
John Tublin
2 Crazy Crafting Moms
Alan Tyma
Hank Unger
United Way of Metropolitan Chicago
Staf van der heijden
James Velgot
Mercedes Velgot
Alyssa Vergati
The Waffle Iron
Liz and Len Waiksnis
Anne Marie & Bob Walker
Kelly Walker
Laurie Wallace
Rhanna Walsh
Joanne Walsh
Emily Walz
Wanke’s Yankee Hot Pepper Products
Mary Wargo
Lucinda Waterhouse
Kendall Webb
Elizabeth Weiner
Emily Westphal
Shannon Whipple
Sarah Widomski
Belinda Wutke
Whimsy & Co.
Austin Wysota
Young Living
Nalley Yvette
The Zajac Family
Jennifer zucaro
Maryann Zurbuch
Mary Zwecker

*We sincerely apologize if you donated to Adam’s House but your name was inadvertently left of this report
Adam's House Financials 2020

Contributions:
- Individual and Business: $18,199.87
- Facebook Donations: $7,554.79
- Fundraisers: $53,801.25
- Grants: $27,000
- Reserve source: $57,307.96
- Total Support: $163,963.87

Expenses:
- Program Services: $65,068.86
- Contract Service: $21,467.60
- Fundraising: $24,825.54
- Facilities: $31,948.90
- Management: $12,868.25
- Total Expenses: $156,179.15

Donors

Social Media. More than $7,500 was raised for Adam's House through Facebook fundraisers this past year, helping our non-profit unlock significant new revenue. We would like to extend a big "thank you" to these donors who hosted special Facebook fundraisers for Adam's House and to the 200+ donors who made a contribution on this platform.

- Danielle Mastrony Birthday Fundraiser for Adam's House
- Tanya Grant's Birthday Fundraiser for Adam's House
- Marc Fontaine Birthday Fundraiser for Adam's House
- Gail P. G. Nankervis
- Jodi Thomas's Fundraiser for Adam's House
- Nancie Gray Birthday Fundraiser for Adam's House
- Clayton Percy's Giving Tuesday Fundraiser for Adam's House
- Erin Gorman Giving Tuesday Fundraiser for Adam's House

*We sincerely apologize if you donated to Adam's House but your name was inadvertently left of this report*
Staff

Allison Wysota  
Founder & Executive Director  
allison@AdamsHouseCT.org

Sarah Domena  
Director of Communications & Community Outreach  
communityoutreach@adamshousect.org

Monica Roberto  
Director of Development  
development@AdamsHouseCT.org

Board of Directors

Executive Board  
Marc Fontaine, Board President  
Lee Kamlet, Secretary

Alison Leiko Hong, MD  
Darsh Mariyappa  
Pam McCoy  
Katie Regan  
Lindsey Guerrero  
Austin Mcanneny  
Tanya Grant

Interested in joining our Board of Directors?  
We would love to hear from you.  We are an engaged, passionate and committed group dedicated to driving Adam’s House mission forward.