



# ERIN'S HOUSE CONNECTIONS

Third Edition 2025

## You're Invited to The Wing Open House!

MEET: The Davis Family  
Travis, Marlon, & Teandra

Wine for the Spirit raised  
\$400,000 for Erin's House

Looking Back on our First  
Healing Heart Hustle 5K

National  
Children's Grief  
Awareness Day  
11/20/25



Erin's House provides support services for children, teens,  
and their families who have experienced a death.

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# Recognizing NCGAD at The Wing Open House

Grief can be isolating, especially for kids, teens, and young adults. On National Children's Grief Awareness Day (NCGAD), we raise our voices for those navigating a death at a young age.

This year, we're taking action by opening The Wing, our brand-new program space designed for young adults ages 18–25 who are grieving. **To mark the day, we invite the community to our Open House on November 20—no RSVP required!**

Come tour the space, enjoy light bites and refreshments, meet the team, and learn more about our new services. Because of your generosity, this vision is now a reality. We look forward to celebrating with you!

Thursday, November 20, 2025

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

The Wing | 5608 YMCA Park Drive West  
*Behind the current Erin's House building*

1 in 10  
CHILDREN IN INDIANA



WILL LOSE A PARENT OR SIBLING  
BEFORE TURNING 18.

By age 25, that number grows to over 371,000 youth facing grief in Indiana (CBEM 2025).



Your donation towards our capital campaign will help our newest program of providing free grief support to young adults.  
[ErinsHouse.org/the-wing](https://ErinsHouse.org/the-wing)





# Wine for the Spirit

The 20th annual Wine for the Spirit was where purpose met celebration. Nearly 400 guests came together at the Don Wolf Conference Center at Do it Best to enjoy bold bites from local chefs, a vibrant bar experience, and stunning silent auction packages. The evening continued in the GE Club with high-energy live auction moments, all in support of the Erin's House mission.

Along with online bidders, event guests had the chance to bid on silent auction packages, from candle-making workshops and home goods to specially curated collection of bourbons and private dinner parties. The evening raised the **second-highest total in the event's history**, with a lively atmosphere full of connection as guests raised their glasses and came together to uplift the families served by Erin's House.

Whether you donated an item, raised your paddle, sponsored a table, or placed a bid in the silent auction, your support made a meaningful difference. **Thank you!**



Cheers to our Sponsors!

## Premier Sponsors



## Event Sponsors

1st Source Bank	Katz, Sapper & Miller
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Do it Best	

Amount Raised.....	\$400,000
Businesses Involved.....	198
Online Silent Auction Packages.....	105



Special thanks to our co-chairs,  
Beth & Nick Talarico



Erin's House staff





## MEET

# The Davis Family

Teandra, Marlon, and Travis | Erin's House Family and Identity Program Participants



Tony Striverson

On Memorial Day in 2019, we lost Tony, who was my boys' uncle and a father figure to Marlon. After his death, I started to notice a change in Marlon. He didn't want to roller skate anymore, something they used to love doing together. Every time we tried to go back to the same rink, he would cry and wouldn't stop until we left. His grief showed me just how deep the loss ran for all of us.

Then, in 2020, we lost my mom, and it broke us all over again. She was my everything, my best friend, and the glue that held our family together. We were always with her, and when she passed, everything fell apart. The whole family dynamic shifted and we didn't know how to be without her. **That's when I knew I needed to find help, not just for me, but for my boys too.**

We first got connected with Erin's House through an Identity Outreach program partnership at our church. We'd known Erick, the Erin's House Director of Community Outreach, from there and when I found out he also ran this program for kids who were grieving, it felt like a sign. At first, Marlon didn't want to go.

Patricia Davis

He thought it was going to be boring, but once he got there and saw Erick, everything changed. He told me, "Erick's confident, he's fun, and he gets us." That connection made all the difference.

Once Marlon opened up in the Identity program, it became easier for him to talk to me too. **He learned tools to manage his grief and his anger instead of letting it control him.** One of Marlon's favorite memories from the program is a canvas activity where they wrote and drew pictures about the people they loved and lost. He made his about my mom and when I saw it my heart just swelled. It felt like healing for both of us.

After three years on and off in the Identity program, I see the impact and how far my boys have come. I see it in the way Marlon talks about his memories, in the way he's learned to feel his grief instead of pushing it away. I see it in Travis's smile when he talks about Identity. **We're still healing, but we're not alone in it.**

The biggest blessing of all is that each program and meal we receive is all for free. If we had to pay, I honestly don't know how we would've managed. We are truly thankful beyond words for this incredible support.

Travis, 4



Marlon, 10



Tony was a proud Ivy Tech Fort Wayne graduate. After his death, the campus renamed their mascot "Tony the Titan" in his honor celebrating his big heart, campus involvement, and lasting impact.





# HOPE BUILDERS

## GIVING PROGRAM



At Erin's House, we believe that no child should grieve alone. During this season of giving, your generosity helps families find comfort and hope as they navigate the holidays after a death. **Your continued donation ensures that every child who walks through our doors receives the support they need to heal.**



Give today at [ErinsHouse.org/donate](https://ErinsHouse.org/donate) or use the remittance envelope included with this newsletter.

Make an ongoing impact by becoming a Hope Builder through monthly giving! For only **\$15 a month**, you can sponsor a new family's welcome bag filled with grief resources which can make a warm and welcoming impact for 12 families per year.

## From Hesitant to Hopeful

When new families first connect with Erin's House, they are welcomed into our facility for a one-on-one tour and orientation. Leading these introductions is one of my favorite parts of the job because I get to witness a transformation in just a single hour. Families often arrive overwhelmed and heavy with emotion. Older children especially may feel reluctant, unsure, or even uninterested in talking about "grief" or "feelings." For many, talking about their feelings at Erin's House is the last thing they want to do.

That's why I tell the guardians of the children, "If you can just get them through the door, I'll take it from there." And once the kids see the bright and inviting spaces, the fun activity rooms, and are met with the warm smiles of our staff, something shifts. A hesitant "Do we have to go?" turns into an eager "So... can we come back tomorrow?" That spark of hope and joy is what makes all the difference and is also what carries me through the hardest moments with our families.

-Emily Mock, Director of Family Services





# Healing Heart Hustle 5K Recap



We're so grateful for the incredible support from our community at our first-ever Healing Heart Hustle 5K!

**On September 14 at Shoaff Park, more than 300 participants came together to honor loved ones and support Erin's House.** From custom memorial signs lining the course to hands-on healing

activities and celebratory snow cones at the finish line, every moment of the day was filled with meaning and fun.

Thanks to your generosity, we raised \$20,000 to help provide no-cost grief support services to more families served by Erin's House. Thank you to everyone who showed up, supported, and shared in this meaningful new tradition. We can't wait to see you at next year's Hustle!



## Presenting Sponsors



## Finish Line Sponsors

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Erin's House provides support services for children, teens, and their families who have experienced a death.

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**ERIN'S HOUSE**  
 FOR GRIEVING CHILDREN™

[www.ErinsHouse.org](http://www.ErinsHouse.org)



5670 YMCA Park Drive West, Fort Wayne, IN 46835  
 260.423.2466 | [Info@ErinsHouse.org](mailto:Info@ErinsHouse.org)

**Administrative Office Hours:**  
 Monday – Friday 9:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

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