



# ERIN'SHOUSE CONNECTIONS

Third Edition 2024

National  
Children's Grief  
Awareness Day  
NOVEMBER 21,  
2024

## FEATURED STORY: Honoring the Legacy of Dave Farragh

Moments of Joy:  
Highlights from  
Erin's House

Wine for the Spirit recap

Spread Holiday Cheer:  
Shop our holiday wish list

Erin's House featured  
in hit Peacock show

peacock



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

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# Children's Grief Awareness Day

## Thursday, November 21, 2024

Grief is a universal experience, but for children and teens, it can be especially challenging. National Children's Grief Awareness Day highlights the unique struggles young people face and encourages open conversations to create safe spaces for them to express emotions and heal.

This National Children's Grief Awareness Day, we also recognize young adults navigating a death. As they transition into adulthood, their needs grow more complex. To meet these needs, Erin's House created *The Wing*—a space for teens and young adults up to age 25 to connect, find support, and heal.

[ErinsHouse.org/the-wing-services](https://ErinsHouse.org/the-wing-services)



Opening early next year, The Wing will offer a dedicated community where young people can navigate grief together—because no one should have to do it alone. Find out more about The Wing and join our interest list to be contacted as soon as registration opens.

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

#### WEAR BLUE

Show solidarity by dressing in blue on November 21.

#### SHARE

Spread awareness by sharing the message with family, friends, and your community. Post on social media, host an event, or start a conversation.

#### GIVE

Your monetary donation to Erin's House helps ensure that youth and young adults who are grieving receive the support they need. Or consider giving your time by volunteering as a group facilitator.

1 in 10  
CHILDREN



WILL EXPERIENCE THE DEATH OF A PARENT  
OR SIBLING IN INDIANA BY THE AGE OF 18

This statistic more than doubles to 366,000 youth who will be bereaved by age 25 (CBEM 2024)



# WAYS TO SUPPORT THE ERIN'S HOUSE MISSION IN 2025



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—that makes a warm and welcoming impact for 12 families per year.



Each purchase from our Holiday Amazon wish list is a gift for one of our families. Shop for toys, crafts, scooters, and snacks for our Holiday Party this year!



**fundraise with  
facebook**



Host an online Facebook fundraiser for your birthday celebration! Friends can donate funds that go directly to supporting the Erin's House mission.

**FORT4FITNESS**



Last year, donations **increased 38%** because runners and walkers chose Erin's House as their Charity Partner at no cost! When you register, choose Erin's House to help heal hearts while enjoying the outdoors.

[Fort4Fitness.org/events](https://Fort4Fitness.org/events)



At no added cost to you, Erin's House receives a donation each time you shop at Kroger! Make sure your account is signed up for this automatic contribution.

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER!**

Volunteers are truly the heart of our organization. We're now accepting volunteers for our 6:30-7:30 P.M. program nights! Apply online today.

[ErinsHouse.org/volunteer](https://ErinsHouse.org/volunteer)







Tony, Charlotte, Gail, and Dave Farragh with Harper, Weston & Jack





# HONORING THE LEGACY OF

# Dave Farragh

## A Life of Connection and Community

In a recent conversation with Dave Farragh's son, Tony Farragh, we reflected on Dave's life and the legacy he leaves behind—both within the Erin's House organization and in his family's hearts

On May 21, 2024, Erin's House lost a cherished member of its extended family, Dave Farragh. Dave is the beloved father to Erin, Tony, and Megan Farragh, husband to Gail, a grandfather, a brother, and a dear friend to the Erin's House community and many others. He died peacefully in his sleep at the age of 65.

Tony described his father as someone who had a unique ability to make people feel as though they'd known him for years. "He valued relationships, even the short ones. Whether it was a brief encounter or a lifelong friendship, he made people feel comfortable and welcome," Tony said.

Dave had a deep love for the simple joys in life, especially his daily walks along the shores of Lake Michigan with his wife, Gail. He found peace in nature, and his appreciation for life's small moments expanded to everything he did. As Tony said, "Whether it was rain, snow, or blizzard, there was never a bad walk." Dave also shared a special bond with his daughter, Megan, often capturing their time together with selfies. "His love for connecting with her through these moments showed how much he cherished their relationship and embraced the joy of being in the moment with family."

This warmth extended to his involvement with Erin's House, where Dave was a consistent presence at events and gatherings with Gail. One of his favorite things about being involved with Erin's House was the sense of community. Tony recalled a special gathering following Dave's funeral at Erin's House where family and friends came together to enjoy his

favorite restaurant, Casa's, together. Later, an impromptu dodgeball game erupted in the rec room between various relatives and cousins. "If there was a dodgeball area outside for The Wing, I think my dad would have loved that—a place where people could just let go."

Dave's commitment to community wasn't limited to Erin's House; he treasured the friendships and support from the Fort Wayne community, for which Tony and the family shared their deepest gratitude. "We are so thankful for the overwhelming support that the community has shown us—both in my dad's life and after his passing. Fort Wayne has been such a vital part of Erin's House and my dad's journey. My family and I are forever grateful for the love and encouragement we've received." Tony also reflected on his father's thankfulness for Erin's House adding, "My dad always showed great appreciation for the work being done at Erin's House, and also keeping Erin's name alive with such powerful work."

In a bittersweet ending, Dave and his daughter, Erin, were laid to rest next to each other locally in Fort Wayne. "It's comforting knowing that now they're together again," Tony said.

As we remember Dave Farragh, we celebrate a man who lived a life full of connection, love, and generosity. His legacy will continue to inspire and impact those who knew him, and his memory will forever be woven into the fabric of Erin's House.

"My dad always showed great appreciation for the work being done at Erin's House, and also keeping Erin's name alive with such powerful work."



# Wine for the Spirit



The 19th annual Wine for the Spirit brought together over 375 guests, sponsors, and volunteers for a truly unforgettable evening. Attendees enjoyed an elegant night of fine wines, gourmet tastings, and spirited live and silent auctions, all in support of Erin's House.

To everyone who played a part—whether through competitive bidding, generous contributions, crucial sponsorships, or auction donations—we extend our deepest gratitude. Your collective kindness enables Erin's House to continue offering vital peer-support programs to families who are grieving, completely free of charge.

In every glass raised and in every bid placed, we witnessed the power of community coming together for a great cause.

Special Thanks to our  
Wine for the Spirit Sponsors:

## Premier Sponsors



## Event Sponsors



Amount Raised.....\$380,000

Businesses Involved.....216

Online Silent Auction Packages.....134



Cheryl & Dave McComb,  
event co-chairs



Erin's House staff



"I promise you will  
not regret volunteering  
or donating to Erin's  
House. It will make  
a huge difference  
in someone's life."

- Juli Johnson, MSN, RN

Chief Nursing Executive at Parkview  
Health & Erin's House Board Member



# Moments of Joy: Highlights from Erin's House



"Me and my sister made Olaf slime and talked about memories with Daddy." – Myanna

Disney Summer Pop-In Program



"Camp was so fun! I spray painted for my dad and talked about all our fun experiences together." – Adrian

Camp Good Grief



"I had so much fun with (Facilitators) Magz and Katie popping marshmallows around the room. We talked about what makes us feel happy!" – Athena

Erin's House On-Site Program

"Banging on the drums lets me express how I'm feeling without having to use words." – Leevi

Erin's House On-Site Program



"I made a rainbow shirt and for each color I used, I said a new memory about Grandpa." – Adrian

Coping-with-Colors Summer Pop-In Program



## Lights <sup>OF</sup> Love MEMORIAL

While Erin's House will not be hosting Lights of Love in 2024, we look forward to using this time to mindfully create a new treasured tradition going forward and we hope that you will join us next year. We are grateful for your understanding during this transition, and we are here for you and your family if you need any additional grief support during the holidays.





# Don't miss the exciting new show *Here Come the Irish on Peacock!*



The first episode features a highlight of Erin's House and our past Common Bond event where we were honored to welcome Notre Dame's own Jaden Mickey and Coach Marcus Freeman.



*Thank you to our  
program sponsor!*



Fort Wayne Lodge #155



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:  
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