

## How to Get Involved

### Advocate

You can help children and teens who are grieving by sharing the mission of Erin's House with their caregiver.

### Volunteer

The heart of our organization is the dedicated volunteers. From checking in families and serving pizza to facilitating group programs, hearts are healed when our community gets involved.

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



### Gift Giving

The operation of Erin's House relies completely on the help of in-kind and monetary donations, special events, and fundraising. Through the generosity of our community, we are able to keep our services free of charge to children and families who are grieving.

Monetary gifts appreciated online at [ErinsHouse.org/donate](http://ErinsHouse.org/donate). All gifts are tax deductible.



Sign-up with your email for updates on Erin's House:  
[ErinsHouse.org/maillinglist](http://ErinsHouse.org/maillinglist)



## Healing Hearts. Building Hope.

**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.



Erin's House is the only stand-alone facility in the state of Indiana dedicated to providing peer support services to children, teens, and their families who are grieving.



# Healing Hearts. Building Hope.



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

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

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

## About Erin's House

Erin's House works with families to prevent the impact of unprocessed grief. Research has identified a link between experiencing an unresolved death during childhood with poor school performance, alcohol and drug abuse, depression, anxiety and an increased risk for suicide. On-site and in conjunction with schools and community organizations, Erin's House provides a safe environment for those who are grieving to learn and develop coping skills as they build hope for their future.

All of our services are provided to families at no cost.

## Erin's Legacy



At the age of six, Erin Farragh died unexpectedly on January 5, 1989 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Her family and friends were deeply affected by her loss and while Erin's parents found grief

support, her siblings struggled to find the appropriate help. On October 21, 1993, Erin's House was established as the first center of its kind in Indiana and the 32nd in the nation. Since then, an average of 1,000 individuals are guided through their grief journey every year.

## Peer Support Groups

Families who have experienced a death are encouraged to enroll in our weekly programs tailored for youth aged 3 to 18. Following an orientation and a facility tour, families are enrolled in Healing Journey, our 10-week program. This program begins in the evening, where families eagerly gather at Erin's House for pizza before being divided into their respective peer support groups.



  
100%  
OF PARTICIPANTS  
IDENTIFIED  
SUPPORT SYSTEMS

  
95%  
OF PARTICIPANTS  
DEMONSTRATED AN INCREASE  
IN FAMILY COMMUNICATION

  
95%  
OF PARTICIPANTS  
IDENTIFIED POSITIVE  
COPING SKILLS

  
100%  
OF PARTICIPANTS  
SHARED MEMORIES  
AND STORIES ABOUT  
THE PERSON WHO DIED



For more information on our programming, scan the QR code or please visit [ErinsHouse.org](http://ErinsHouse.org).

1 in 10  
CHILDREN IN INDIANA



WILL EXPERIENCE THE DEATH OF A  
PARENT OR SIBLING BY THE AGE OF 18  
(CBEM 2023)

# Erin's House Programs

All of our services are provided to families and students at no cost

Groups are...

- Interactive and filled with age-appropriate activities about their person
- Facilitated by at least two trained volunteers
- A safe and intentional setting that promotes shared feelings and memories
- An inclusive environment divided by developmental age

At the same time, caregivers are encouraged to participate in our adult support group which centers on how they can best support their child who is grieving.

When continued grief support is needed after Healing Journey, families have the option to register for Connecting Hope, our 4-week program.



## Camps

*Participation is open to a wider range than solely Erin's House families*

### Teen Retreat

AGES 14 - 18 • SPRING

While expressing and exploring their emotions, teens develop camaraderie, trust, and leadership with peers around them in this one-day retreat.

### Camp Good Grief

AGES 8 - 13 • SUMMER

A two-day summer bereavement camp where children foster connections and relationships while enjoying rock climbing, swimming, outdoor water activities, sports, and crafts.

### Family Camp

AGES 3 - 18 AND THEIR FAMILIES • FALL

At this overnight camp, families explore their grief journey while learning to adapt to their 'new normal' through outdoor adventures, campfire gatherings, and a memorial ceremony.



## School and Community Outreach

### Classroom Companions

This 6-week program brings our peer-support services to the classroom for grades K-12. Each week focuses on a different topic encouraging students to explore their feelings and share memories related to their person who died through interactive activities and crafts.



### Crisis Response

Designed to be a one-time program, this service is for schools and community organizations that have been impacted by a death.

### Grief Backpacks

Provided as an additional grief resource for schools to lend to their youth, these backpacks are filled with age-appropriate books, national resources, and other support materials.

### Identity Outreach

Held at local youth centers for kids and teens who live in the central city zip codes and underserved areas of the Fort Wayne community.

 600+  
STUDENTS &  50+  
SCHOOLS

SERVED ANNUALLY