



ERIN'S HOUSE CONNECTIONS

30th Birthday Series

First Edition 2023

Celebrating 30 years
of building hope
& healing hearts!

THANK YOU!

Erin's House Then & Now

2022 Mission Results

Common Bond with
Mina Starsiak Hawk

Meet:
The Cuffy Family

Introducing:
New Board Members

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

www.ErinsHouse.org • 260.423.2466



Thirty Years of Erin's House



In Memory of Erin Farragh:
March 15, 1984 – January 5, 1989

Erin's House for Grieving Children is named for Erin Farragh. Erin was almost six when she died suddenly in her home in Fort Wayne on January 5, 1989. Her death left a deep void in the lives of her family and friends.

A friend of the Farragh family, Tracie Martin, was attending the National Junior League conference with other local members when they first heard about a special project at Fernside Center for Grieving Children in Cincinnati. Erin's

parents, David and Gail, were able to find support groups for themselves, but not for Erin's siblings, Tony and Megan, thus the idea for a similar grieving center for children was born.

Shortly after returning home, our local Junior League learned GTE was offering grants for projects to help families within Northeast Indiana who were in crisis. After much discussion and collaboration, GTE generously contributed \$12,000 to kick off the project, along with Greenlawn Memorial Park who gave \$2,500. A portion of these funds were used to conduct a feasibility study to determine whether a center for grieving children was a necessary service within Fort Wayne and surrounding areas.

A community forum was announced within the greater Fort Wayne area to investigate the level of interest and need. Facilitated by Junior League members and staff from children's grieving centers in other states, it was attended by more than 200 people.

In November of 1992, the feasibility study concluded that the needs of grieving children were not being served and a grief center for the Fort Wayne community was vital. Just one year later, Erin's House for Grieving Children opened our doors.

Erin's House for Grieving Children Today

The vision for Erin's House has remained the same throughout our 30 years as an organization. We are here to provide a compassionate environment that fosters hope and healing for all youth who are grieving throughout Northeast Indiana. Erin's House is funded solely through private donations from individuals, foundations, and corporations. Because of our generous supporters, families are never charged a fee for services.

The mission of Erin's House for Grieving Children is to provide support for children, teens, and their families who have experienced a death. Because grief can often cause children to feel isolated and different from their friends, peer support in itself helps youth in their grieving process. Knowing that they are not alone in their thoughts and feelings helps children cope in this strange new world of missing someone.

Principles

- Erin's House is founded on the belief that every child and teen deserves the opportunity to grieve in a supportive and understanding environment.
- Grief is a natural reaction to death for children, as well as adults.
- Within everyone is the natural capacity to heal oneself.
- The duration and intensity of grief are unique for each individual.
- Caring and acceptance assist in the healing process.

Look Good, Feel Good

In celebration of our 30th birthday, we're throwing it back to 1993 with limited-edition apparel! Get an exclusive 90s-inspired "HOPE" sweatshirt or t-shirt when you make a donation honoring this milestone.

\$20 – Receive one (1) premium short-sleeve t-shirt (adult & youth sizes)

\$30 – Receive one (1) premium crewneck sweatshirt (adult sizes only)

Last day to order apparel is March 31.



Get your Erin's House swag!

Scan code or visit ErinsHouse.org/apparel to donate today.



Common Bond

— BREAKFAST —

Thursday, May 18, 2023 | 7:30 – 9:30 A.M.



Mina Starsiak Hawk | Star of HGTV's Good Bones, Co-founder & Owner of Two Chicks and a Hammer

Mina is a home renovation expert, real estate agent, and star of the HGTV hit series "Good Bones." The series follows Mina and her mother Karen, the co-founders of Two Chicks and a Hammer, in their hometown of Indianapolis as they renovate and beautify old houses with 'good bones' and transform them into treasured homes.

Mina recently wrote the children's book, *Built Together*, which teaches young readers about diversity and acceptance by encouraging them to embrace their own family and families that look different than theirs, and she is currently shooting season 8 of "Good Bones". She lives in Indianapolis with her husband, Stephen; her son, Jack; her daughter, Charlotte; and their three dogs.

No matter what Mina is working on, she strives for a balance of beauty and functionality. From experiencing grief in her own family to laying tile, she's ready to talk about it all!

Parkview Mirro Center | 10622 Parkview Plaza Dr, Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Open Seating
\$100 per person

Reserved Table for 10
\$1,000

Corporate Sponsorship
Starting at \$1,800



RESERVE YOUR SEAT BY MAY 7!

Scan code or visit ErinsHouse.org/common-bond for tickets and sponsorships.

Questions? Email Audrey@ErinsHouse.org or call 260.423.2466.

2023 Calendar of Events

All-Year-Long

Erin's House
30th Birthday

April 22

Teen Retreat

May 18

Common Bond Breakfast

Summer 2023

Camp Good Grief

October 13

Wine for the Spirit

November 4 - 5

Family Camp

November 16

National Children's Grief
Awareness Day

November 22 -

December 3

Lights of Love Memorial

December

Holiday Gatherings



Friday, October 13, 2023

PUNCH FILMS • 200 6th St., Fort Wayne, IN 46808

Wine for the Spirit pairs exhilarating live and silent auctions with superb wine and hors d'oeuvres created by the most talented local chefs – all to support a worthy cause!



Don't miss this sell-out event!

Scan code or visit ErinsHouse.org/auction to purchase individual tickets and view corporate sponsorships.

Questions? Email Audrey@ErinsHouse.org or call 260.423.2466.

2022 MISSION RESULTS

YOU made all this possible!



1,440
INDIVIDUALS SERVED

37 SCHOOLS ASSISTED
by utilizing Classroom Companions in-school program



Trained during grief education workshops

112

VOLUNTEERS
Facilitated on-site, off-site, and virtual peer-support groups



480
FAMILIES IMPACTED

by Erin's House services offered at no cost



288
STUDENTS SUPPORTED

through Classroom Companions



14

COUNTIES REACHED

throughout Northeast and Central Indiana: Adams, Allen, Blackford, DeKalb, Grant, Huntington, Johnson, Kosciusko, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, Wabash, Wells, and Whitley – along with families in Northwest Ohio



PHONE CALLS

from caregivers seeking guidance for supporting grieving children and teens



213

NEW FAMILIES

benefiting from peer-support

FAMILIES BY PERSON WHO DIED



- Parent - 55%
- Grandparent - 22%
- Sibling - 15%
- Aunt/Uncle - 5%
- Friend - 3%

FAMILIES BY CAUSE OF DEATH



- Natural - 39%
- Accident - 14%
- Other/Unknown - 13%
- Homicide - 11%
- Overdose - 9%
- Suicide - 8%
- COVID-19 - 6%

FAMILIES BY ETHNICITY



- Caucasian/White - 60%
- African American/Black - 16%
- 2 or More Races - 10%
- Other/Unknown - 7%
- Hispanic/Latino - 6%
- Asian - 1%



Special thanks to the foundations who partnered with us in 2022

Adams County Community Foundation
Arby's Foundation
Howard P. Arnold Foundation
Community Foundation DeKalb County
Community Foundation of Greater Fort Wayne
Community Foundation of Noble County
Community Foundation of Whitley County
English, Bonter, Mitchell Foundation
Foellinger Foundation, Inc.
Huser Charitable Foundation
K&K Insurance
Charles Kuhne Charitable Foundation

LaGrange County Community Foundation, Inc.
LaGrange County REMC
Lassus Brothers Oil Foundation
The Luminous Fund
The Lutheran Foundation
Owen & Jean Pritchard Foundation
Prophet Sisters Foundation
Ian & Mimi Rolland Foundation
Dr. Samuel D., Martha B. and Mabel I. Sledd Foundation
Benjamin H. Smyser Foundation
Steuben County Community Foundation

Steuben County REMC
St. Vincent de Paul Parish
Surack Family Foundation
Mary Cross Tippmann Family Fund
Charlie Tippmann Foundation Charitable Trust
Walmart Foundation
Wells County Foundation
Edward M. & Mary McCreia Wilson Foundation
The Donald F. Wood and Darlene M. Richardson Foundation

Tributes from the Heart

We are touched by the donations we receive to further the mission of Erin's House that are made in memory, celebration, or honor of family and friends. We are pleased to share these special tributes made throughout 2022.

IN MEMORY OF

Keith Edward Adam	Arthur Daniel	Eloise Hamrick	Graham Lessing	Mark W. Pusey	Dwayne Stabler
Reed Albright	Elgin M. Davis, Sr.	Cynthia Harnish	Emma Lewis	Alexia Quinn	Gilbert Steele
David Aldin	Kirk Davis	Marcus T. Harper Jr	Romeo Lawrence Lewis	Fr. C. Corydon Randall	Christopher Hayden Stevens
Larry Argall	Lon A. DeLong	Brandon Harrison	Jim Lichtsinn	John & Sue Raney	Dustin Swaidner
Brittany Marie Arnold	Tabara Demitsas	Todd Alan Haveener	Gage D. Linnemeier	Billy Reitz Jr.	Norm Sween
Steve L. Arnold	Christopher deWeese	Tony Hayden	Josh A. Longardner	Caroll Reitz	Fred Tascone
Faith Judith Austin	Joni Dick	Cooper Allen Heiney	Dawson Edward Lothamer	Donald Rhineholz	Patrick Thibeau
Dave Baker	Mort & Phyllis Douglass	Louisa Grace Herlien	Kelly Patrick Lynch	Elizabeth Richardville	Matthew Thomas
Eric Baker	David Dumser	Amy Hetrick	Victoria I. Lytle	Matthew Roe	David Tinsley
Gary Batchelder	Mark Anthony Dunbar	Tom Hetrick	Marsha Madden	Owen Roughia	Thomas Tountzios
Nancy L. Batchelder	Isaac Elliott	Lucy Ann Hilger	John Manske	Easton Andrew Rowe	Edward Trabel
Ben Baumert	Erin Renee Farragh	Michael Hogg	Sharon L. Martin	Chad M. Rumble	Betty Trier
Karen Baumert	Eugenia "Gena" Farragh	Bob Hohn	Mackenzie McClain	Abigail Ryan	Gary Vanderbilt
John Beam	Gordon Farragh	Matt Holt	Barbara McGlothin	Oscar Anthony Salgado	Cindy Vaughn
Kathy Bireley	Zachary Feasby	Matt Hoot	Denise Meincke	Tony Samples	Lisa Villarreal
Zach Bishop	Dominik A. Files	Janice Horine	Alysa Adelina Meyer	Charolette Huffine Saunders	Frances R. Wagner
Mary Bonar	Steven B. Fisher	Kenny Hormann	Tina Meyer	Adria Sax	Maria Wagner
Ruth Graham Bowman	Carter Fleck	Deb Hosier	James A. Meyers II	Dan Scheele	Nicole C. Walker
Brian	Beverly Foster	Jeffrey Humphries	Bryan James Miller	Owen Scheele	Jason R. Wallace
Evins Brooks, Jr.	Elijah Foster	Joe Hurni	Ainsley Jo Mitchell	Judge Ken Scheibenberger	Ilar M. Wattlely
Robby Brothers	Shaun Fox	Jason Jordan	Jerry & Patricia Moore	Chas Schilder	Sarah Welch
Chris Brown	Maggie Rose Frecker	David Eugene Junk	Marc Anthony Moore	Taylor Schnebelt	Nick Wells
Elliott Brown	Bill Friend	Brendan Kelly	Marcus Mullins	Jeanne Schouweiler	Rodney Werling
Fonda Elaine Brown	Marilyn Friend	Mark Paul Kennell	Pam Munk	Duane R Schrock	Joe Westropp
Mark Buchler	Valerie Friend	Phil Kennell	Dan Nelson	Colin Schuhmacher	Paula M. Whitmore
Joshua Burdick	Papa Mike Fuller	Sally Kennell	Millie Nicol	Tramaine L. Scott	Ruth Wyss
Michelle Renée Castleman	Alphonso Garcia	Tareq Abdel-Khaleq	Nick Nicol	Sean	Ellen Ziff
Cynthia Centlivre	Joshua Garrison	Donald "Kidd" Kidd	David Cecil Nunnally	Jonathan Shafer	
Larry Joe Childs	Logan Matthew Glander	Karen Ashley Kolkman	Lizzie O'Donnell	Dan Skinner	
Robert Cleveland	Damien (Bo) Goff	Ann Kramer	Robert Osborn	Barbara J. Smith	
Kevin Cogar	Jason Greaves	Herb Kramer	Connie Ousley	Brenda Smith	
Kristen Joy Cooley	Michael L. Green	Jack Krouse	LeighAnn Marie Palmer	Frank J. Smith	
Jude Cotter	Terry L. Green	Kyle	Quinlan Partington	Samuel James Snyder	
Dr. John Crawford	Nicholas Hackman	Jude Angelo Lamb	Seth W. Price	Anthony South	
Ray Cristman	Bob Halterman	Reese Thomas Lauer			
Mary "Peg" Crouch		Arlene & Michael Leib			
		Roy Lemert			

IN HONOR OF

Erick T. Baker	The Erin's House Staff	Mary Hickman	The Physicians of Lutheran Health Network	Ellen Roemke
Sharon Barron	Dave & Gail Farragh	Judy Hogg	Allison Macke	Erica Rollins
Alicia Batchelder	Dr. Elizabeth Farragh	Jerry & Rita Holloway	Celestia Mai	Kathy Routen
Dr. Jeffrey Brown	Megan Farragh	The Hunt Family	Rebecca Danielle Marcum	Macie Saalfrank
Clayton Carter	Tony & Charlotte Farragh	David Jackson	Emily Miller	Sarah Schenkel
Sylvia Christian	Todd Findley	Michelle Janson	Tim & Ann Miller and Family	Josanna Seabolt
Stacey Corlew	Grant Gerard	Angela Krebs	Mark & Abby Millett	Deputy Chief PJ Smith
Irwin F. Deister, Jr.	Brittany Giacone	Beth Hirschy Kuettel	Mike & Brenda Norwood	Waubeta Smith
Mark E. Deister	The Gilenbach Family	Kenzie Leffel	Josh Peters	Katie Staton
Onda Disbro	Aaron Greene Jr.	Brian Leib	Dan & Melinda Pontius	Jessica Bair-Wilkening
Amy Donovan	JaNia Guy	Jere Leib		Ellie Wilkening
The Erin's House Facilitators and House Parents	Chris & Carolyn Henry	The Linker Family		

Please accept our apologies if we've missed your loved one's name. If you should find an error, contact us and we'll include it in our next tribute list.

INTRODUCING New Board Members



From left to right: Nick Talarico, Natalie Eggeman, and Brian Ternet

NICK TALARICO

Executive Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Do it Best Corp

- ▶ **Three words to describe yourself:**
Passionate, Genuine, Dependable
- ▶ **Favorite movie:**
The Godfather
- ▶ **What do you hope to bring to Erin House through your service as a board member?**
Erin's House has such a great cause. Just like the rest of the directors, I hope to bring enthusiasm for the mission of the organization.

NATALIE EGGEMAN

Public Information Officer at Fort Wayne Mayor's Office

- ▶ **Three words to describe yourself:**
Loyal, Positive, Creative
- ▶ **Favorite book:**
I just read *Lizzie & Dante* by Mary Bly a few weeks ago. I have a bunch of favorites but that's the most recent.
- ▶ **What do you hope to bring to Erin House through your service as a board member?**
I have quite a bit of marketing and video production experience that I hope will be an asset to Erin's House.

BRIAN TERNET

Senior Vice President, Commercial Banker at F&M State Bank

- ▶ **Three words to describe yourself:**
Humorous, Hardworking, Excited to learn new things
- ▶ **Favorite food:**
All food is my favorite food, but I love a good steak and red wine.
- ▶ **What do you hope to bring to Erin House through your service as a board member?**
I hope to bring insight from the volunteer level to the board. I know most boards are focused on big picture items, and that's perfectly fine, but I think it's also good to hear from the "boots on the ground" about programming, what works well and what doesn't, and how well the organization is living its mission.



Teen Retreat

This retreat gives teens the opportunity to explore and express their feelings associated with grief and provides them a sense of belonging. Erin's House is partnering with Camp Red Cedar to bring equine-assisted learning activities to our campers, along with other activities that introduce and enhance emotional skills.

Camp is open to any teen age 14-18 who has experienced a death.

Campers do not need to be enrolled in Erin's House peer-support program to attend.

Teen Retreat is offered at no cost to participants.

Registration closes April 5, 2023.



Sign up today!

Scan code or visit ErinsHouse.org/teen-retreat to register your camper.





NyAsia & Sheila at Camp Good Grief



The teen group celebrating NyAsia's birthday at Erin's House



NyAsia with her mom, Sheila, and her sister, Camille

MEET

Sheila & NyAsia

Erin's House family since 2021

SHEILA

I had a student that discussed Erin's House during her presentation. At the time, I did not know about it or what it could do. It was information I filed away in my mind.

In September 2018, we lost my mother-in-law; in May 2019, my mom; in January 2021, my dad; in February 2021, my brother; in August 2021, my sister-in-law; Thanksgiving 2022, my brother-in-law. That was a lot of family loss, and we needed help. I remembered Erin's House and gave them a call. They welcomed NyAsia and made her feel so comfortable that it helped me feel comfortable, also.

I wanted to plan something elaborate for NyAsia for her special day, her 16th birthday. She said she did not want a party because "I don't have any friends to invite." This broke my heart! I could see that she wanted something special – yet, she felt she did not have any friends to invite. One night after her group, I asked, "Can I have a birthday party for you here at Erin's House?" The joy I felt when she answered a resounding, "YES, of course!" NyAsia enjoys her group – they were her friends to invite!

I am so happy that this is a center where ALL are welcomed, and we do not have to worry if we have the right insurance coverage to afford us the opportunity to come to get help!

NYASIA

If I were to tell a friend about Erin's House, I would tell them Erin's House is really helpful and it is fun to get to socialize with others our age in group and do the fun activities.

A special memory I have of my Grandma Cuffy is how caring she was. For my Grandma Hunt, I will always remember going to her house every Sunday for a family meal and devotions. My Grandpa Hunt loved to ride in his golf cart. Somedays he would even let me drive him.

When I was surprised with the birthday party, I really didn't expect it. At first, I thought this was just what Erin's House did for people's birthdays, but then I found out my mother had planned it. I think my favorite highlight from the party was getting the tiara and sash to wear!



HOPE BUILDERS

GIVING PROGRAM

Make an ongoing impact by becoming a Hope Builder through monthly gifts. You can join a community of individuals committed to providing a steady, reliable source of funding that enables Erin's House to plan long-term and budget more efficiently.

Custom

You set the amount that fits into your monthly budget. No matter how big or small, your gift makes a difference.

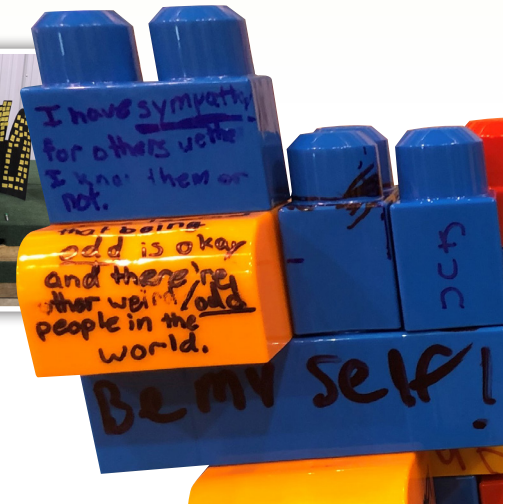
Convenient

Your donation occurs automatically each month. You can change the amount or cancel at any time.

Constant

Not only are you helping Erin's House save on administrative costs, you are giving consistent support all year long.

Each of your monthly gifts act as building blocks creating a solid foundation of hope and support for children and teens through one of the hardest times of their lives.



Become a Hope Builder
Scan code or visit ErinsHouse.org/hope-builders
to set up your monthly donations.



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

2023 Board of Directors

Linda Jackson - *President*
Andrew Schroeder, CPA - *President-Elect*
Luke Squires - *Governance*
Sarah Schenkel, CPA - *Treasurer*
Josey Seabolt, CPA - *Secretary*
Peter Adams
Dr. Mark Daniel

Justin Dunbar
Dr. Ray Dusman
Natalie Eggeman
Travis Friend
Chris Gomez
Marcus Heminger
Keven Linker

Dave McComb
Kate Miller, CTFA
Mike Nutter
Edmond O'Neal
Nick Talarico
Brian Ternet
Dr. Lesa Vartanian

Honorary Board Members:

Tracie Martin
Tom Trent

Staff

Debbie Meyer - Executive Director
Cindy Maldonado-Schaefer - Director of Operations
Ellen Roemke - Director of Volunteers
Audrey Gilbert - Director of Development & Events
Ashley Kipfer - Director of Marketing & Communications
Emily Mock - Director of Family Services
Lauren Boles - School Partnership Manager
Leslie Augustyniak - Donor Relations Coordinator

Tammy Else - Lead Child Grief Specialist
Erick T. Baker - Director of Community Outreach, P/T
Tre' Collins-Jones - Community Outreach Coordinator, P/T
McKenzie Leffel - Community Outreach Coordinator, P/T
Kristen Burdine - Child Grief Specialist, P/T
Celestia Mai - Program Assistant, P/T
Zoe Landmeier - Program Assistant, P/T
Russ Eggeman - Building Maintenance, P/T



www.ErinsHouse.org



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260.423.2466 | Info@ErinsHouse.org

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

Please let us know if you would like to be removed from our mailing list. Call 260.423.2466.