



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Supporting Kids Announces Statewide Program Dates For Upcoming Grief Support Groups.

Following the statewide expansion of Healing Pathway Program into Kent & Sussex County.

WILMINGTON, DE – Supporting Kids, a subsidiary of Children & Families First, dedicated to providing grief counseling programs and support to grieving children and their families, is proud to announce the statewide expansion of our Healing Pathways Program. This expansion has been funded in part by the Carl M. Freeman Foundation. Having received an overwhelming number of requests for grief counseling statewide, we found that having one program location was simply not enough to meet the growing need of bereaved families. A community commitment was made in 2016, to offer grief services statewide, by the end of 2017. We are thrilled to be moving forward with the introduction of Healing Pathways to Kent and Sussex County in the next few weeks.

Healing Pathways is a six week program designed to help children, teens and adults understand death and the grief process. Families meet once a week for 90 minute sessions, to learn positive coping tools and develop a sense of community support through discussion, art, movement, and activities.

The programs are led by trained volunteers. Children are grouped by age with approximately 5-7 other children and two adult facilitators. Each group follows a curriculum that has been designed specifically for the children's developmental level. During the children's groups, parents and guardians meet and are provided with emotional support and education on how to help their grieving children. "Supporting Kids offers an outlet for children to be around other kids that have suffered a loss similar to their own. This unique setting makes children feel safe and teaches them that there is support and people who truly care. My daughter named it her "special place" and she has gained confidence and is not ashamed to share her feelings. Coming here was one of the best decisions I could have made," Mother of 4 year old girl.

Dates and locations vary statewide; the first group is in Kent County, followed by Sussex and New Castle County. The Kent County group will start February 9th, 2017 - March 16, 2017, and will be held Thursday evenings from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM at Children & Families First Dover Location, 91 Wolf Creek Blvd, Suite 1 Dover, Delaware 19901. The New Castle group will run Wednesday evenings from 6:30 PM to 8:00 starting March, 29, 2017 – May 3rd, 2017 at Supporting Kids, located at 1213 Old Lancaster Pike Hockessin, Delaware 19707 and the Sussex County group will take place at Children & Families First Georgetown location, 410 South Bedford Street, Georgetown, Delaware 19947 on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM, March 28th, 2017 – May 3rd, 2017. In order to better reach the metropolitan community, Supporting Kids will be offer a Wilmington group starting the Summer of 2017. Times and location are TBA. The group will be take place Wednesday evenings from July 12 to August 16.

For additional program information or to sign up please contact Cara Shopa Duncan, Program Coordinator, Supporting Kidds at Cara.Duncan@cffde.org or 302.235.5544.

About Supporting Kidds

Supporting Kidds is a non-profit (501c3) organization and a subsidiary of Children & Families First. Supporting Kidds provides a compassionate pathway to healing for grieving children and their families, and empowers the community to support them in the grieving process. We are a comprehensive center for supporting and educating bereaved children, their families, and the larger communities in which they live. We wish to be directly responsive to the needs of the community, and therefore offer an evolving menu of programs and services, both at the center and in collaboration with interested sites that serve children.

Founded in 1989 as a volunteer organization, it was one of the first children's grief centers in the country and continues to be the only organization in Delaware solely dedicated to children's bereavement. The New Castle based organization has counseled over 4,200 grieving children, provided grief education workshops to 5,000 community members; developed and distributed 1,500 Survival Kits to schools; and responded to over 1,300 requests for emergency telephone support.