

When We Started

Fernside grew out of Rachel and Paul Burrell's experience with grief following the death of their son, David.

After David's death, they were helped by attending a support group. It was there that Rachel began to hear the voices of others. She realized then that she was not alone in wondering why there was no grief support for children and teens in our community.

In the fall of 1986, Fernside opened its doors to 16 children and 12 adults. Their credo evolved – a safe and loving, non-judgmental haven for grieving children and teens.

Rachel said, "We would learn from the children and they would create the place."

Today, hundreds of children, teens and adults attend support groups annually. Our

services have expanded and now include community outreach, crisis response, in-school groups, camps, training and consultations.

Fernside is the name of a street near Walnut Hills High School, where David attended. When David was a student and needed a ride home, he would say, "Meet me at Fernside."

"No one understood what we were going through, no one wanted us to be different. Fernside understood."

– Fernside participant

"Fernside services have enriched our program. I feel this was a great collaboration and hope this will continue for our future students."

– School counselor

To learn more about our services and/or to register for a Fernside support group, contact us.

Fernside

Supporting Children and Families Through Grief
An Affiliate of Hospice of Cincinnati, Inc.

4360 Cooper Road, Suite 100
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242
Phone 513-246-9140 • Fax 513-246-9350

www.fernside.org

About Fernside

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Who We Are

Fernside is a non-profit organization offering support and advocacy to grieving families who have experienced a death. Fernside offers peer support for grieving families – children, teens and adults. Fernside works to increase community awareness of grief issues through community outreach.

Fernside, established in 1986 as the nation's second oldest children's grief center, remains today a national leader in providing grief support services, outreach and education to the community. Fernside is an affiliate of Hospice of Cincinnati. All Fernside services are offered free of charge.

"Fernside's programs are mental health services at their best. They give children the tools to work through their grief rather than hide it, and a safe and caring community to work in."

*– Editorial, Cincinnati Enquirer,
August 8, 2006*

What We Do

Evening Program

We offer groups for children and teens ages 3-18, who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. Parents and guardians also meet in their own support group.

School Program

We collaborate with schools – elementary, junior high and high schools – to provide on-site grief support for grieving students.

Camp Program

Our camp program includes an overnight summer camp for children ages 7-12 and a weekend retreat for teens ages 13-18.

Phone Consultations

Fernside staff consult with helping professionals, parents/guardians and other community members who have grief-related questions or concerns.

Crisis Response

Fernside provides immediate and long-term support to schools and other organizations following a death.

Community Outreach & Education

We provide presentations on a variety of topics related to grief in addition to sharing information about our history and services.

Literature & Materials

Fernside has designed and developed materials for grieving people and helping professionals.

How We Are Funded

Fernside is a 501(c)(3) organization supporting programs for children and families who have experienced a death. All donations are 100% tax deductible under U.S. law.

No fees are charged to participating families for our services.

Donations can be made through our website at www.fernside.org or mailed to:

Fernside
P.O. Box 633597
Cincinnati, OH 45263-3597

How You Can Help

- Make a donation to celebrate a birthday or accomplishment or to honor someone's memory
- Support our annual fundraiser
- Make a donation from our Wish List
- Donate proceeds from a third-party fundraiser
- Ask your employer about a Corporate Matching program
- Become a volunteer – donate your time and talent to Fernside

"Fernside helps people make connections with their peers so that they can do some of the difficult work of grief together."

– Fernside volunteer