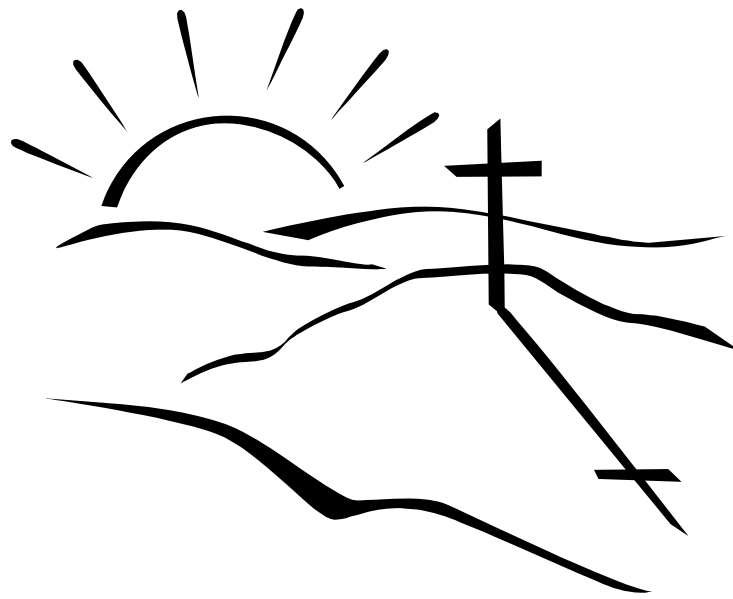


# *Grief and Loss Support Group Directory*



*Bereavement Ministry of St. Isaac Jogues Parish*

*3 Lord Place  
Marlton, NJ 08053  
856-797-0999  
[www.stisaacjogues.org](http://www.stisaacjogues.org)*

The Bereavement Ministry of St. Isaac Jogues Parish has compiled this directory of grief and loss support programs in our community. Our Ministry is available to provide comfort and support to the bereaved at the time of the loss of their loved one and assists in Church funeral arrangements. Part of the mission of the Bereavement Ministry is to provide information about community based bereavement programs. The list includes local support group meetings held in the Burlington County area and information about national organizations, specifically for grief and loss. We will continue to update this resource guide as new services and programs are offered in our area. This list is provided as a service to our community. The list is not inclusive of all organizations and is not an endorsement by St. Isaac Jogues Parish.

Bereavement support groups are an effective way to promote healing through education and support after the loss of a loved one or close friend. Support groups offer an opportunity to meet others who are grieving a loss. Although each person's situation is unique, you tend to experience similar feelings, emotions, questions and stages of the grief process. You learn that you are not alone and that your feelings are normal.

A variety of grief support groups meet in the Burlington County area. Some bereavement groups are narrowed in their focus so that all participants have the same type of loss (example: loss of a spouse, loss of a child). While other groups are open to all individuals that have experienced any type of loss. These groups share the common experience of loss and learning comes from sharing among different age groups, losses and perspectives. Support groups are either time-limited or open-ended. A time-limited group may meet weekly for a set number of sessions. Open-ended groups often have a drop-in format, where the membership may vary from session to session and meet monthly. On-line support groups provide an alternative to traditional support groups by linking grieving people who seek support, especially if support is not available in their local community. These types of support groups can reduce the sense of isolation caused by geographical, physical limitations, transportation barriers or homebound individuals.

The majority of support groups are free of charge unless otherwise noted and are open to the community. From time to time group meetings move locations, change times or are cancelled due to weather or illness. It is important to contact the group facilitator to confirm the group continues to meet and to register, if required to do so, especially prior to attending your first meeting of a group.

Bereavement support groups are not therapy nor do they provide individual counseling. If you feel you need individual counseling or one-on-one support, it is important you receive that assistance. A support group is not the forum for this type of support. Grief is a process but some people need additional resources to cope with the physical and emotional changes or depression they are experiencing from their loss. Counselors, specifically trained in bereavement, are available to provide that therapeutic and individual care. Talk to your physician or Deacon Frank Giglio for a referral to a bereavement counselor.

Some people who are initially reluctant to attend a support group often discover it was helpful to connect with other persons in a similar situation. Still others never attend a support group as this is the right decision for them personally as they grieve their loss. It is a personal choice, with no right or wrong answer and only you know what will be most helpful for you and grieving process.

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
Matthew 5:4*

## *Grief and Loss Local Support Groups*

### ***Growing Through Grief***

A professionally facilitated grief support group for adults who have lost a family member or friend. Contact The Hospice of Moorestown VNA for upcoming meeting dates and schedule or to pre-register for this free group.

*Generally meets twice a month on Wednesdays*

*6:00pm-8:00pm*

*Moorestown Visiting Nurses & Hospice*

*300 Harper Dr., Moorestown, NJ 08057*

**For more information or to register, contact Margarita Caban at (856) 552-1300 ext. 2507**

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

### ***Sharing Grief Support Group Meeting***

This support group is open to the community for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one.

*Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month*

*7:00-8:00pm*

*Calvary Presbyterian Church*

*300 Fourth St.*

*Riverton, NJ 08077*

**For more information, contact the office at Calvary Presbyterian Church at (856) 829-0783**

### ***Sharing in Grief and Hope***

A professionally facilitated support group for adults grieving the loss of a family member or friend. Please contact Samaritan Hospice, The Center for Grief, for upcoming dates and time. **For more information and to register, contact the Center for Grief 1-800-596-8550 or [www.samaritanhospice.org](http://www.samaritanhospice.org)**

### ***St Joan of Arc Church Bereavement Support Group***

This group aims to establish a support network with bereaved persons who have experienced the loss of a loved one.

*Meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month in the Arc Room of the Rectory*

*7:30pm-9:00pm*

*100 Willow Bend Rd Marlton, NJ 08053*

**For more information, contact the rectory at (856) 983-0077**

### ***Understanding Grief: An Overview of the Grief Process***

A one-time informational session on the grief process for adults that have experienced the loss of a family member or friend. This one-session program can serve as a stand-alone education session or as an introductory overview of the Center for Grief's complete service offerings and various support groups. Please contact Samaritan Hospice, The Center for Grief, for upcoming schedule, time and various location sessions is offered in Samaritan's service area. **For more information and to register, contact the Center for Grief (800) 596-8550 or [www.samaritanhospice.org](http://www.samaritanhospice.org)**

*Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.  
Luke 6:21*

## *Loss of Spouse or Partner*

### ***Beginning Experience***

A peer ministry for widowed persons. It is an invitational process intended to facilitate the resolution of grief, promote healing and thereby free people to live and love themselves, others and God. The Beginning Experience Weekend is a Friday evening to Sunday afternoon program for adults grieving the loss of a love relationship through death, divorce or separation, who are ready to come to terms with their loss and begin to move forward with their lives. Weekends are offered twice a year in April and October and held at Stella Maris Retreat House, Elberon, NJ.

**For information and registration, please contact,** Rich and Elise at (609) 333-9868 or Vivian at (732) 441-7070. Information can be found on the Diocese of Trenton website utilizing the following link <http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/church/consolation.asp> or National Website [www.beginningexperience.org](http://www.beginningexperience.org)

### ***Early Endings***

A professionally facilitated support group offered in six sessions is for younger adults grieving the loss of a spouse or partner. Please contact Samaritan Hospice, The Center for Grief, for next starting dates and time group. **For more information and to register, contact the Center for Grief (800) 596-8550 or** [www.samaritanhospice.org](http://www.samaritanhospice.org)

### ***Grieving the Love of Your Life***

A professionally facilitated support group offered For those grieving the loss of a spouse or partner. Please contact Samaritan Hospice, The Center for Grief, for next starting dates and time group. **For more information and to register, contact the Center for Grief (800) 596-8550 or** [www.samaritanhospice.org](http://www.samaritanhospice.org)

### ***H.O.P.E. Helping Other People Evolve, Inc***

The program was designed by bereavement professionals and is peer facilitated by trained widow volunteers for the program. The mission of H.O.P.E. is to assist recently widowed persons of all ages in evolving through the natural stages of grief by giving support and encouragement for the future, by providing essential information, and by helping them to set and achieve new goals for living. Meets weekly for 10 week sessions and is offered four times throughout the year in three locations in Burlington County.

*Wednesdays, 1 p.m., Marlton*

*Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Moorestown*

*Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Pemberton*

\*There is a \$25 fee for each ten-week session to cover cost of materials and program. Contact the H.O.P.E. office if paying the registration fee presents a barrier to your participation. **For more information or to register, contact H.O.P.E. (856) 751-HOPE [856-751-4673] or toll-free (888) 920-2201 or** [www.hopesnj.org](http://www.hopesnj.org)

### ***When Mourning Dawns***

An ongoing professionally facilitated support group specifically for those who have lost a spouse or partner. Contact The Hospice of Moorestown VNA for upcoming meeting dates and schedule or to pre-register for this free group.

*Generally meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month 1:00pm-3:00pm  
or selected Saturdays 2:30-4:30pm.*

*Moorestown Visiting Nurses & Hospice  
300 Harper Dr., Moorestown, NJ 08057*

**For more information or to register, contact Margarita Caban at (856) 552-1300 ext. 2507**  
[www.moorestownvna.org](http://www.moorestownvna.org)

## *Loss of an infant*

### ***H.O.P.I.N.G [Helping Other Parents In Normal Grief], an affiliate of the UNITE Support Group.***

This professionally facilitated group, offered at two locations, provides the opportunity for emotional support through parent-to-parent sharing on issues related to the loss of an infant during pregnancy, birth or first year of life.

*Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at the Conference Center at Virtua Memorial Hospital Burlington County  
7:30pm-9:00pm  
175 Madison Avenue, Mt. Holly, NJ 08060*

*Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month at the Barry D. Brown Health Education Center at Virtua Health in Voorhees  
7:00pm-9:00pm*

*106 Carnie Blvd., Voorhees, NJ 08043*

**For more information, contact (888) 847-8823 or [www.virtua.org](http://www.virtua.org)**

## *Loss of a child*

### ***Bereaved Parents***

A professionally facilitated support group addressing the life-altering loss of a child. Please contact Samaritan Hospice, The Center for Grief, for upcoming dates and location. **For more information and to register, contact the Center for Grief (800) 596-8550 or [www.samaritanhospice.org](http://www.samaritanhospice.org)**

### ***The Burlington County Chapter of Compassionate Friends***

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others be supportive. The Compassionate Friends is a national non-profit, self-help organization that offers friendship and understanding to bereaved parents, grandparents, and siblings with local chapters across the country.

*Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month*

*7:30pm-9:00pm*

*Family Services Bldg. #23*

*770 Woodlane Road Mt. Holly NJ 08060*

**For more information, contact Jack Todd at (856) 983-2242 or [jgoodwin@netgate.com](mailto:jgoodwin@netgate.com)**

### ***St Joan of Arc Church Bereavement Support Group Journey Through Grief***

This group is for parents or family members who have experienced the loss of a child.

*Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month in the Arc Room of the Rectory*

*7:30pm-9:00pm*

*100 Willow Bend Rd Marlton, NJ 08053*

**For more information, contact the rectory at (856) 983-0077**

*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.  
Psalms 34:18*

## *Survivors of Suicide*

### ***Family and Friends of Suicides Support Group***

Peer facilitated support group to enable survivors of suicide to connect with other people who share the commonality of the experience. Group serves the counties of Burlington, Camden, Gloucester and Salem.

<http://phillysos.tripod.com/>

*Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

*7:00pm -9:30pm*

*Barrington Municipal Building*

*229 W. Trenton Ave Barrington NJ*

**For more information, contact Gail Dohrn at (856) 858-7044 or [survivingsuicidenj@yahoo.com](mailto:survivingsuicidenj@yahoo.com)**

### ***Sharing Suicide's Sorrows***

A professionally facilitated support group for family and friends grieving a suicide death.

Please contact Samaritan Hospice, The Center for Grief, for next starting dates and time.

**For more information and to register, contact the Center for Grief (800) 596-8550 or**

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

## *Unique Support Groups for Adults*

### ***Daughters without Mothers***

A professionally facilitated support group for adult women grieving the loss of a mother. Please contact Samaritan Hospice, The Center for Grief, for next starting dates and time. **For more information and to**

**register, contact the Center for Grief (800) 596-8550 or [www.samaritanhospice.org](http://www.samaritanhospice.org)**

### ***Just the Guys***

A professionally facilitated support group adult men grieving the loss of a family member or friend. Please contact Samaritan Hospice, The Center for Grief, for upcoming dates and location. **For more information and**

**to register, contact the Center for Grief (800) 596-8550 or [www.samaritanhospice.org](http://www.samaritanhospice.org)**

### ***Living on in Harmony***

A professionally support group that promotes healing and renewal through the creative power of music. Please contact Samaritan Hospice, The Center for Grief, for upcoming dates for the six session group.

**For more information and to register, contact the Center for Grief (800) 596-8550 or**

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

*Jesus said, "Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice,  
and no one will take away your joy".*

*John 16:22*

## *Support Group for Teens*

### ***Teen Grief Support Group***

A support group offered in five week sessions for teens ages 15-18 that promotes healthy and creative ways of coping with grief and loss in a supportive and caring setting. Contact The Hospice of Moorestown VNA for upcoming schedule of the five week sessions. **For more information or to register, contact Margarita Caban at (856) 552-1300 ext. 2507 [www.moorestownvna.org](http://www.moorestownvna.org)**

## *Support Group for Children*

### ***Big Hurts, Little Tears***

The area's only therapeutic play/grief support group for children 3 - 5 years old. Please contact Samaritan Hospice, The Center for Grief, for upcoming dates and schedule. **For more information and to register, contact the Center for Grief (800) 596-8550 or [www.samaritanhospice.org](http://www.samaritanhospice.org)**

### ***Children's Grief Groups- School based***

School-based professionally facilitated groups for grieving children are provided on-site at the request of school administrators by Samaritan Hospice. **For more information about this program, contact the Center for Grief (800) 596-8550 or [www.samaritanhospice.org](http://www.samaritanhospice.org)**

### ***Expressions for Children***

A special group for children and adolescents that centers on dealing with grief through creative art activities. Professionally facilitated group is offered in five week sessions. Contact The Hospice of Moorestown VNA for future dates of the five week program. **For more information or to register, contact Margarita Caban at (856) 552-1300 ext. 2507 [www.moorestownvna.org](http://www.moorestownvna.org)**

### ***Moorestown Visiting Nurse's Camp Firefly***

Camp Firefly is held each summer at Camp Ockanickon, Medford, NJ. For children, 7-14 years old, who have lost a parent, sibling or other special person through death, Camp Firefly provides a special place to share feelings, to make new friends, and to find relief from grief. Throughout the camp weekend, activities designed to help ease grief are combined with traditional fun camp experiences such as swimming, canoeing, cookouts, and arts-and-crafts. The camp is fully staffed by professional counselors and trained volunteers. There is no cost to campers or their families.

\*A \$25 place-holding deposit is requested upon acceptance into Camp Firefly. The deposit will be returned upon the camper's arrival. **For more information about the camp, contact the "Camp Firefly Specialist" at Moorestown Visiting Nurse Association for information at (856) 552-1300 or [www.moorestownvna.org](http://www.moorestownvna.org)**

*"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you," says the Lord.  
Isaiah 66:13*

## *Loss of a pet*

### ***PetFriends Support Hotline***

Hotline provides grief support services, information and referrals to any pet owner in New Jersey. Not everyone understands how important your animal friend has been in your life and how painful coping with your loss can be. Trained volunteers provide non-judgmental and confidential support to owners and are available 24/7 to assist. **For more information or support, contact PetFriends at (800) 404-PETS or (856) 234-4688 or <http://www.co.burlington.nj.us/contact/pet/>**

### ***Samaritan Hospice - Pet Loss Support Group***

A unique, professionally facilitated, support group for people who have experienced the loss of a beloved animal companion. Please contact Samaritan Hospice, The Center for Grief, for next starting dates and time. **For more information and to register, contact the Center for Grief (800) 596-8550 or [www.samaritanhospice.org](http://www.samaritanhospice.org)**

*You understand, O Lord; remember me and care for me.  
Jeremiah 15:15*

## *Additional Grief and Loss Resources*

The following list includes national and non-profit organizations that provide helpful resources, education materials, supportive services and forums addressing a variety of grief and loss topics.

### *Catholic Bereavement Resources*

#### *St. Isaac Jogues Bereavement Ministry*

Deacon Frank Giglio  
(856) 235-1086  
[tnfgiglio@comcast.net](mailto:tnfgiglio@comcast.net)

#### *Diocese of Trenton-Consolation Ministries*

701 Lawrenceville Road  
Trenton NJ 08648  
(609) 406-7400  
[www.dioceseoftrenton.org](http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org)

#### *National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved (NCMB)*

[www.griefwork.org](http://www.griefwork.org)  
(314) 638-2638

### *Grief and Loss General Resources*

#### *American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)*

*Grief and Loss Programs*  
[www.aarp.org/family/lifeafterloss/](http://www.aarp.org/family/lifeafterloss/)  
(800) 424-3410

#### *GriefNet*

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

### *Military Resources*

#### *Society of Military Widows*

[www.militarywidows.org](http://www.militarywidows.org)  
(800) 842-3451

### *Loss from Suicide*

#### *American Association of Suicidology [AAS]*

[www.suicidology.org](http://www.suicidology.org)  
(202) 237-2280

### *Loss of a Spouse or Partner*

#### *Parents without Partners*

[www.parentswithoutpartners.org](http://www.parentswithoutpartners.org)  
(800) 637-7974

#### *Widownet*

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

### *Loss of a Parent*

#### *The Alcove Center for Grieving Children and Their Families*

[www.thealcove.org](http://www.thealcove.org)  
(609) 484-1133

#### *Child Grief Education Association*

[www.childgrief.org](http://www.childgrief.org)  
(877) 722-2319

#### *The Dougy Center - The National Center for Grieving Children & Families*

[www.dougy.org](http://www.dougy.org)  
(866) 775-5683

### *Loss of an Infant or Child*

#### *The Compassionate Friends*

[www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org)  
(877) 969-0019

#### *SHARE Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support, Inc*

[www.nationalshareoffice.com](http://www.nationalshareoffice.com)  
(800) 821-6819

#### *National Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Resource Center*

[www.sidscenter.org](http://www.sidscenter.org)  
(866) 866-7437

### ***Bereavement Ministry Members of St. Isaac Jogues Parish***

We are St Isaac parishioners who are committed to comforting those who mourn through our words of faith and support and with our actions.

Deacon Frank Giglio, *Ministry Leader*  
Dottie Thompson  
Marian DiGiamarino  
Kathleen McNellis  
Colleen Merrell  
Jeanne Scupp

### ***About the Grief and Loss Support Directory***

The Bereavement Ministry has developed this support group directory as an extension of our support to the bereaved at the time of the loss of their loved one

Our committee will review and revise the directory on a regular basis in an effort to provide accurate and up to date support group meeting information. All group and contact information was verified prior to the first publication as of June 2009. The list is not inclusive of all supportive organizations and is not an endorsement by St. Isaac Jogues Parish

If you are the contact person for one of the groups listed in the directory and would like to update or correct the information listed, please contact Colleen Merrell at (856) 983-1515 or email the group information update to [s.c.merrell@comcast.net](mailto:s.c.merrell@comcast.net)

If you facilitate a grief and loss support group and would like to be added to a future version of the support directory, please contact Colleen Merrell at (856) 983-1515 or email the group update to [s.c.merrell@comcast.net](mailto:s.c.merrell@comcast.net)