



The Children's Room

*Caring support for grieving children
teens & families*

Happy New Year!

Are you ready for 2009? We are looking toward the New Year with hope for brighter days and with gratitude for our caring community. You are helping grieving children, teens and families go on living fully.

Together we are all facing many challenges, and our current need is that we have ten families on our waiting list, and dozens of volunteers to train. Our goal is to increase from two full-time staff members to four full-time staff members in the coming year, but we need to raise over \$100,000 to come close to that goal. Our [Annual Fund](#) is our most cost-effective fundraiser, so please support our families now so we can reach our goal.

Here and on our website we have a sweet poem for you to read by Sascha Wagner that expresses our thoughts as we look toward the New Year. She imagines a time when "love and hope and courage" find each other.

New Year

The New Year comes when all the world is ready for changes,
resolutions....great beginnings.

For us, to whom that stroke of midnight
means a missing child remembered,

For us the New Year comes more like another darkness.

But let us not forget that this may be the year
when love and hope and courage find each other
somewhere in the darkness

to lift their voices and speak...Let there be light.

Please join us this year so that love and hope and courage find each other for all our families.
So there will be light.

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Celebrating Ten Years of The Children's Room

Join us in 2009 for our yearlong celebration of ten years of The Children's Room as its own independent non-profit. You can help us make this a memorable year as we reflect on where we have been and the lives we have touched. You can help with reunions and celebrations for volunteers and families because we need help with our planning! You can document our history in both written and oral forms. Can you write a good story? We need writers to help us tell the story of the beginning of The Children's Room. Were you there at the beginning? Do you have memories and stories of our journey over the years at The Children's Room? We need people to come forward with their stories, and writers who could help interview people and write about what they share. [Email us](#) with your thoughts.

Parent Council Workshop: Helping Your Teenager Through the Loss of a Loved One

Sunday, January 11th from 5:30 to 7 pm
Is it grieving or is it teen angst? How can you tell and how can you help? This group of parents will talk about staying connected during those critical teen years. RSVPs are essential, please email info@childrensroom.org



Circle of Thanks a Great Success

Thank you to the 200 people who attended our first ever Circle of Thanks fundraiser. We were humbled by the outpouring of support and enthusiasm. We still have many challenges ahead of us in the coming year, but we are off to a great start. We plan to have a Circle of Thanks Lunch in late spring for people who missed the breakfast.

Volunteer Training Starts Soon

Volunteers are the heart and soul of The Children's Room. Please encourage anyone you think would be interested in making a lasting impact on the lives of grieving children, teens and families. We are especially interested in diversifying our volunteer base, so we need more young people and men to volunteer. We also hope to add more volunteers who have a personal connection to homicide, suicide, and trauma. Diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds are needed, too. We want to reflect, in all ways, the diversity of the children, teens and families we are serving. When a child walks into a room, will you be the one who makes him or her feel less alone?

Come to a Tour and Tell

Even long-time volunteers and supporters, who know so much about The Children's Room, often tell us that they find the tour uplifting and powerful.

We invite you to join us and bring a friend to an upcoming inspirational tour, to learn more about how we are helping grieving children, teens and families. Our schedule is posted on our [website](#) (and listed below) with tours occurring about every two weeks. Each tour lasts under one hour, so it is a simple and effective way to learn a lot about The Children's Room.

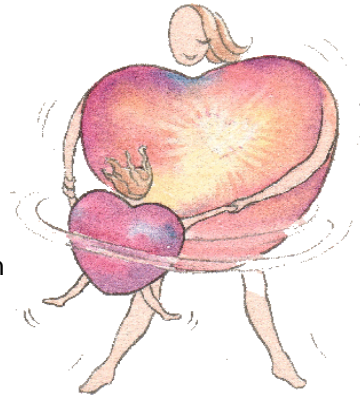


Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, January 11 @ 5:30 pm -- Parent Council Workshop for Helping Your Teenager
Saturday, January 17 -- Volunteer Training Starts
Tuesday, January 13 @ noon -- Tour and Tell
Wednesday, January 28 @ 6:00 pm -- Tour and Tell
Wednesday, February 4 @ 9 am -- Tour and Tell
Wednesday, February 11 @ 6:00 pm -- Tour and Tell
Sunday, March 1 -- Teen Performance Troupe Premiere

Special Offer to The Children's Room Community

Local author Susan Guild is offering to donate to The Children's Room proceeds from any books in her program **Wake Up Your Magic**. Wake Up Your Magic is a collection of creative empowerment activities designed to guide you through positive personal change working from the inside out. The program features inner-active books and activities, Circle Power groups, and Innovative Coaching. Susan has created easy, creative and useful steps that any individual or group can complete with confidence.



Visit her [website](#) and mention The Children's Room when you order.

The Children's Room is an independent non-profit providing caring support to grieving children, teens and families from all over eastern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire.

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