



# The Children's Room

*caring support for grieving children, teens, and families*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **The Children's Room Appoints Three New Members to Its Board of Directors**

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**Arlington, Massachusetts, December 17, 2020**— The Children's Room, the leading nonprofit organization in Massachusetts providing grief support services to children, teens, and families, is proud to announce three new members have joined its board of directors: **Alan Fanger, JD**, of Framingham; **Sam Peper**, of Norwell; and **Crissy Straub, M.Ed**, of Lexington.

"Our three new board members bring a wealth of professional experience and expertise in the fields of finance, legal, and advocacy for children," said The Children's Room's Board Chair, Jenny Carlson-Pietraszek. "We are proud to welcome each of them to our board and confident that they will help us advance our work serving grieving children, teens, and families."

Crissy received an M.Ed from Lesley University and was an elementary school educator in the Boston area before having three daughters with her husband, Ted. She enjoys being an active member in her community and has served as a board member for many organizations serving families and children. She and her husband stumbled across the bright yellow Victorian that is home to The Children's Room. Thinking it was a place for kids to play, Crissy was awestruck to find out it was so much more. From that day until the present, Crissy has dedicated her time and energy to The Children's Room. In addition to coaching the "Miles and Memories" marathon team, Crissy has served on the Advisory Board and the Sustainable Fundraising Committee. "I am very excited to now join the board. The driving force for me as a new member is to help ensure that The Children's Room will always be a place for families to go."

Alan's initial experience with The Children's Room was as a table host at the annual Circle of Hope Breakfast. "This is an organization that I could see had a very positive impact on children and families in our community, and I am thrilled to be able to give back." The mission touches

his heart as his mother died while he was in college. Alan brings extensive legal experience to his new board position. As an attorney operating an award-winning litigation practice, he has been awarded the “SuperLawyer” designation by colleagues continuously since 2011. In addition, he is the founder and CEO of EmpowerLegal, Inc., a company that provides the first-ever online learning platform for individuals and organizations involved in litigation. Alan has devoted decades to service for children and families through his work as a volunteer and board member of Jewish Big Brother & Big Sister Association and Bet Tzedek Legal Services, a legal aid program of Jewish Family & Children’s Services of Greater Boston.

Sam is a seasoned financial executive with more than 25 years in the life science industry, most recently ten years at Sanofi Genzyme as Senior Finance Director, working on many global ERP implementations. Sam has a longstanding commitment to service in the community, including serving on the Finance Committee for the town of Wayland for ten years, where he and his wife Cathy raised their three children. Sam recently relocated to the South Shore community of Norwell with his wife and several rule-your-life golden retrievers. He looks forward to continued service as a new board member at The Children’s Room. After being a guest on a tour of the facility in Arlington, Sam said, “I learned so much about the impact the organization has on grieving children and families and wanted to contribute to the continued growth and success of The Children’s Room.”

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### **About The Children’s Room**

The Children’s Room offers direct grief support services, including virtual peer support groups and virtual Family Nights. The Children’s Room also provides education and training services for professionals and engages in community outreach and collaboration to create safe, supportive communities so that no child, teen, or family has to grieve alone. Visit [childrensroom.org](http://childrensroom.org) to learn more about The Children’s Room or contact [tours@childrensroom.org](mailto:tours@childrensroom.org) to schedule a virtual tour of our Arlington center.