# "Sadness is big when you're small.

AWARENESS DAY

# NOVEMBER IS CHILDREN'S GRIEF AWARENESS MONTH

Bereaved children are often referred to as the "forgotten mourners". Many bereaved children feel isolated in their grief, unaware that they are not alone. Children's Grief Awareness Month is an opportunity to tell children they are not forgotten and that there is support, hope, and healing to be found.

The mission of Willow House is to develop and provide supportive services for children, teens, families, schools, and communities who are coping with grief and the death of a loved one.

#### WILLOW HOUSE

Willow House is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the needs of grieving children and their families.

Since 1998, Willow House has been the 'go-to' program in the greater Chicago area, called upon to help young grieving families, school communities and others in crisis as they cope with death. In 2001, the FBI requested that Willow House provide support to Chicago area families grieving the death of a loved one killed on September 11th.



## **PEER GROUPS**

Willow House peer support groups bring together children, teen, young adult, and adult family members who share the profound experience of the death of a loved one. These groups provide a place in which the challenges and feelings of the grieving experience can be expressed, where loved ones are remembered and honored, and where stories can be shared in a safe and non-judgmental place.

#### SCHOOL PROGRAM

Willow House school-based programs are designed to provide school personnel with the understanding and the tools they need to effectively support grieving students. Children and teens whose grief goes unattended, are often at risk – emotionally, physically, socially and academically.



## WILLOW HOUSE

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