



SAFE CROSSINGS
FOUNDATION



**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2024 EDITION

Our Founder's Vision



35

YEARS

Helping Kids
Cope with Grief

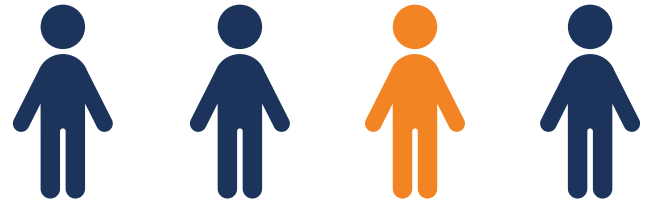
Over thirty-five years ago, Teresa Bigelow founded Safe Crossings Foundation (SCF) to ensure children had access to grief support before and after the death of a loved one. Inspired by her own experience navigating loss with her family, Teresa's vision was simple yet powerful: **no child should grieve alone.**

Before and after Teresa's husband, Bill, passed away in 1989, the family received invaluable support from a grief counselor. Recognizing how transformative this care was, Teresa became determined to provide similar resources to others.

Through your generosity, Safe Crossings Foundation continues to honor our founder's legacy—ensuring grieving children know they are never alone. Thank you for being part of this journey, providing connection and bringing comfort to those who need it most.

About SCF

1 in 7



youth in WA will experience the death of a parent or sibling by age 25



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Safe Crossings Foundation (SCF) is dedicated to helping grieving children heal and thrive. By researching and funding leading-edge grief support programs, we provide resources to help kids safely navigate loss, rediscover joy, and emerge as emotionally healthy and resilient members of society.

Our vision is that all children across the state receive grief support after the death of a loved one.



Your Impact



4,583 YOUTH

were served by SCF
Grantee Partners in 2024



3,009 YOUTH

received books and materials
funded by SCF in 2024



9,000 YOUTH

were served by providers who
attended SCF's 2024 Northwest
Conference on Childhood Grief



120 PROFESSIONALS

were trained by 12 grief support
experts at the 2024 Northwest
Conference on Childhood Grief



SCF Grantee Partners

Your donations make it possible to continue providing free grief support to children and their families through programs tailored to their needs.



Safe Crossings Program served 1,075 youth through in-home visits, phone consultations, school support, seasonal events and Camp Erin-King County.



Eluna teamed up with Art With Heart to provide activity books to over 1,762 kids nationally.



Crisis Connections provided support for 346 grieving youth after a death by suicide.



Diaspora Family Healing Network

Diaspora Family Healing Network served 189 grieving youth through their youth grief support basketball clinic.



Take Comfort. Take a Book.

Griever's Library opened four new community grief libraries, expanded their online grief book database, and gave away more than 1,247 grief-related books in the Puget Sound.



THE HEALING CENTER

a grief support community adults • children • families

The Healing Center provided group and individual support for 225 grieving children and their families.



Mary Bridge Children's Bridges Center for Grieving Children program served 281 grieving youth and their families through group and peer support.



Seattle Children's
HOSPITAL • RESEARCH • FOUNDATION

Seattle Children's Journey Grief Support Program served 444 grieving youth through their family counseling programs, providing services in English and Spanish.



Wild Grief provided peer support for more than 161 grieving youth and their families by connecting them to nature through hikes and other outdoor activities.



Youth Eastside Services supported 100 grieving youth through evidence-based and age-appropriate counseling.

A Bridge to Healing

When Demara passed away suddenly in April 2024 at the age of 13, her death left her family, parents Doreen and Darren, and younger sister Delilah, devastated. Known as “Happiness on Wheels,” Demara lived a joyful life despite the challenges of spina bifida. They didn’t just lose their daughter and sister, but their purpose.

In the throes of grief, the family was surrounded by community and love. In addition to their close-knit circle, they were connected with a local grief support program, Bridges Center for Grieving Children (Bridges). At Demara’s funeral, the counselors from the program handed out “feelie hearts,” pocket-sized fleece heart keepsakes, to Demara’s classmates and loved ones, marking the beginning of a lasting connection.

That summer, Doreen, Darren, and Delilah joined Bridges Parent and Child support groups. For Doreen, it was a return to a place that had once comforted her after her father’s death when she was 12. This time, she sought healing for her family.



The family simultaneously attended both adult and children’s groups, finding solace in shared experiences. In each session, they created memorial items, spoke Demara’s name, and shared stories of her vibrant spirit. At the end of each session, the counselors provided gentle prompts for “family car talks,” encouraging deeper conversations on the drive home. “Being together was so important,” Doreen reflected.

Before joining Bridges, Delilah, just 9 years old, struggled to express her grief. “How do you talk to kids about this?” Darren wondered. Through Bridges support groups, Delilah found her voice. “They taught her words for her feelings,” Doreen said. She made friends who understood her and learned how to share what she was going through.

Now, as Delilah prepares to enter middle school this fall, she carries her sister’s memory with pride. “She’s excited to finish what her sister started,” Doreen shared. And this summer, Delilah will attend Camp Erin — a new step in her healing journey. Amidst the grief, their community helped them cross the bridge to healing.

Finding Connection at Camp Erin

Anna and Robert's home has always been a place of care and compassion. As foster parents, they've opened their doors to children with diverse needs — each with a story of resilience. Kian was nearly three when Anna and Robert adopted him, after a premature birth, autism diagnosis, and experiencing housing instability.



As a young kid, Kian dealt with loss layered upon loss. In a few short years, he experienced the death of his birth mom, older brother, and grandma, and learned of his dad's cancer diagnosis. At the age of 14, Kian already carried the weight of grief. Change was especially difficult for him, and opening up felt nearly impossible.

Through it all, Anna and Robert kept Kian wrapped tightly in their arms. They were meeting with Alex, a Safe Crossings grief counselor, when he shared about another opportunity — Camp Erin, a weekend bereavement camp for kids and teens. Despite Kian's hesitations, Alex believed this could be the connection he needed. After a heartfelt visit by Alex to the family's home, Kian gained the courage to sign up for camp.

In June 2024, Kian stepped onto the campgrounds. As he was surrounded by other kids who had experienced the death of a loved one, something shifted for Kian. "I liked the overall atmosphere," he shared. "Everyone was cheery and nice and kind. It felt like you could be honest with anyone."

At Camp Erin, grief wasn't hidden — it was shared. Kian saw other kids express their feelings, modeling courage and vulnerability. Slowly, he began to do the same. "I'm not so weird or different," he reflected.

When he returned home, Kian's perspective had changed. Kian has been more open than ever, expressing himself with strength and resilience. Camp Erin provided Kian with a safe space to heal, connect, and see that even in grief, he's not alone.



Making a Difference

Safe Crossings Foundation knows it's important for you to understand the impact your donations are having on the lives of grieving children in your community. Here are just a few examples of what we are able to fund with your support.

\$7,500.00

Sponsors Camp Erin-King County for ten campers



\$5,000.00

Provides year-long grief support for five children



\$3,500.00

Provides a six-week long support group for bilingual families



\$1,000.00

Provides translation services for one family



\$750.00

Sends three counselors to SCF's Northwest Conference on Childhood Grief



\$500.00

Provides care packages for three families impacted by suicide



\$350.00

Provides curriculum and a material kit for one school grief group



Thank You

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35 years of helping kids cope with grief