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Valerie's House Pensacola Recognizes Children's Grief Awareness Month

#FlipTheScript Campaign Supported by National Alliance for Children's Grief and Local Children's Grief Care Organization

Pensacola, FL – In recognition of Children's Grief Awareness Month this November, Valerie's House is coming together with other members of the [National Alliance for Children's Grief](#) (NACG) to "flip the script" on grief. Throughout the month, they are collectively committed to providing essential tools and resources aimed at fostering a more grief-informed society. This initiative, created by NACG with support from national childhood grief organizations, [Eluna](#), [Experience Camps](#), [Dougy Center](#) and [Judi's House](#), seeks to address the common challenges people face when supporting those who are grieving, aiming to replace potentially hurtful statements or silence with comforting and constructive responses.

Instead of: I'm sorry for your loss.

Flip the Script: Thank you for telling me what happened. I know there are no words to make it better. Just know I'm here and want to support you.

Instead of: You need to be strong.

Flip the Script: Do you want to talk? Do you want to tell me about your [person]?

Children's Grief Awareness Month serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of acknowledging and supporting children who are grieving and their families. According to the [JAG Institute's 2023 Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model Report](#), an alarming statistic underscores the urgency of this effort: one in

more



twelve children, or approximately six million children, in the United States, will experience the death of a parent or sibling by the age of eighteen. The profound impact of this loss cannot be understated. In 2021 alone, nearly 1,200 children were bereaved every day, emphasizing the need for greater awareness and support for those navigating the complexities of childhood grief.

Fifteen percent of the children in the panhandle are predicted to lose a parent or sibling before the age of twenty-five. One in eleven children in Escambia and one in fourteen in Santa Rosa County will experience the death of a parent or sibling by the age of eighteen. Valerie's House hosts grief support groups and other activities for children and families during the week at no cost to families. Families come from primarily Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, as well as Okaloosa County.

Crista Brandt, Northwest Florida Director, Valerie's House Pensacola, emphasized the significance of Children's Grief Awareness Month, stating, "*This month reminds us that grief knows no age. It's a time to recognize the profound impact of loss on young hearts and to ensure that, even in their pain, children find the support and understanding they need to heal and grow.*"

Throughout November, we will be sharing quick and easy statements on Facebook and Instagram that can be invaluable to someone grieving. These statements aim to provide comfort, empathy, and support to individuals dealing with the profound loss of a loved one. By fostering a more grief-informed society, we can collectively help alleviate the pain and isolation that children who are grieving often experience.

For more information on Children's Grief Awareness Month and to access valuable resources for supporting children who are grieving, please visit <https://nacg.org/flipthescript/> and search for #FlipTheScript on Facebook and Instagram. ###

About Valerie's House

Valerie's House opened in 2016 in Fort Myers and has grown to serve more than 3,300 children and parents in the past seven years. Valerie's House provides a safe, comfortable place for children and their families to heal together following the death of someone they love. They offer support groups and other activities at their historic home on 904 East Gadsden St., as well as their locations in Ft. Myers, Naples, and Port Charlotte. The organization is named after Valerie Melvin, a Fort Myers wife and mother of two who died in 1987 in a car accident. For more information, visit <https://valereshouse.org/pensacola>