WHAT HAPPENS AT CAMP?

Camp Good Grief provides a weekend experience for children and teens to express themselves, create positive memories, facilitate bonding and foster peer support utilizing art, music, drama, journaling, sports and play, trust activities and a non-religious ceremony. Beginning on Friday afternoon with a warm greeting from counselors and staff, children and teens engage in a wide range of expressive activities till the close of camp on Sunday at noon.

WHERE IS THE CAMP LOCATED?

Camp is always located on Staten Island. It has previously been held at the Pouch Scout Camp and Mount Manresa Retreat House, as well as the Jewish Community Center Manor Road Campus. Each site boasts beautiful grounds and facilities in a peaceful and protected atmosphere where our campers may enjoy a weekend of fun and healing.
WHY IS A CAMP FOR GRIEVING CHILDREN AND TEENS NEEDED?

While children and teens may sometimes appear unaffected by a significant loss, their exterior often masks a fearful, interior with few skills for communicating feelings of loss and sadness. Camp Good Grief of Staten Island seeks to provide an opportunity to assist bereaved children, teens and their families to cope with their special needs.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND?

Camp Good Grief is open to Staten Island children and teens ages 7 to 16, who have experienced a significant loss. It is staffed by security-screened trained counselors and volunteers who facilitate healthy grieving. This is accomplished in age-based groups allowing children to experience the relief of being with others who have had similar losses and express themselves without fear of ridicule, teasing or stigmatization.

"Camp is offered at NO COST to the grieving children and families of Staten Island."

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE CAMP?

1. To provide a safe setting for children and teens to grieve the loss of a loved one

2. To provide an opportunity for children and teens to share their unique experiences with others who have similar losses, normalizing their feelings of grief and loss

3. To provide feelings of hope and a sense of community rather than loneliness

4. To provide coping skills which children and teens can draw upon as they grow and mature

5. To provide a place of creativity for expressing their emotional needs while having fun

WHO IS SPONSORING THE CAMP?

Camp Good Grief was founded in 2009 by life-long Staten Islanders whose own children suffered the loss of a parent when they were children or teens and the loss of their brother in the World Trade Center on 9/11. It is made possible by the generosity of individuals, businesses, organizations and foundations. Camp receives referrals from the public, parochial and private schools from preschool through college, social service agencies, the clergy from all denominations, the hospitals and their affiliates, allied businesses such as pharmacies and funeral homes, local service groups, sports and recreation groups and concerned individuals throughout the community.