

For Immediate Release

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New Camp Erin® to Help Montgomery County Children and Teens Cope with Grief

Hospice Caring, Inc. teams with The Moyer Foundation to launch free camp for grieving children and teens

Gaithersburg, MD – Hospice Caring, Inc. is partnering with The Moyer Foundation to launch Camp Erin®, Montgomery County. Camp Erin is a free, weekend camp for children ages six to 17 who have experienced the death of someone close to them.

Registration is now open for the camp's inaugural session, which will be held October 28 – 30, 2016 and cater specifically to teens ages 13-17. Space is limited, and campers are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Another camp will be offered in June, 2017, to serve children ages six – 17.

“Hospice Caring has been offering Camp Caring, a bereavement camp for children ages eight to 12, since 2001,” said Allison Stearns, Executive Director of Hospice Caring, Inc. “We are honored to collaborate with The Moyer Foundation and to join the national Camp Erin network. This partnership enables us to expand our bereavement support programs by now offering an overnight camp experience for children and teens ages six to 17.”

At Camp Erin, children learn that they are not alone in their grief. The fun, familiar environment of camp is combined with planned activities that give children a chance to honor their loved ones, express their feelings and make lasting friendships with their peers facing similar life experiences. Led by grief professionals and trained volunteers, Camp Erin helps children learn to cope and to heal.

“A child should never have to grieve alone,” said Karen Moyer, co-founder and vice president of The Moyer Foundation. “Together with the team at Hospice Caring, Inc., we’re grateful that Camp Erin will be available to Montgomery County area children and teens.”

Camp Erin Montgomery County Details

- Camp Erin Montgomery County will be held October 28 – 30, 2016 at the Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD
- All campers must complete an application packet and attend an open house. The application deadline is Friday, October 7.
- For more information, to download an application, or to volunteer at camp, please visit <http://www.hospicecaring.org/camp-erin.html>

More on Camp Erin & Childhood Grief

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, an estimated 1.5 million children lose a parent each year, and countless others experience the death of a relative, friend or someone else close to them. Children often feel isolated in their grief, but rarely receive formal counseling. Research indicates these children are at a much greater risk for depression, suicide, poverty and substance abuse.

Started by World Series Champion pitcher Jamie Moyer and his wife, Karen, The Moyer Foundation's Camp Erin program is specifically designed for children impacted by the death of someone close to them. Since the first camp in 2002, Camp Erin has expanded to become the nation's largest network of free bereavement camps, with 45 locations that serve more than 3,000 children annually across the country. This includes camps serving children in every Major League Baseball city.

About Hospice Caring, Inc.

Founded in 1989, Hospice Caring, Inc. is a volunteer-based, nonprofit organization that provides companionship and practical support for Montgomery County residents with serious illnesses and their families, as well as emotional support for anyone grieving the death of a loved one. Our small staff and 300 + volunteers provide non-medical services, free-of-charge, none of which are covered by Medicare or other insurance. Our direct services are delivered by screened and trained volunteers, all of whom have completed at least three full days of specialized training. Hospice Caring has been awarded the Maryland Nonprofits Seal of Excellence and has been named by the Catalogue of Philanthropy as one of the best small non-profit organizations in the Washington, DC area. For more information, please call 301-867-HOPE (4673) or visit www.hospicecaring.org.

About The Moyer Foundation

The Moyer Foundation is a public, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission to provide comfort, hope and healing to children and families affected by grief and addiction. Founded in 2000 by MLB pitcher Jamie Moyer and his wife Karen, The Moyer Foundation supports thousands of children and families each year through its programs and services offered free of charge. Camp Erin® is the largest national bereavement program for children and teens grieving the death of someone significant in their lives. Camp Mariposa® is an addiction prevention and mentoring program for youth impacted by the substance abuse of a family member. The Moyer Foundation Resource Center extends the Foundation's continuum of care by providing robust online resources and personalized support for families experiencing grief or addiction. For more information, please visit www.moyerfoundation.org.

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