

# The Transformation of Loss

By: Kristen Heisler & Jenn Lester



# Chain of Hope/Sanctuary Butterflies

As you arrive and wait for the presentation to start please fill out the blue strip of paper and the butterfly that is on the left side of your folder

- On the blue strip of paper
  - Use one word to define your experience with grief
- On the Butterfly
  - Write names of those you can call on during your time of grief



# Your Presenters

- Kristen Heisler
  - Activities Coordinator at Sarah Reed Children's Center
  - Has worked at Sarah Reed for 4 ½ years
- Jenn Lester
  - Activities Coordinator at Sarah Reed Children's Center
  - Has worked at Sarah Reed for 3 years

# Today's Agenda

- Chain of Hope/Sanctuary Butterflies
- History of Children's Grief Awareness Day
- How we made it our own
- Activity 3 - My grief is/My hope is
- Activity 4 - Dissolving Paper
- Video
- Q & A

# Highmark Caring Place

- A Center for grieving children, adolescents, and their families
- 4 locations throughout Pennsylvania
- Children's Grief Awareness Day was created from an idea of a Pennsylvania elementary school student
- Since 2008 and with the help of the Highmark Caring Place this day is recognized by organizations around the world

“Children grief too. That simple fact is often unrecognized so children become disenfranchised - without a right to grief- because we think they cannot understand or we wish to protect them- and ourselves. In other cases, we may misunderstand the ways their grief is expressed - perhaps in behavioral issues, bed wetting, or even play.”

~Professor Kenneth J. Doka

# Making it our own

- The clients at Sarah A. Reed Residential are all in different stages of grief.
- Sarah A. Reed clients lack support systems
- We strive to promote unity, bringing together staff, administrative employees, and even teachers, so that our clients know they are able to reach out to the nearest adult whenever they need it.







# Dissolving Paper



# Luminary Ceremony



- For more information on Children's Grief Awareness or the Highmark Caring Place please visit their websites.

- [www.childrensgriefawarenessday.org](http://www.childrensgriefawarenessday.org)
- [www.highmarkcaringplace.com](http://www.highmarkcaringplace.com)
- [www.sarahreed.org](http://www.sarahreed.org)

