



Ryan's Tree for Grieving Children

Giving Children a Hand...Rooted in the Heart.



Ryan's Tree is a guided peer support program for children ages 5 through 18 grieving the death of a loved one. Based on the philosophy that children and adolescents grieve differently than adults, trained adult volunteers and the children themselves provide support in a nurturing environment to promote healing for those affected by death.

Upcoming Programs:

Bethlehem Location

Holiday Camp
Dec. 5: 10am-3pm
Music Nights
Nov. 17 and Nov. 24

Fogelsville Location

Six week session
Oct. 22 – Dec. 3

Allentown Location

Six week session
Dec. 16 – Dec. 30
and
Jan. 13 – Jan. 27

For more information and to register for Ryan's Tree, please contact:

Bob Shrom
Children's Bereavement
Coordinator at
484-241-8043 or
shromr@slhn.org

Ryan's Tree, a program of St. Luke's Hospice and supported through funding provided by Highmark Healthy High 5, an initiative of the Highmark Foundation, is designed to assist children and adolescents with naming and articulating feelings, creating meaningful and sustaining memories and identifying their support systems. Ryan's Tree encourages this expression of grief on multiple levels, utilizing expressive activities like art, music, writing, play and physical release through the grief obstacle course.

Parents or guardians are required to remain onsite during the program and are invited to participate in an optional adult support group. Ryan's Tree also provides parents and guardians with information and skills that encourage family communication.

Ryan's Tree is currently offered in Bethlehem, Fogelsville and Allentown. Sessions are held on the selected evenings once per week from 6:30 to 8:15pm. Pizza and beverages are served from 6:30 until 7:00 pm. Group activities begin promptly at 7:00pm.

These age appropriate groups meet in Bethlehem on the second floor of the Kirk Center at First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem at 2344 Center St. on Monday evenings. The Fogelsville program, held at St. John's Lutheran Church at 1028 Church St., meets on Thursday evenings. The Allentown program will be held in Christ Lutheran Church on 13th and Hamilton St. on Wednesday evenings.

Children are welcome to participate in as many sessions as necessary to receive the support needed to grieve the loss of their loved one.

