

WinterSpring - COVID-19 Announcement **3-13-20**

To Our WinterSpring Family,

As we face the effects of the Covid-19 global pandemic, safety, health, and well-being of our WinterSpring community is our utmost priority.

As this week unfolded we were actively taking steps to minimize the risk of transmission between the grieving families we serve, our dedicated volunteers, and our staff. Yesterday, we made the difficult but necessary decision to cancel our in-person meetings until further notice.

We are looking at several options to hold online meetings for adult groups that are currently in session, and we will contact each of you individually when we have more details. All school groups are canceled due to mandated school closures, and we are working on some ideas for supporting our Children's Program participants.

We are taking social distancing very seriously and have implemented a plan for our staff to work from home and/or spend limited time in the office in shifts. We are committed to continuing to provide companionship, resources and support during this time. We anticipate that our mostly "virtual" office will be fully functional. As a staff we intend to check in with each other regularly via online meetings, so we can maintain the beautiful camaraderie we share and support each other in the days and weeks ahead. Please know that all voicemails will be received and returned, as will all emails. We also plan to regularly share resources via our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WinterSpring89/> and while our website is a work in progress and not as we would like it to be at this time, we invite you to utilize our resource page at <https://winterspring.org/grief-resources/>

Grieving children and teens may be particularly vulnerable to anxiety and worry during times of uncertainty. Here are some tips from the *National Association of School Psychologists* on talking with children about coronavirus/COVID-19. <https://www.nasponline.org/.../talking-to-children-about-covi...>

We will be following the guidance of the Oregon Health Authority and Governor Kate Brown's office, and will regularly update our community as events unfold.

As an organization and as a collective community, we are no strangers to facing fear of the unknown. It's what we do. We walk together on this path and we will continue to do so even if it looks a little different for a while. During these uncertain times, please know that we are still here for you, just a phone call or an email away. We are here now, and we will be here in the aftermath of this pandemic to provide hope and healing in our communities and beyond.

Be well, friends...



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Pronouns: she/her/hers