

FIND THE STRENGTH, HOPE AND SUPPORT

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Oakville Town Council
Town of Oakville
1225 Trafalgar Road
Oakville, Ontario, L6H 0H3

Dear Councilors,

Based in Oakville, and with 80% of our client base from the Halton/Peel/Hamilton area, Heartache2Hope is the only Ontario organization dedicated to providing trauma and grief support services to individuals bereaved by a suicide death. Our mission is to be a leader promoting healing after suicide loss while ensuring quality innovative programs and facilitating greater awareness and education in the community.

Since October 2014, we have offered a continuum of care to griever, including both individual and group support services. We are unique as a grief support organization in our focus on suicide loss and our trauma-informed model of care.

In 2020, 245 suicide loss griever accessed our services—a 10% increase over 2019. This increase is particularly significant because we were not able to offer our Annual International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day Event in 2020 due to the pandemic. We experienced a 37% growth in new clients from 2019 to 2020, with 123 new individuals seen for Intake meetings last year. In 2021, as of the beginning of September we have already had 250 individuals access our services. Heartache2Hope does not charge for its supportive services as we do not want finances to be an obstacle to receiving the trauma-informed care needed for healing and well-being after a suicide loss. We are reliant on fundraising activities to fund our budget.

As part of a growing fundraising portfolio aimed at generating needed revenue that currently includes individual giving, corporate and foundation grants and special events, it is our hope to conduct 50/50 raffles, and to explore the possibility of partnering with local (Oakville) vendors on break-open tickets. To this end, we are pleased to submit our eligibility application, and related documentation, for charitable gaming.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. I welcome any questions and will be pleased to provide any additional information.

Kind regards,

Laura Gatensby, Director of Development
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