



Center for Grieving Children

Impact Report 2022



Uplift Center for Grieving Children

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Uplift Center for Grieving Children

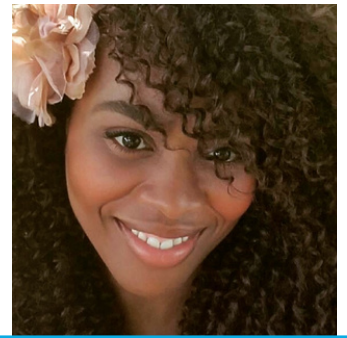
helps children grieving a death to heal and grow through their grief while strengthening families, communities and professionals' understanding of how best to respond to their needs. **Our vision is simple and direct: No child should have to grieve alone.** To effectuate this mission and vision, Uplift provides a variety of services to support Philadelphia children, families, and professionals who work with them.



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Letter from Crystal Wortham, Director of Clinical & Education Services



Dear Friends,

It is with sincere delight that I share with you Uplift Center for Grieving Children's 2021-2022 Impact Report. Whether you are a part of the staff, a volunteer or intern, a Board member, a child, teen or caregiver allowing us to journey with you, a community partner working with us to support families who are grieving, or a donor who through your generosity allows us to ensure that no one grieves alone, YOU ARE PART OF OUR TEAM!

Being a team member means you contributed to the culture where we prioritize and strive to create a space where everyone feels that they belong, are valued, and can be their authentic selves. A place where creativity flourishes and difference of opinions are embraced in such a way that will challenge us and cause us to learn & grow.

Together we spread clarity on grief, specifically children's grief, and how to support youth and families who are grieving. Recognizing that everyone grieves in their own way and in their own time, we understand the importance of consulting with our team, especially those receiving grief support, to identify best practices and inform how we approach this work.

Recognizing that communication is key, you have challenged us to be open, honest, transparent and to create space for uncomfortable conversations. This reiterates the importance of having a culture that allows people to ask questions, be heard & understood, and be brave enough to share their experiences as they process & formulate their grief narrative.

We are one team with the common goal of serving youth, families and communities impacted by grief, loss, and trauma. We strive to work together to achieve sustainable success and to increase our efforts of providing the best care possible. This is a new day, a new year, and a new Uplift!

Be well, Be safe, Be Uplifted!

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Crystal M. Wortham".

Crystal M. Wortham, MSW, LCSW
Director of Clinical & Education Services

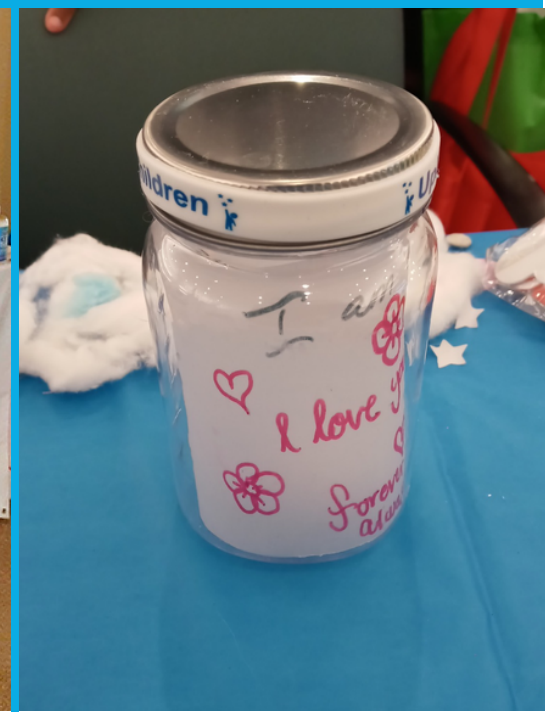
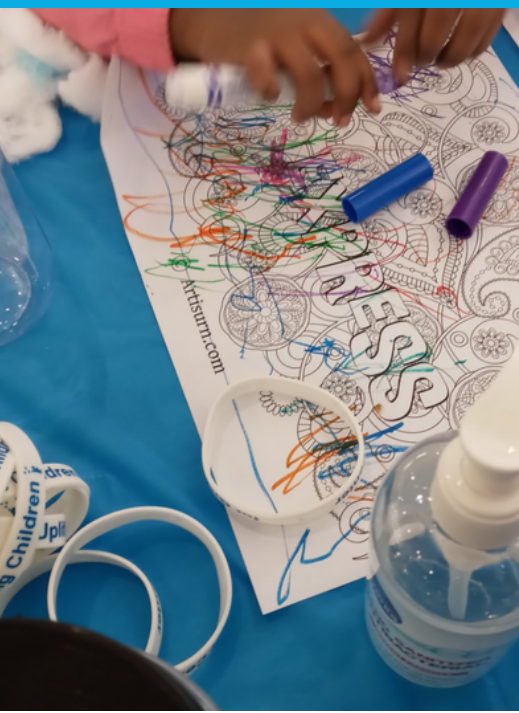


Left, June 2022: Senior Uplift Clinicians Samantha Anthony, MS, NCC, Lamya Broussard, LSW, MSS, MLSP, and Michelle Gonzalez, MS represented Uplift at the 25th National Symposium on Children's Grief, hosted by the National Alliance for Children's Grief. Samantha presented on the *Impact of Grief on Academic Performance*, Michelle presented *Between Two Screens-How to Implement Effective Grief Groups both in English & Spanish in Our Schools*, and Lamya, along with the NACG's 2022 Research and Evaluation Panel, presented *The View from Here: Children's Grief from Underrepresented Communities*.

Bottom, December 2021: In addition to sharing information about Uplift at school and community tabling events, clinicians share activities for processing grief such as grief-themed coloring sheets (left) and personalized Memory Jars for attendees to take home (right).

"It is super helpful to get your feelings out, and the environment and staff are so observant and understanding."

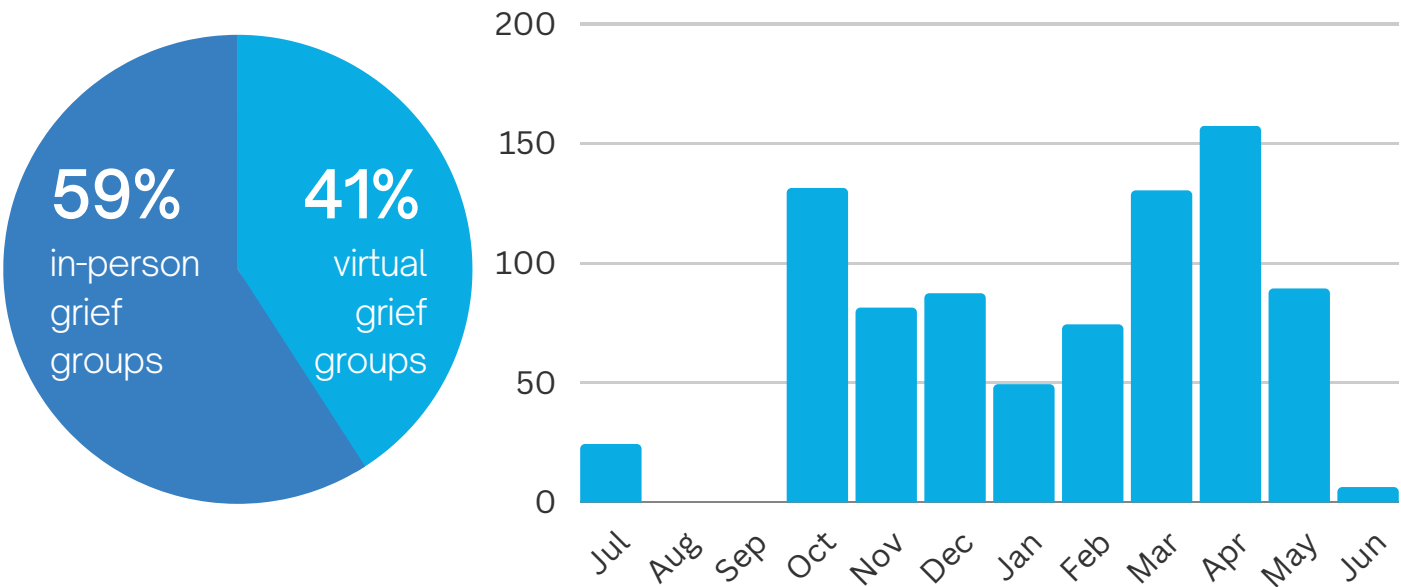
—Grief group participant, PJJSC



School & Community Grief Groups

828 youth attended School & Community grief groups during the 2021-22 program year.

School & Community group attendees per month, FY 2022



Note: School & Community grief groups did not take place in August or September 2021 due to Uplift's grief group schedule.

School & Community grief groups meet grieving children where they are and connect them with other youth of similar ages and experiences. In the 2021-22 program year, Uplift held **4 in-school grief groups for Spanish-speaking and bilingual youth**, and clinicians supported **20 LGBTQIA+ youth through Queer and Trans Youth Services drop-in groups**.

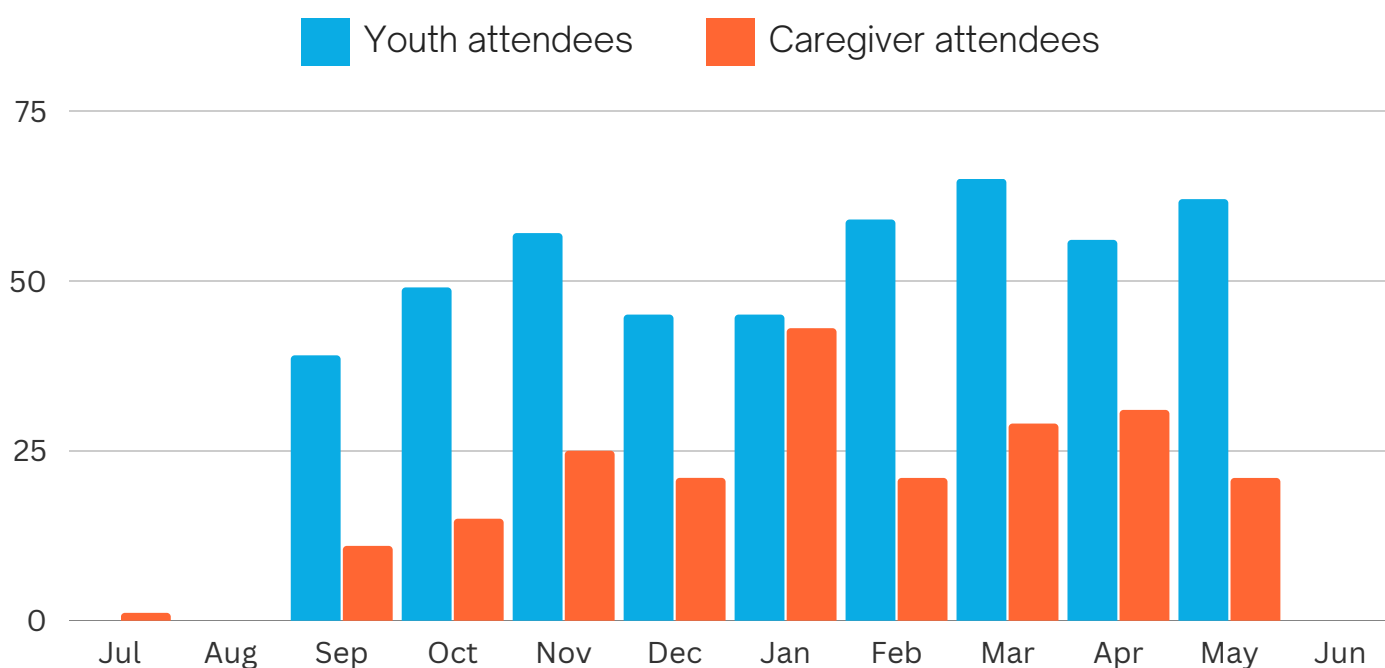
Uplift works closely with the Network of Neighbors, the School District of Philadelphia's Prevention & Intervention team, and other partners when there is a loss affecting youth and school communities, and offers both Acute Community Loss Support groups immediately after a crisis, as well as legacy groups, which are memorial groups for youth who have lost friends or teachers, most often to homicide. During the 2021-2022 program year, **11% of youth received Acute Loss Support, and 10% participated in Legacy Groups**.

Family Services Grief Groups

Family Services groups allow both children and caregivers to attend concurrent peer grief groups that are facilitated by Uplift's clinicians. Families can attend groups for as long as they need.

Following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Uplift's Family Services groups have taken place on Zoom to prioritize participant safety and comfort. In surveys, **84% of Family Services group attendees indicate a preference for virtual groups.**

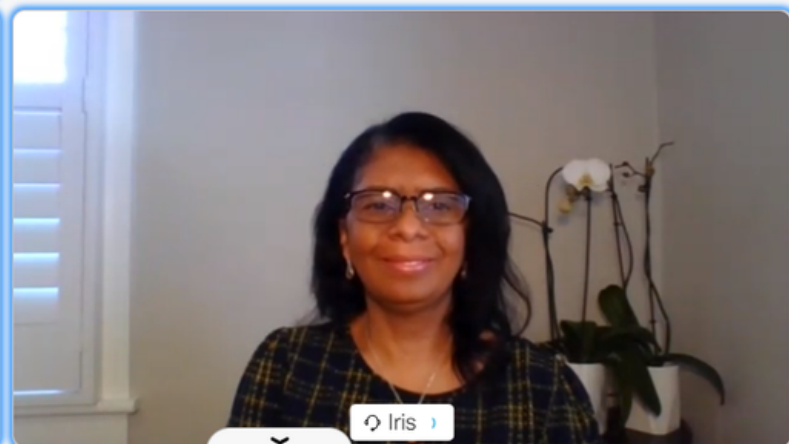
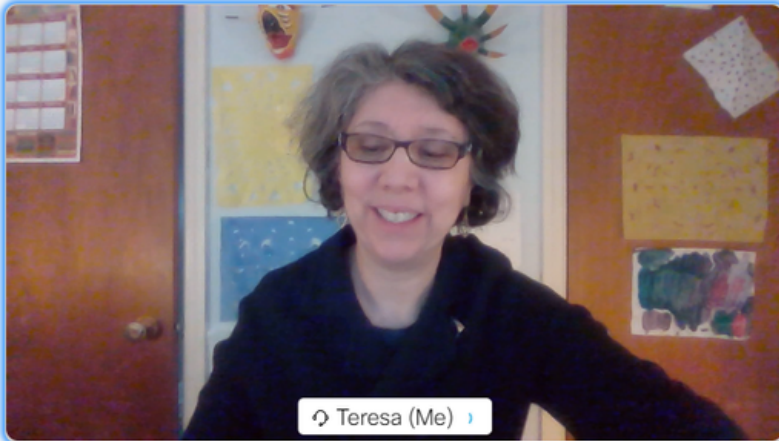
Family Services group attendees per month, FY 2022



Note: Family Services grief groups did not take place in June through August 2021 due to Uplift's grief group schedule.

477 youth and 218 caregivers attended Family Services grief groups during the 2021-22 program year.

Family Services' group offerings include specialty groups such as **Come Together!** for children in K-2nd grades to attend with their caregiver, **Queer & Trans Youth Services** for 14–18 year-old youth in the LGBTQIA+ community, **Español Family Grief Groups**, and Caregiver Groups. Several Family Services groups, including Come Together! and Español groups, use a **family support model**, wherein the caregiver(s) and children attend the same Zoom meeting.



Top, January 2022: Teresa Méndez-Quigley, Associate Director of Family Services & Innovative Practices and Uplift volunteer Iris Ogando share Uplift's resources for Spanish-speaking Philadelphians in a segment for the Consulate of Mexico in Philadelphia's program *Ventanilla de Salud*.

Bottom, March 2022: In the Spanish grief group curriculum, participants are asked, "What is grief to you?" and are invited to write, draw, make music, or film a video to express their feelings. Iris created the poem below as an example.

El duelo es...

El duelo para mi es como una ola, que se mueve, que se va, que regresa.
El duelo puede ser mi compañero, hasta mi amigo. Puedo hablar con mi duelo.
Es un recuento, un hasta luego.

Grief is...

Grief, to me, is like a wave. It moves, it goes away, and comes back.
Grief may be a companion, a friend even. I can talk with my grief.
It can be like my partner. Or a "see you later."

Iris Ogando, Uplift Intern



Training Events

Because Uplift's team cannot provide grief services to all children and families who need them, Uplift provides training to professionals throughout the City of Philadelphia. These trainings equip professionals, such as teachers, counselors, social workers, and therapists, to better understand grief and trauma and how to support children.

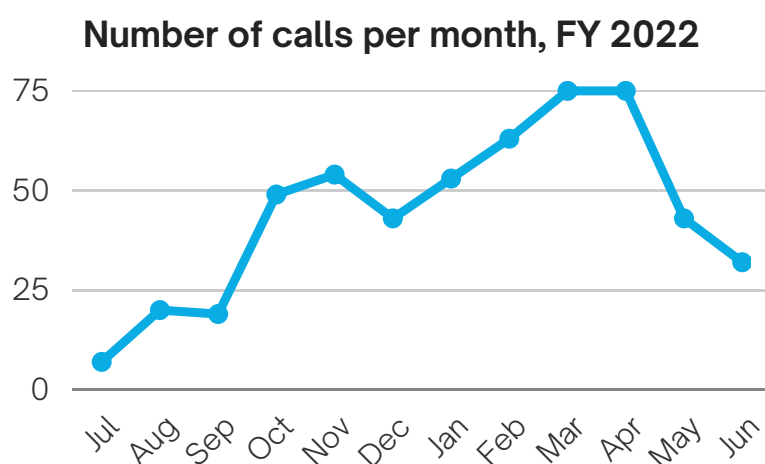
During the 2021-22 program year, Uplift's clinicians trained **1,051 professionals** at **34 schools, agencies, and workshop settings** around Philadelphia.



The Philly HopeLine

When schools closed at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020, Uplift created the Philly HopeLine (1-833-PHL-HOPE), a call-in helpline that provides support for children, caregivers, and families who are experiencing mental health issues such as stress, anxiety, and isolation; losses such as death losses or ambiguous loss; and other crises. Uplift's clinicians staff the HopeLine and its schedule includes dedicated support hours for callers who are Spanish-speaking or are part of the LGBTQIA+ community that are staffed by clinicians with familiarity in those communities.

In the 2021-22 program year, the Philly HopeLine received **533 calls total**, an increase of 176% over calls made in FY 2021 (193 calls).



In addition to using the Philly HopeLine for call-in services, the HopeLine also accepts referrals from agencies in Philadelphia seeking to share grief groups with families. Clinicians staffing the HopeLine assist callers in signing up for grief groups based on the callers' needs. Beginning in 2023, the Philly HopeLine will launch an email intake for youth and caregivers seeking Uplift services.

"Some people don't have access to therapy or group help. I think everyone should be open to these experiences."

—In-school grief group participant, Bodine High School



July 2022: Uplift's team commemorated former Executive Director Darcy Walker Krause's departure from Uplift with an all-team farewell party.

"“I feel more supported because they understood where I was coming from and they understood how I was feeling. And they cared about how I felt. We need more people like that, who are understanding and caring and helpful. We need more Groups like this because there are people who don't know who to tell or how to tell it to people and that's why we need more people that can help and understand and care how we are feeling and how to give really good advice.”"

—In-school grief group participant

Uplift Team Directory

Darcy Walker Krause, J.D., LSW

Executive Director through July 2022

Christopher Barrett Politan

Interim Executive Director

Kevin A. Peter, M.Ed.

Director of Development

Teresa Méndez-Quigley, MSW

*Associate Director of Family Services
& Innovative Practices*

CJ Roseberry, MSW

Family Care Clinical Coordinator

Tiffana Mclean, MSW

Healthy Families Clinical Coordinator

Samantha Anthony, MS, NCC

Senior Uplift Clinician

Michelle Gonzalez, MS

Senior Uplift Clinician

Yaa Allen, MA, E-RYT, SEP

Uplift Clinician

Sherrie Rucker, MSW

Uplift Clinician

Dominique Downes, MHRM

Human Resources Manager

Bethany Wagner

Grants Manager

Kevin Carter, MSW, LCSW

Clinical Director through August 2022

Crystal Wortham, MSW, LCSW

Director of Clinical & Education Services

Adriana T. Rivera, MSL

Director of Operations

Katherine Streit, MSW, LCSW, M.S. Ed.

*Associate Director of School Services
& Professional Trainings*

Darcie Rudolf, MA, NCC

Family Care Access Coordinator

Joy Mosley, MSW

Part-Time GRIT Clinician

Lamya Broussard, LSW, MSS, MLSP

Senior Uplift Clinician

Sam Middleton, MS

Senior Uplift Clinician

Chabeli Angeline Noval, MSW, LSW

Uplift Clinician

Kristan Vaughn, MHS

Uplift Clinician

Katherine DiPierro

Development & Communications Associate



May 2022: an UPLIFTing evening is Uplift's annual gala to celebrate leaders who are making a difference in the lives of grieving children. This year's gala brought in more than \$405,000 toward general operating support.

Top photo, left to right: Event emcee Cherri Gregg, former Executive Director Darcy Walker Krause, Community Honoree Laura Hinds, MSW, LCSW, Honoree Bill Hankowsky, and former Board Chair Kristine Derewicz



Bottom photo, left to right: Members of FY 22 Board of Directors: Bik Chadha, Brigitte Addimando, Elliott Wilson, Barbara Chance, Kristine Derewicz, former Executive Director Darcy Walker Krause, David Lafferty, Steven Doherty, and Steven Bohner.

"Everyone [in the grief group] was caring and understood so it was easy to talk, and the activities we did also helped it be fun."

—In-school grief group participant

Uplift Board of Directors

FY 2023 Leadership

Dorothy Flynn, MS

Board Chair

Broadridge Corporate Issuer Solutions

Jamar Johnson-Thompson

Board Vice-Chair

Avalara

Bikram Chadha, MBA

Secretary and Treasurer

PFM Asset Management

FY 2022 Leadership

Kristine Grady Derewicz, JD

Board Chair, 2019-2022

Current Board Member

Little Mendelson P.C.

Brigitte Addimando, MBA

Board Vice-Chair

Current Board Member Emeritus

RavenPoint Consulting

Duane Lacsamana

Secretary and Treasurer, 2019-2022

Current Board Member

WSFS Bank

Board Members

Janice Block, MSS, EDM, LCSW

Clinical Social Worker and Therapist

Barbara J. Chance, Ph.D.

CHANCE Management Advisors, Inc.

R. Ryan Conner, MPA

Tactix Real Estate Advisors

Monica Lewis, MS

City of Baltimore

Eryn Santamoor, MPA

Philadelphia City Council

Tiffany A. Weber

Isaacson, Miller

Thomas Whitworth

NorthMarq Advisors

Elliott Wilson, MBA, PMP

CDW Healthcare

Steven Bohner

Board Member Emeritus

AmeriHealth Caritas

Steven Doherty, MBA

Board Member Emeritus

CBRE

David Lafferty

Board Member Emeritus

Wescott Financial Advisory Group

Statement of Activities

July 01, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Revenue & Support

	UNRESTRICTED	DONOR RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Contributions			
Foundations	\$ 268,313	\$ 200,000	\$ 468,313
Individual & Corporations	293,903	—	293,903
Government Contracts	539,773	—	539,773
Special Events*	439,350	—	439,350
Loan Forgiveness	191,244	—	191,244
Training & Consultation	17,250	—	17,250
Net Investment Return	1,686	—	1,686
Interest Income	845	—	845
Other Income	—	—	—
Net Assets	224,708	(224,708)	—
TOTAL	\$1,977,072	\$24,708	\$1,952,364

Expenses

Program Services	\$ 1,356,913	—	\$ 1,356,913
Supporting Services			
Management & General	132,638	—	132,638
Fundraising	159,918	—	159,918
Total Supportive Services	292,556	—	292,556
TOTAL	\$1,649,469	—	\$1,649,469

Net Assets

Change in Net Assets	\$ 356,913	\$ (24,708)	\$ 302,895
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	943,564	169,708	1,113,272
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$1,271,167	\$145,000	\$1,416,167

*Net of direct special event costs to donor of \$83,728.

Financial information in Uplift's 2022 Impact Report is based on audited data. For a full report, please contact Kevin Peter, Director of Development, at kpeter@upliftphilly.org