

# Youth Voice: The Evolution and Illumination of Grief Support

Tuesday, November 1, New York City

FREE to attend virtual or in-person.

[Register here](#)

Hosted by



NEW YORK LIFE  
FOUNDATION

In partnership with



[New York Life Foundation \(NYLF\)](#) in partnership with [National Alliance for Children's Grief \(NACG\)](#) will host a one-day conference on November 1, 2022. The conference will cover the evolution of grief support for young people as well as illuminate the increased need for grief support services due to the societal impact of COVID-19, recent tragedies, race relations, and more. Conference attendees will have the opportunity to learn from experts in this space including NYLF thought leaders.

## 7:30 am

Check-in and Breakfast

## 8:30 am

Welcome and Introductions

## 8:40 am

### Workshop: Meeting the Needs of Children, Teens, and Adults Who Are Grieving: 12 "Takeaways" from 35 Years in Bereavement Work (CE credits available)\*

Donna will share a dozen "lessons learned" through her work at [Dougy Center](#), bearing witness to the lived experiences of children as young as three, up through teens, young adults, and their parents or adult caregivers grieving the death of a family member or friend. Weaving examples from clinical practice, practice-based evidence, and research into practical "takeaways," the material is relevant to anyone wanting to better understand and support those who are grieving.

## 9:40 am

Break

## 9:50 am

### Workshop: Childhood Bereavement Prevalence: The Story Behind the Numbers (CE credits available)\*

Micki will share preliminary data from the [2022 Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model \(CBEM\)](#) which indicates 7.7% of U.S. youth—more than 5.6 million—will experience the death of a sibling or parent by age 18—an astounding increase driven by pandemic-related losses. Research demonstrates that the death of a significant attachment figure places children at increased risk for emotional, relational, behavioral, and academic problems, as well as earlier mortality. Unaddressed childhood bereavement can contribute to a litany of adverse outcomes as youth move along the developmental continuum. In contrast, protective factors including positive role models, healthy coping skills, peer support, and encouraging educators and caring adults can provide the scaffolding bereaved youth need to heal. Exploring bereavement prevalence at the local and regional levels supports strategic resource allocation to ensure no child is alone in grief.

## 10:50 am

Break

## 11:00 am

### Workshop: Centering Culture and Equity in Youth Bereavement & Grief Support (CE credits available)\*

Tashel will address culture and inequities in loss and service provision to youth and families occupying marginalized identity statuses. Drawing from research and case examples, the presentation describes ways in which loss and grief processes are uniquely complicated for socially disadvantaged youth and often involve patterns of suffocated grief. Participants will learn about culturally conscientious and responsive strategies and practices with youth and families.

## Event Hosts



### Heather Nesle

President  
New York Life Foundation



### Vicki Jay

CEO  
National Alliance for  
Children's Grief



**Donna Schuurman, EdD, FT**  
Sr. Director of Advocacy & Training  
Dougy Center



**Micheleen (Micki) Burns, PhD, LP**  
Clinical Director  
Judi's House



**Tashel Bordere, PhD, CT**  
Assistant Professor of Human Development  
and Family Studies and State Extension  
Specialist in Youth Development  
University of Missouri-Columbia

\*3 CE credits available for a \$30 fee

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**12:00 pm**

LUNCH

**12:45 pm**

## Panel: Evolution of Grief Support in Schools

Although always a concern, the recent pandemic underscored the need to support students and staff experiencing grief and loss. In this presentation, panelists will describe the collaboration between New York City Public Schools and the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement to meet this need during the pandemic through the NYLF Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative. The panel will share what was done and highlight insights to be shared with other schools and districts as they strive to become more grief-sensitive.

**2:00 pm**

Break

**2:15 pm**

## Panel: The Intersection of COVID, Mass Tragedies and Everyday Grief...Moving Beyond the Single Moment

Childhood bereavement is a common yet widely overlooked issue. In recent years, however, this issue has garnered more attention due to increasing media coverage of the COVID pandemic and mass tragedies directly impacting children and families. Yet what is the impact beyond the crisis, numbers, and news cycle? The data illuminates the magnitude of this issue — 1 in 13 U.S. children will grieve the death of a parent or sibling before they reach adulthood. We aim to address grief, beyond this moment in time, and better understand how we can infuse grief support across sectors where we can most effectively help those in need. Join a discussion that will explore how the current moment is forever reshaping the field of childhood bereavement, exposing the societal impact of "inaction" and reframing what we as a community can do... moving beyond awareness toward meaningful actions.

**3:30 pm**

## Youth Voice: Being Seen, Heard, and Understood

Hear first-hand from young people who have experienced the death of an important person in their life. They will share their stories about how this challenging event impacted their life and what we all should know in order to support others who may be grieving.

**4:30 pm**

Q & A and Closing



**David J Schonfeld, MD, FAAP**  
Founder and Director  
National Center for School Crisis  
and Bereavement

Professor of Clinical Pediatrics  
Keck School of Medicine of USC



**Tamara Mair**  
Senior Director of Tiered  
Interventions  
NYC Department of  
Education



**Michelle Paterson**  
Lead Advisor on  
Disproportionality, Division of  
Teaching and Learning  
Opportunities, Special Education  
Office, NYCPS  
NYC Department of  
Education



**MODERATOR:**  
**Vicki Jay**  
CEO  
National Alliance for  
Children's Grief



**Catherine Jaynes, PhD**  
leads the COVID  
Collaborative's initiative to  
support COVID Bereaved  
Children and is a Partner at  
Cicero Group



**Michaeleen (Micki)  
Burns, PhD, LP**  
Clinical Director  
Judi's House



**Sallie Lynch**  
Senior Program &  
Development Consultant  
Tuesday's Children



**MODERATOR:**  
**Maria Collins**  
Vice President  
New York Life Foundation

## Panelist: Youth voices from our partners.

