

**MICHAEL'S PLACE PARTNERS WITH THE DENNOS MUSEUM CENTER FOR A SPECIAL EVENT: THE ART OF: MOURNING – EXPRESSIONS OF YOUTH**

*Wednesday, November 13, 2019. Doors open at 6pm, Event 6:30-8:00pm*

TRAVERSE CITY, MI., October 16, 2019 – Michael's Place, northern Michigan's only non-profit grief support center, is partnering with The Dennis Museum Center to offer a special event, The Art of: Mourning – Expressions of Youth, in honor of National Children's Grief Awareness Month in November. This event will take place at The Dennis Museum Center on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, with doors opening at 6:00 pm. This event is free and open to the community.

The Art of: Mourning – Expressions of Youth is an interactive presentation and panel discussion where participants have the opportunity to listen to the experiences of bereaved youth, learn about the impact of grief on childhood and beyond, and create conversation around the needs of grieving youth in our region. Mindy Buell, the Michael's Place Executive Director, said, "We are grateful to partner with The Dennis Museum Center to host this event, heightening awareness of National Children's Grief Awareness Month. These creative expressions give bereaved youth a voice and allow Michael's Place the opportunity to share our mission in a unique and exciting way."

Chris Dennis, the founder of Michael's Place, shared, "The reason the Discovery Gallery exists at The Dennis Museum Center is a result of my mother, Barbara Dennis, insisting there be something for children at the museum. The legacy of serving and bringing children into the museum started with Barbara Dennis and continues with this wonderful opportunity to share insight into bereaved youth in The Art of: Mourning- Expressions of Youth."

This multi-media event offers a special exhibit of nationally recognized works from *Healing Through Creativity: Selections from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards* in partnership with New York Life Foundation and will feature artistic and creative expressions of local bereaved youth through:

- Writing & storytelling
- Music & performing arts
- Visual arts

A study published in the American Journal of Public health suggests that there are clear indications that artistic engagement has significantly positive effects on health. Teens from across the United States submitted their creative work to the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards' New York Life Award, which recognizes the stories of young people and their experiences with

losing a loved one. “We hope this exhibit of award-winning work created by teens who have courageously explored grief or loss in their original works of art or writing inspires other grieving teens across the country,” said Maria Collins, vice president, New York Life Foundation. “The exhibited work illustrates that a creative outlet can provide a safe space to teens who are unsure of how to express their grief.” Following this event the *Healing Through Creativity: Selections from the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards* will continue to be on exhibit at Michael’s Place through November.

### **About the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers/ Scholastic Art & Writing Awards**

The Alliance for Young Artists & Writers is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world through the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. With the support of the New York Life Foundation, the Alliance offers the New York Life Award, which includes scholarships to students whose visual art or writing deals with grief and bereavement. Learn more at [www.artandwriting.org/newyorklife](http://www.artandwriting.org/newyorklife).

### **About the New York Life Foundation**

Inspired by New York Life’s tradition of service and humanity, the New York Life Foundation has, since its founding in 1979, provided nearly \$280 million in charitable contributions to national and local nonprofit organizations. The Foundation supports programs that benefit young people, particularly in the areas of educational enhancement and childhood bereavement. To learn more, please visit [www.newyorklifefoundation.org](http://www.newyorklifefoundation.org).

### **About Michael’s Place**

Michael’s Place is a grief support center for children, teens, adults. The organization gives those who grieve a voice to share their story, care and support to survive their loss, and hope to begin to live again. Last year, Michael’s Place provided grief support services to 1,700 individuals in the community at no cost.

For more information, visit [www.MyMichaelsPlace.net](http://www.MyMichaelsPlace.net) or call (231) 947-6453.

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