OUR VISION IS THAT NO CHILD WILL GRIEVE ALONE.

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF

OUR 2021-2022 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Valerie's House, Inc.

Valerie’s House Little
OUR VISION
Is That No Child Will Grieve Alone.

Our mission is to help children and families work through the loss of a loved one together and go on to live fulfilling lives.

THE STORY OF VALERIE’S HOUSE

Valerie’s House opened its doors in January 2016, but it was a concept a long time in the making.

Valerie Melvin was just 31 years old when she lost her life in an automobile accident in Fort Myers in 1987. She left behind a loving husband and two small children, including Angela, who was 10 years old at the time.

After high school, Angela moved away to college and eventually became a journalist, living in various regions of the country. Upon returning to Fort Myers in 2013, she wanted to volunteer with grieving children like she once was and noticed there were very few resources for kids to connect and heal together.

Angela began researching what was available for grieving children around the country. Then, she visited these places to learn how to effectively impact children, who often feel alone when someone dies.

She began to share her story with friends and business leaders. Eventually, with the help of many others, Angela’s vision for a place solely to help children grieve came to fruition.

Valerie’s House provides free, open-ended peer support groups and activities for children to heal after a significant loss in their life. It’s not a formal counseling center. Instead, Valerie’s House is a community platform where individuals come together, share, and mentor each other through their grief.

With locations in Fort Myers, Naples, Charlotte County, and Pensacola, Valerie’s House is a special place where children connect with one another and learn the tools to heal after they have experienced the death of someone they love. At Valerie’s House, children learn that loss doesn’t have to limit their dreams.
A MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Angela Melvin

Dear Friends,

The pandemic has forever changed the lives of many families in our community. Of course, grief has always existed, but we are seeing it at a much larger scale than we have in a long time.

Kids, especially, are carrying around an enormous amount of stress and trauma and many adult caregivers are too. Therefore, our mission is needed more than ever as the manifestation of grief permeates throughout our schools, churches, homes, and businesses.

On behalf of everyone here at Valerie’s House, we thank you for your belief in our mission. Your support allows us to be strong for those who need it. We are always looking for ways to educate ourselves and expand our services to help meet the needs of the community.

Together, we are making a positive impact on families who come through the doors of Valerie’s House in a time of great suffering. We consider it an honor to be able to support them in their time of need, as it takes a great deal of strength and courage to ask for help.

We believe in a world where loss doesn’t have to limit the capacity to follow our dreams. Our vision is to continue cultivating a safe space for all who need it—a place where those who are grieving can find strength in connecting to others.

Everyone experiences grief differently but sharing with others who understand can provide a sense of hope during this difficult time. For some, Valerie’s House might be the only support system they have.

In our community alone, thousands of children will experience the loss of someone close to them. We know how important it is for Valerie’s House to continue to be there when they need us and help them learn to thrive after loss.

Thank you again for all you do as a friend and advocate of Valerie’s House.

Please enjoy reading about our organization’s growth, volunteers, and some of our families.

I am here for you if you ever need me.

Your Friend,

Angela Melvin
Founder and CEO
Valerie’s House
angela@valerieshouse.org
MEET OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Angela Melvin
President
Valerie's House

Lana Hollier
Vice-Chair
Sanibel Captiva Community Bank

Mike McMurray
Chair
Royal Shell Real Estate

Victoria Loyola
Treasurer
Markham Norton Mosteller Wright and Company, P.A.

Jaime Suanez
Secretary
The Rist Family Foundation

"We are honored to have these creative and experienced business professionals helping lead our mission of helping children grieve. Their passion and dedication for Valerie’s House is evident in every decision we make. Being on a board is never easy, and we can’t do what we do without their support and guidance."

– Angela Melvin, Founder and CEO, Valerie’s House

MEET OUR BOARD MEMBERS

David Fry
Dwell
Florida

Kristalyn Loson-Atwood
The Nature Conservancy

Lisa O’Neil
Lee Health System

Todd Helt
City of Punta Gorda

Jaime Layne
Victory Layne Chevrolet

Scott Shotwell
The Northern Trust Corporation

Steve Belcher
New York Life
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

2021 EXPENSES

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2021 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• 1,300+ Grief Support Groups Held at Valerie’s House Locations Across Florida
• 15 In-School Group Locations for Grieving Students
• Awarded $50,000 in Scholarships to Five Valerie’s House Children
• Broke Ground on Lee County Valerie’s House Forever Home
• Connected 45 Grieving Children with an Adult Mentor through the Val’s PALs Mentor Program
• Provided More Than 1,000 Individual Counseling Support Sessions with a Trained Valerie’s House Therapist

2021 NOTABLE NUMBERS

1,159 Grieving Individuals Touched  
369 Families Served  
90+ More than 90 Volunteers
1 IN 7
1 IN 7 CHILDREN IN FLORIDA WILL EXPERIENCE THE DEATH OF A PARENT OR SIBLING BY AGE 25.

SERVING FAMILIES ACROSS FLORIDA

FLORIDA PANHANDLE

SARASOTA

GLADES

CHARLOTTE

LEE

HENDRY

COLLIER

Data on the numbers of children grieving before adulthood are taken from the Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM). More information can be found here https://judishouse.org/research-tools/cbem/
The Valerie’s House–Fort Myers location is a healing place near the heart of downtown where children and their caregivers come to grieve the loss of a loved one. The little yellow house on Fowler Street is less than 2,000 square feet and hosts peer grief-support groups Mondays through Thursdays. Families come twice a month and are separated into age-appropriate groups for grief-related discussions and activities.

Fort Myers is the hometown of Founder and CEO Angela Melvin and the place where her mother, Valerie, died unexpectedly in a car crash. This location is the current headquarters for Valerie’s House and serves as a cozy, safe haven for grieving children.

Valerie’s House utilizes many expressive techniques to help families explore their grief. Younger children are encouraged to participate in various types of play therapy to help them verbalize their grief stories. Members of the teen group often bond over life changes after their loss and how they are on the pathway to healing. When kids connect with other children their age who have also suffered a significant loss, it helps remind them that they are not alone.

Families come first, and our vision at Valerie’s House is that the entire family is supported. Similar to the kids, caregivers also meet in a group setting to support each other as they raise grieving children.

Additional support is also available at no cost to Valerie’s House families, including individual counseling with one of the licensed clinical mental health professionals on staff.

Programs include:
• Littles, Middles, and Teens Groups
• Spanish-Speaking Groups
• Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Groups
• Sibling Loss Groups
• Pregnancy and Infant Loss Groups
• Young Adult Groups
• Caregiver Groups

As we build our new Forever Home, families, staff, and volunteers will have more than triple the space to carry out grief-support groups, individual counseling, training workshops, and community events.
COLLIER COUNTY
Naples Home

Valerie’s House–Naples opened in 2019 and has since served more than 400 children grieving in Collier County.

Valerie’s House Naples is centrally located in the heart of Collier County, near the intersection of highway 41 and Pine Ridge Road. The house is inviting for our grieving children thanks to local interior designers who volunteered their expertise in creating warm and engaging rooms so children feel safe when opening up about their grief.

The first thing you see when you walk into the Naples house is a colorful mural that covers the wall in the hallway entrance. A local artist took the time to paint a landscape of Valerie’s House surrounded by flowers, animals, sunshine, and two children holding hands to show that no child grieves alone.

Long-time friends and Valerie’s House supporters, Joe and Lisa Davenport, donated a hand-built wooden tree to the Naples location. The tree stands in the corner of the caregiver room and next to a framed photo of Valerie Melvin, who Valerie’s House is named after.

Children can write the name of their special person who died on individual leaves to hang on the tree. It’s a unique addition to the space, and we plan to include one like it in the new Forever Home in Lee County in 2023.

We have also partnered with a local nonprofit, The Healthy Earth, to help create a garden for the backyard. We are holding workshops with the kids that will teach them about the beauty that comes with nurturing a growing garden.

We are happy to announce that our Naples team has expanded as we have welcomed Collier County Director, Sarah Andrus. With this new role, we have already seen significant progress in the Naples area. We continue to look for new ways to meet the needs of the community and provide additional groups. We have started an in-person Young Adult Group as well as a Dad’s Support Group in Collier County. Our Naples location increases opportunities to reach more people in the community and partner with local businesses who are interested in supporting Valerie’s House.

We are looking forward to the coming years as our presence in Naples grows, and Valerie’s House becomes more well-known. Raising awareness for the various types of grief resources we offer can ensure that children who need this type of support receive it.
**CHARLOTTE COUNTY**

*Peer Grief-Support Groups*

Valerie’s House expanded to Charlotte County in August 2019 and has served more than 400 children and caregivers in the last three years. Peer grief-support groups are held at New Life Church in Punta Gorda, formerly known as 1st United Methodist Church, where families come to work through the loss of a loved one together. Families in the Port Charlotte meet at Holy Trinity Church twice a month and also participate in an activity to process their grief in a healthy way. In addition, we are in more than a dozen schools in Charlotte County and Sarasota, helping children who cannot find transportation to off-site groups. Those interested in helping with the expansion of Valerie’s House–Charlotte County can reach out to Charlotte County Director Christine Carey at christine@valerieshouse.org.

*Christine Carey with two Charlotte County Teens*

**ESCAMBIA COUNTY (PENSACOLA)**

*Peer Grief-Support Groups*

The Northwest Florida panhandle is a region of Florida where thousands of children are grieving alone. That’s why we are excited to continue expanding grief-support services to regions beyond Southwest Florida.

With operations in Pensacola beginning in 2021, and the help of Pensacola resident Crista Brandt, children in Northwest Florida now have a safe space to grieve together.

Like Valerie’s House Founder and CEO Angela Melvin, Crista also lost her mother when she was young. In addition to spearheading the expansion into Northern Florida, she’s also passionate about helping grieving children connect and recognize they are not alone in their grief.

We are happy to announce that the Pensacola team has also expanded, and we’ve hired Escambia County Program Manager Jennifer Elzweig. We continue to see consistent progress in the Pensacola area. Those interested in helping us grow our services in Pensacola can reach out to Jennifer at jennifer.elzweig@valerieshouse.org.

*Pensacola Teen next to Memory Wall*

Valerie’s House Charlotte County and Valerie’s House Escambia County are honored to have been accepted as a United Way partner agency this year.
FOREVER HOME
Lee County Forever Home

The first cement bricks have been laid on the ground for the new Forever Home in Lee County, and construction is underway. The 7,000+ square foot home is set to be completed summer of 2023 and will give us the much-needed space to expand our services.

We want to say a huge thank you to all who have supported us in making this dream come to life, including the City of Fort Myers for donating the land. We couldn’t have done it without you. We have partnered with Lennar Homes, who will be our lead construction team, as well as South Florida Architecture, who helped create the renderings.

In addition to founding donors, David and Linda Lucas and Dan Creighton, we’ve been generously gifted the fill by Scott Lyons with Tomahawk Construction and most recently had the roof donated by David Crowther Jr. with CFS Roofing. These donations have saved a large amount of money for Valerie’s House that we can now put towards helping more kids and families in our community. The need for this space increases every day as we see more and more kids affected by grief.

Knowing that we will soon have a space where we won’t have to worry about how many people we can fit in the room will give us the chance to focus on more important things.

Each age group will have two different rooms for them to meet, keeping groups intimate without overcrowding a space. The whole second floor will be dedicated to healing rooms for the kids, along with an art room, meeting room, and a new memory hall to honor the special people who have died.

We have found a wonderful team of interior designers led by Davenport Designs helping us design these rooms to be colorful and appealing to our different age groups. This house is for them, and we want to ensure the rooms reflect a kid-friendly space that will make them feel comfortable in their groups.

Along with all the space inside, we will have an acre of land that we plan to fill with trees and lush landscaping. There will be a large basketball court, a memory garden, and a fountain. We plan to pave the entry with memorial pavers that supporters can purchase if they would like. Our goal is that everywhere you look, you will find something beautiful.

There are many opportunities to get involved. If you are interested in being a part of our Forever Home, please reach out to sterling.lund@valerieshouse.org.
Valerie’s House provides open-ended peer support groups and activities for children to heal after a significant loss in their life. Valerie’s House is not a formal counseling center. Instead, it is a community platform for individuals to come together, share, and mentor each other through their grief.

Groups meet in our various locations twice a month from approximately 6:00pm until 8:00pm. After some free playtime, children break into age-appropriate groups. All our groups begin with a check-in. Attendees take turns introducing themselves, the person they lost, and how they are feeling that day on a scale from one to ten. After check-in, kids talk about their feelings and how they move through school and life. Being together with those who have also suffered a loss is powerful and helps tremendously.

Each group night centers around a grief-related activity. Valerie’s House heavily relies on art and music to help children identify, express, and process their grief. For example, in one activity, kids paint masks with different colors to represent the emotions they feel.

On the outside of the mask, they paint the feelings that they present to the outside world. On the inside of the mask, they paint emotions they feel but do not show to others. After the children finish painting, we discuss and point out similarities between the children in the group. This helps them realize that they are not alone and that other kids their age can connect to what they are experiencing.

In addition to the peer grief-support groups, Valerie’s House also offers school groups, individual counseling, and the Val’s PALs Mentoring Program at no cost to families.

**Valerie’s House taught me that it’s okay to ask for help and that I’m not alone in my grief journey.**

**Mackenzie**

**Age 18, Loss of Mother**

Mackenzie and her friend Caprice from Valerie’s House
POSITIVE ADULT LEADERSHIP
Val’s PALs Mentoring Program

Some of our grieving children are missing a role model due to their loss. Val’s PALs fills that void for them. PALs stands for “Positive Adult Leadership.” Our Val’s PALs mentors are caring adults who invest their time and energy to nurture and positively impact a young person. No specialized degree or job skill set is required. You don’t even have to have experienced a loss yourself.

Mentors apply for a one-year commitment with the hopes that the relationship will continue much longer. The minimum of meeting hours is four per month, including face-to-face interaction with phone calls and texts.

Val’s PALs Mentor Nina Mendes and her mentee Addison, pictured here, have been matched together for more than a year. Addison lost her father and is being raised by her grandmother. At twelve years old, Addison is eager to get outside and play. However, her grandmother isn’t able to always participate in the activities Addison would like to do. That’s where Val’s PALs stepped in to help Addison and her family.

Nina and Addison meet once a month and usually get lunch together. After that, they go somewhere fun in the community to hang out for a few hours. Nina and Addison have spent time at Dave & Busters, a cat cafe, a mini-golf course, and more. They also enjoy skateboarding together and being outside in nature.

Since being a member of the mentoring program, Addison said she feels more comfortable talking about her dad and has hope for her future again.

Since starting the Val’s PALs Mentoring Program, Valerie’s House has paired 30 children with caring adult role models to give them the additional support they need after their loss. The connections made through this program help create everlasting bonds and remind the children that they are never grieving alone.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Val’s PALs Mentor, please visit our website under the “Get Involved” tab.

MAKE AN IMPACT!
Make an impact in a grieving child’s heart… by giving them a little piece of yours.

Become a Val’s PAL Mentor!
Valerie’s House is looking for caring adults with a heart to join our Inaugural Mentoring Program. Once a month is all it takes! Volunteer Today!
LISTEN UP!
Finding Comfort In Hearing Others Talk About Grief

When someone experiences the loss of a loved one, the path towards healing can be difficult to navigate. The world continues to move forward as if nothing happened, and it can feel very isolating. There is no right or wrong way to grieve but hearing from others who have gone through it can help people feel less alone.

The podcast is a great reference for counselors, teachers, and parents to understand more about how to help someone who is grieving. We hope that talking with individuals who have lost someone will help others get an idea of what they find helpful and what they find hurtful.

The future of grief support will continue to grow in ways that allow people across the world to feel connected, even if they aren't able to travel or meet with others.

Listen and subscribe to Grieve Love Heal on valerieshouse.org, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and other major podcast platforms.

We know that not everyone is able to attend an in-person support group, which is why we offer the Grieve Love Heal podcast. The podcast gives listeners the power to choose which topics to listen to. We release at least one episode a quarter, focusing on different aspects of grief.

The episodes feature interviews with guests and encourage open discussions about childhood bereavement. Society tends to discourage these conversations, but we believe it’s important to talk about it. At some point in our lives, we will all experience a loss. Dr. Shareefah, Ph.D., once said, "Grief is the secret promise to life." Some of the topics we focus on include helping kids return to school, continuing traditions after death, and the process of "re-grieving."

Valerie’s House Teen Jason

Valerie’s House Littles

Valerie’s House changed my world, honestly.
– Valerie’s House Teen

Valerie’s House

Valerie’s House Littles
VALERIE’S HOUSE TIPS
To Help Someone Who is Grieving

WHAT TO DO:

• Listen without interrupting, interpreting, evaluating, or offering advice.

• Acknowledge the person who died, bring them up, ask about memories.

• Validate their words by repeating what you hear them say, “I hear that you are very sad today. I’m here for you.”

• Encourage them to allow themselves to grieve.

• Remind them to take care of themselves (go for a walk, eat, exercise, sleep, etc.)

• Encourage them to allow themselves to grieve.

• Allow them to take a minute to step out of the room, get some air, or put their head down.

• Reassure them that their emotions are normal and that all grief is unique.

DO SAY THINGS LIKE:

• I will support you in any way I can.

• If you ever want to talk about your special person, I am here to listen.

• I have been thinking of you.

WHAT NOT TO DO:

• Expect the person to jump right back into activities.

• Suggest that someone has grieved long enough or needs to move on.

• Take their anger or other feelings personally. They are just trying to figure out how to react and adjust to the death.

DO NOT SAY THINGS LIKE:

• It could be worse...

• They are in a better place.

• At least...
CONGRATULATIONS!
Valerie's House Scholarship for Grieving Children

We awarded $50,000 in college scholarships for graduating high school seniors who have come through and found support in the Valerie's House grief-support program. This is the first year we have offered scholarships of $2,500 per year for four years for a total of $10,000 per student. Five local students were chosen based on an essay they each wrote about their personal grief story and how their loss shaped them into the person they are and the person they want to become.

The scholarship recipients are:
• Alexis Dehetre of Fort Myers, who graduated from Mariner High School and plans to attend Florida Gulf Coast University.
• Mackenzie Francois of Naples, who graduated from Gulf Coast High School and plans to attend Florida Gulf Coast University.
• Taylor Gagnon of Fort Myers, who graduated from Bishop Verot High School and attends Nova Southeastern University.
• Coral Morley of Naples, who graduated from Naples High School and plans to attend the University of Georgia.
• Allison Stenza of Naples, who graduated from Barron Collier High School and plans to attend Florida Atlantic University.

“This is the next step in the grieving process to help these young adults who have lost a loved one,” said Valerie’s House Founder and CEO Angela Melvin. “We are very grateful to our donors who have made this scholarship program possible.”
After fighting breast cancer for a little over a year and a half, Shannon lost her battle in August 2020. Brock lost the love of his life, and Zane and Izik were left without a mother. Shortly after, the funeral home referred Brock to Valerie's House. His boys were hesitant and didn't want to go. But after touring the home, the boys were smiling from ear to ear. They could feel Shannon's presence and knew their mom wanted them to be there. The three of them have been coming to Valerie's House ever since as a Thursday night Fort Myers family.

“The energy around Valerie’s House is so pure,” Brock said. “This place has helped in more ways than I could ever imagine.”

Brock and the boys found comfort in being around others who have also lost a loved one. It was reassuring for them to know that the feelings they were experiencing were normal. Brock noticed the boys slowly begin to open up and get things off their chests. He knew this was the place. Brock encourages new families coming into the program to just give it a try and see what it’s like.

“When you lose everything, you have nothing else to lose, so why not give it a try,” Brock said. “Find out you’re not alone with the thoughts in your head.”
STORIES OF INSPIRATION
The Harbin Family

It’s been three years since Adrienne Harbin’s ex-husband died, but she said there are still moments where it feels like it’s happening for the first time all over again.

“It was the most devastating moment of my life,” Adrienne said. “I was numb and floating through life for a few months. Though it’s gotten better, I don’t think it will be something I will ever get over. But, I will hopefully move forward.”

Adrienne met her ex-husband, Jeff, when they were children. The couple married young and had two kids, Jackson and Savannah, who are now teenagers that come to Valerie’s House–Naples.

Jeff struggled with his mental health towards the end of the couple’s 20-year marriage, and he and Adrienne got divorced in June 2018. Seven months later, Jeff died by suicide.

Adrienne was left a widow to grieve along with her children. Looking to heal from their loss, the Harbin family began coming to group night at Valerie’s House in November 2019.

Savannah, who was only 11 years old when her father died, said she doesn’t know where she would be without Valerie’s House.

“It has helped me tremendously,” Savannah said. “It has helped my mental health and made me feel more confident and less ashamed about my situation. I feel less alone.”

Since coming to group night, Savannah has learned various coping skills and healthy ways to express her emotions. She’s discovered her passion for music and uses songwriting to process the death of her father.

The Harbin family now feels more comfortable talking about their loss and sharing memories with one another. Adrienne and her children have also become passionate about raising awareness of grief resources and hope their story will inspire others to reach out for help.

“Valerie’s House has helped my kids connect to other children that have lost parents,” Adrienne said. “There are more kids than we realize that are dealing with this type of loss. It’s a huge need, and one I did not realize until I became a part of it.”
STORIES OF INSPIRATION
The Morley Family

Veronica Morley knows what it's like to grow up without a father. Her dad died when she was a teenager. Veronica is now a mother of two daughters and is walking a new part of her grief journey with them.

Veronica is a Valerie’s House–Naples caregiver grieving the loss of her husband. He died suddenly of unexpected heart complications in August 2016. She and her two teenage daughters, Coral and Caprice, have been attending group night since mid-2017 to grieve their loss.

"Valerie’s House has been a saving grace to my family," Veronica said. "I do know what it feels like to grieve as a child, and Valerie’s House has become my safe space. It’s a place where I can openly be a widow."

After the loss of her husband, Veronica began to withdraw from her friends and family. Valerie’s House has given her and her children a place to freely talk about their grief and express their emotions. Veronica is grateful that her girls will not have to feel alone in their grief like she did as a child.

“One of the first experiences my daughters had at Valerie’s House was realizing that this happens to a lot of people. That alone was a huge relief," Veronica said. "It’s important for them to know they are not the only ones going through this."

Veronica strives to keep the memory of her husband alive by talking about him and honoring his life. Coral and Caprice also have yearly traditions to remember their father. Their favorite is when they release balloons with notes attached to them on his birthday and on the day he died.

“When my husband died, my foundation was moved out of my feet, and it felt like I was in quicksand," Veronica said. "I tell my girls that life is not supposed to be easy. But, life is full of happy moments. Valerie’s House has encouraged us to be strong and to keep on going.”
Monday night, Punta Gorda attendee Shelby describes Valerie’s House as a home away from home.

Her grandparents, Debi and Michael, have played an active role in raising Shelby since she was born. Shelby is now six years old and has only ever known a distant relationship with her parents.

Both of them have struggled with addiction, with her mother in and out of rehab and her father facing incarceration.

Last year, Shelby’s dad died of an overdose on the day of her fifth birthday party, and her mother currently lives out of state.

“I like coming to group night at Valerie’s House because everyone is the same as me,” Shelby said. “Everyone’s mom, dad, or pop-pop has died. I can actually talk to someone who is just like me.”

Shelby moved to Florida with her grandparents when she was in kindergarten after they lost their family-owned business. She left her school, friends, home, and extended family behind.

After experiencing so much personal loss, Valerie’s House provided Shelby and her grandparents with an additional support system and let them know they were not alone. “Valerie’s House has taught me there are no right or wrong ways to grieve, and I can embrace my anger and not be overrun by the guilt,” Debi said. “Shelby looks forward to coming to the meetings. There is never any push back.”

The family began attending Valerie’s House in December of 2019 after a recommendation from Shelby’s school. In addition to being a member of our peer grief-support groups, Shelby is also a mentee in the Val’s PALs Mentoring Program.

“We are hoping that Shelby will make a connection and learn that all adults will not abandon [her],” Debi said. “She speaks of several of the other children [in her group] as her friends. Shelby does not feel quite as isolated as she first did.”

Some of Shelby’s favorite family activities include going to the beach, swimming at the pool, going out to eat, and cooking with her grandparents.

Valerie’s House has helped Shelby and her family work through their loss together, giving them hope for the future.

“I like coming to group night at Valerie’s House because everyone is the same as me.”

SHELBY
AGE 6, LOSS OF FATHER

Shelby attends group night at Valerie’s House–Punta Gorda.
THANK YOU
for Helping Grieving Children & Families

Valerie's House Group Facilitators are the people who work directly with our grieving children, teens, and adults and provide support as they work through their grief. Facilitators listen, encourage, and engage children and teens in their peer-support groups. They are compassionate, understanding, and supportive volunteers who remind the kids that they are not alone in their grief. Valerie's House provides the training; they provide the love. Thank you to our Group Facilitators.

Group Facilitators

Adriane Beatty
Alexandra Evans
Aman Singh Nemitz
Amy Strom
Angela Melvin
Andrea Barrios
Ashley McNamara
Atia Hart
Autumn Wright
Bradley Brown
Brooke Hardy
Calli Lowe
Carl Fischer Jr.
Carley Watson
Carly Snyder
Carol Geiger
Carole Bugglin
Caroline Chadbourne
Carolyn Vickery
Chandler Spencer
Christa Huseby
Cliff Smith
Corey & Cabela Waite
Christine Carey

Clementina Hoegler
Cory Jannasch
Courtney McGovern
Crista O'Keefe Brandt
Danielle Myers
Danielle Steele
Deborah DeHays
Denise Prospero
Devin Edgar
Dianna Whitman
Edward Seitz
Elizabeth Wright
Genessa Penrod
Haley Thalheimer
Heather Payne
Janice Church
Jazzmen Williams
Jeanette Burke
Jeanne Larson
Jeffrey Neverling
Jena Lewis
Jennifer Fischer
Jennifer Diaz
Jillian Johnson

Joanne Markee
John Price
John Mendes
Kaitlyn Carey
Karen Chilutti
Katelyn Marchetti
Kenneth Barrios
Kim Kane
Kylie McQueen
Laree Lowe
Linda Raatz
Luke Carney
Marianne Click
Martha "Lynn" Pederson
Mary Cross
Melinda Lynch
Melody Madigan
Mike McMurray
Molly Buck
Monika Urbanska
Muskaan Soni
Nancy Nicotra
Nancy Thalheimer

Nina Mendes
Rise Wells
Rochelle Lunsford
Rudy Estrella
Samantha Esposito
Sara Brand
Sarah Haidar
Shamara Nichols
Sheridan LoCicero
Sophia Howell
Staci VanSlambrouck
Stacy Johnson
Stephanie Ross
Susan Schlenker-Geiger
Susan Weeks
Suzy Goheen
Tara Zajas
Theresa Mills
Tim Buck
Todd Helt
Tracy Miller
Val Gill
Vanessa Lee

Interested in becoming a group facilitator? Visit valerieshouse.org and see the Get Involved tab.
THANK YOU

Valerie’s Angels

We are grateful to our amazing community for its support of grieving families in Southwest Florida and beyond. Below is a list of individuals and organizations who donated $5,000 or more to help grieving families in between January 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022. Thank you for being Valerie’s Angels!

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