Safe Crossings Program:
Grief Support Services for Children & Teens in the Community and in Schools

What is Safe Crossings?
Safe Crossings is Providence Hospice of Seattle’s anticipatory grief and bereavement program for children and teens. Founded in 1991, Safe Crossings has been offering community outreach programs to public and private schools in King County since 1995. The Safe Crossings staff includes masters-level counselors who are trained to provide consultation, support, and education regarding children’s grief responses. Services are offered at no cost for families, though donations are greatly appreciated.

How can Safe Crossings help my school/my students?
Safe Crossings offers a variety of services to schools in King County, including:

- **Individual/Family Support:** If you are aware of a family who may benefit from individual or family grief counseling support, and they have experienced or will soon experience a death loss, you can refer the family to our support services. You can either provide our contact information to the family or obtain consent from the family for us to reach out to them. Contact us directly at 206-749-7723.

- **Consultation:** Safe Crossings counselors are available to consult with school counselors, principals, and other school staff when grief education and support are necessary for individual students or student groups, or when specific situations arise where counseling for anticipatory grief or bereavement would be appropriate (e.g., student or staff illness or death).

- **Support Groups:** At the request of a school counselor or other school staff, Safe Crossings can provide ongoing support to grieving students in a school through a six- to eight-week school-based support group. Each school-based support group is co-facilitated by a Safe Crossings counselor and a counselor in the individual school. The school-based support group curriculum is designed to educate the students about normal and complicated grief responses, as well as to reinforce and support the uniqueness of each individual’s physical, emotional, and spiritual grief process. School groups can help decrease a student’s isolation, as well as instill hope that it is possible to live, find strength, and grow through one’s personal grief.

- **Information about Safe Crossings Events and Services:** Safe Crossings sponsors free events and support groups for children and parents throughout the year, as well as an annual weekend camp for bereaved children and teens (Camp Erin-King County). We can provide information about our events and services to school counselors, and we strongly encourage them to pass on this information to families as appropriate.

How can I learn more about Safe Crossings services?
For more information about Safe Crossings services, or to request a consultation, please contact Amy Thompson, Safe Crossings Coordinator, at 206-749-7723, or e-mail amy.thompson2@providence.org. You can also access information about upcoming Safe Crossings groups and events via our Web site, https://washington.providence.org/services-directory/services/s/safe-crossings-childrens-grief-program. For Camp Erin information and application request forms, please contact Nicole Sotkiewicz at 206-749-7689 or Nicole.Sotkiewicz@providence.org.