

SAN ANTONIO BUSINESS JOURNAL

Children's Bereavement Center of **SOUTH TEXAS**

SMALL OR MIDSIZE NONPROFIT



The Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas has been the sole provider of grief support for children and families across San Antonio for more than 20 years.

Founded in 1997, the center's mission is to foster healing for grieving youth, families and the community. The center operates six days a week and helps more more than 1,600 people annually through peer support groups and individual counseling. Each year, there is greater demand for its services.

This past summer, the Bereavement Center – in collaboration with the START Center for Cancer Care and Austin-based Wonders & Worries – began a new program working with children who have loved ones affected by illnesses such as cancer. The hope is that children in this program will never need the Bereavement Center. But if they do, they will have established a trusted relationship with their counselors and the center.

The center has initiated alliances, including the Alamo Area Teen Suicide Coalition and Safe Sleep Coalition, to collaborate toward addressing children's mental health and safety. It also has an initiative that enables professionals, educators and clergy to strengthen their ability to assist children and families grieving a loss. Through the Grief Education Institute, people build tools so no child walks through such a painful process alone. Subsequently, with the American Red Cross, the center created Kids Corps, a community response team of mental health professionals ready to respond to disasters.



COURTESY OF CHILDREN'S BEREAVEMENT CENTER OF SOUTH TEXAS

How does your organization use philanthropy to bring about change and build stronger communities, while aligning social responsibility with performance and brand? Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas recognizes it takes community effort to provide healing to children and families following the loss of a loved one. ... And, with San Antonio being dubbed "Military City USA," the organization understands the importance of working within our military community.

Does your company focus its efforts on contributing to nonprofits with a certain mission and why? Children's Bereavement Center

of South Texas focuses on partnering with other nonprofits, community partners and businesses that align with its mission "to foster healing for grieving children and youth, their families and the community."

What advice do you have for someone who would like to get involved with your company's philanthropic efforts? The best way to find out how you can volunteer your time and resources is to visit www.cbct.org. From there you can find information on how you can volunteer, such as being trained as a grief support group facilitator or a greeter.

– Answers by Executive Director Marian Sokol