



### Snapshot: Calvary Hospital's Bereavement Support Services

- All support groups and Calvary's Camp Compass® are free of charge, and integral to Calvary's mission of compassion and non-abandonment.
- We welcome adults, children and teens of all faith traditions and backgrounds.
- Groups, led by masters prepared counselors, use role-play, pet therapy, and art activities to help participants express their feelings openly, in a safe environment.
- Groups are open to anyone who has lost a loved one, whether at Calvary Hospital, Calvary@Home, or in the community at large. Most of the children we serve are from the community, including many foster children.
- All children, tween and teen group participants are invited to Calvary's Camp Compass®, a one-week bereavement camp held at Kingsborough Community College. With a camper/counselor ratio of 2:1, the children can always find someone to talk to.
- We have junior counselors – college students who graduated from our program – who we hire to mentor the younger children.

For more information please contact:

**Sherry R. Schachter, PhD, FT**

Director of Bereavement Services,  
Calvary Hospital and Home Hospice

(718) 518-2125 • [sschachter@calvaryhospital.org](mailto:sschachter@calvaryhospital.org)

(718) 518-2173 • [lpappalardi@calvaryhospital.org](mailto:lpappalardi@calvaryhospital.org)

*Bereavement services are not reimbursable by public or private insurance. To support bereavement services for children and teens with a tax-deductible gift to the Calvary Fund, call (718) 518-2077, or visit [www.calvaryhospital.org/childrensbereavement](http://www.calvaryhospital.org/childrensbereavement).*

## Calvary Hospital Bereavement Support Services



Creating Supportive Communities to Help Bereaved Family Members Heal

Calvary Hospital's mission has always been to care for adult patients with advanced cancer and other life-limiting illnesses.

- We provide inpatient care in the Bronx, our Brooklyn Satellite, The Dawn Greene Hospice in Manhattan, and Ozanam Hall in Queens.
- Calvary also provides home care and hospice for patients in the privacy and comfort of their own home.

The Hospital first began offering bereavement support groups more than 20 years ago for the families of our patients. **Bereavement support is integral to Calvary's core mission of compassion and non-abandonment.**

In the New York metropolitan area, the Hospital has established itself as a resource for grieving families. It offers free bereavement support groups for adults, children, and teens, and referrals for additional support if necessary.

Calvary's bereavement support is available to anyone who has lost a loved one, whether that person was a patient in the Hospital or at home, or someone from the larger community whose death was attributable to illness, accident, suicide or violence.

Throughout the greater New York area, Calvary is reaching more people than ever before.

**CALVARY  
HOSPITAL**

Where Life Continues

**CALVARY  
HOSPITAL**

Where Life Continues

Our bereavement support groups are available in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan.



### Adult Support Groups

Today, more than a dozen groups meet regularly in the Bronx, downtown Brooklyn and on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, for hundreds of adults, children and teens.

Calvary's adult groups are organized by one's relationship to the deceased. Thus, there are groups for young bereaved spouses, older bereaved spouses, adult children, parents, siblings, and one conducted entirely in Spanish.

The Hospital offers three unique groups: one geared to the needs of young adults ages 18-25, one for men of all ages, and a psychotherapy group for adults who have already attended a previous bereavement support group.

### Children, Tween and Teen Groups

Our children's bereavement program includes:

- Precious Moments groups – for children ages 6-11;
- Groups for tweens—ages 10-12 and teens—ages 12-17; and
- Calvary's Camp Compass®, a week-long summer day camp that allows children a daily opportunity to remember and honor the loved one that they lost.

Age-appropriate peer groups, led by masters prepared counselors, allow children to see that they are not the only

ones whose loved one has died. Groups are a safe, supportive space, where children and teens can share their experiences and feelings openly.

In group, the children use various modalities – story-telling, arts and crafts, puppetry, pet therapy, and music – to talk about their loved ones who have died, create rituals to memorialize them, and express their feelings within an accepting, loving environment. They also learn that they can be children and play and have fun, while still keeping their loved one close to their hearts.

### Calvary's Camp Compass®

Established in 1997, Calvary's Camp Compass® represents a significant commitment from all levels of the Hospital. Camp, held at Kingsborough Community College, is staffed by Calvary personnel from every department, who volunteer to be counselors.

- We also hire a number of teachers and guidance counselors from area schools, to accommodate the record number of campers who attend.
- We offer a camper-counselor ratio of 2:1, so that the children can always find someone to talk to or be with.

*"Every day since my mother was murdered I have been living a nightmare." — Support Group Participant, age 13*

It is impossible to measure the impact Calvary's bereavement support programs have on our children and teens. Groups and camp become a lifeline for children and teens who have nowhere else to turn to find understanding and guidance as they struggle to cope with the death of a loved one. Children are often forgotten when a family suffers a tragedy. At Calvary, we not only remember them, but we also listen and provide critically needed, real-life support at a difficult time.

### Sharing Our Expertise

Each year, Calvary shares its bereavement expertise with professionals from healthcare, education and social service fields in two main ways:

- Ten-week bereavement course featuring Calvary experts
- Four-week "Mentors through Mourning" program for funeral directors and mental health clinicians

Both courses are offered at our Bronx campus and in downtown Brooklyn.

Calvary's Bereavement Support staff also participate each year in professional conferences in the U.S. and across the globe, about death and dying.