

Mission Statement

Cornerstone of Hope is dedicated to providing support, education, and hope for the grieving.



Guided by Christian values of compassion and service, we welcome and serve all seeking support.



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For more information or to make a donation, contact:

Cornerstone of Hope
5905 Brecksville Road
Independence, Ohio 44131
216.524.3787
216.524.3743 fax
www.cornerstoneofhope.org

“Precious & Many”

Sonny Geraci performed his multi-million selling hit, “Precious & Few” to the Cornerstone faithful who were “precious and many”. Sonny entertained our guests as they entered the main ball room of the 5th Annual Benefit Gala. The Gala was once again a sold out event at the Embassy Suites in Independence, Ohio. Over 700 people attended the evening! After construction of our new grief center is completed, we may have to consider adding more space to the Embassy Ball Room!



FOX 8 Morning Show hostess, Stefani Schaefer welcomed the sold out crowd and introduced a Cleveland legend, Sam Rutigliano. Our community is so blessed to have Stefani back in town - Welcome Back Stefani!

Coach Sam Rutigliano set the tone for the evening as he demanded silence before his inspirational words. Everyone received a real taste of what it must have been like to get a pre-game pep talk from Coach Rutigliano.

Dorothy Savage, wife of Cleveland Browns General Manager Phil Savage, graced the audience with her tender voice as photos scrolled on the large screens in memory of loved ones who have passed away.

Cornerstone of Hope's Clinical Director, Julia Ellifritt, stated the top ten reasons why Cornerstone of Hope is the premier resource and support center for grieving families in Northeast Ohio. Numerous attendees commented, “I didn't know Cornerstone was able to provide customized services to schools, funeral homes and local businesses.”

The tears were also “precious and many” as Founders, Christi and Mark Tripodi, witnessed a video presentation for the first time explaining their personal experience of losing their son, Bobby, and the need for grief support to individuals of all ages. Bobby's pictures filled the hearts of all, and left not a single dry eye.

Our commitment to transform pain into purpose also resonated with the guests as they generously participated in the various raffles, silent and live auctions. Our auctioneer, Ed Phister III, and live auction hosts, Chip Kullik and Jimmy Malone from Cleveland's WMJI Majic 105.7 FM, had everything to do with creating tears of joy for Cornerstone's ministry. They kept the live auction “lively” as they entertained and encouraged the bidders to remember the cause. They even dedicated their Monday morning show after the Gala to tell Clevelanders what a great organization Cornerstone of Hope is and how many people we are helping. THANK YOU Ed, Chip and Jimmy! Your efforts helped us reach a new pinnacle as the entire evening raised \$270,000 to serve those who seek support.



Cornerstone Unveils Their New Logo

Julia Ellifritt, Clinical Director

In conjunction with the opening of our new facility, Cornerstone is pleased to unveil our new logo! Over the past five years, we've grown as an organization, increased our staff and service offerings, and have become more intentional in our desire to serve people in all walks of life, from a Christian foundation. And that foundation is rooted in *hope*. Specifically the *hope* we have in Christ to one day see our loved ones again; the *hope* we have that life can be meaningful again, even after the death of a precious loved one; and the *hope* in the promise of the Bible that says if we sow in mourning, we will reap joy. As we move into our new facility, and this next season of our ministry, we wanted a logo that reflected hope, and we have found it with this design.



A HOME FOR THE GRIEVING

The HOPE breaking through the heart is symbolic of the hope that can break through the hearts of the bereaved, even in the midst of the greatest pain they've ever experienced. Of course, that hope isn't always felt initially, but with encouragement, love and support, grievors can begin to believe in hope for their lives and hope for their individual circumstances. At Cornerstone we are privileged to walk with the bereaved, offer hope and support, and watch the transformation in people's lives.

Wishing You Near

by Nick Alcantara

I have come to realize
That time is so dear
When you are no longer here
I cling to memories,
Sweet bitter memories
That brings you near
If only
I can touch you again
Without bringing back the pain
Feeling your presence
That you are not really
Very far away
That would bring back
The joy and magic
Of being again
Together
I know you are
Just a whisper away.

Cornerstone of Hope Estate Sale

Thursday, May 8th 8:00 am - 3:00pm

Old Location
6600 East Schaaf Road
Independence, Ohio 44131

*Do you have a child going off to college?
Need Office Equipment?*

office furniture ♥ couches ♥ decorative items
miscellaneous items ♥ file cabinets

Call 216-524-3787 with any questions or for directions.

All proceeds benefit Cornerstone of Hope.

Everything
Must Go!



Wish List:

- Postage stamps
- Heavy duty paper cutter
- Paper products:
 - toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, dinner size plates
- Cans of pop, bottles of water
- Disposable 35mm Cameras & Polaroid 600 film
- Large clear plastic storage bins
- Dolly for transporting heavy items
- Label Maker
- Trash bags
 - Sizes: 13 & 35 gallon
- White Laser labels
 - Sizes mailing 1 X 2-5/8, shipping 2"x4"
- DVD/Video Cabinet
- Coffee
- Irons
- White & Pastel copy paper
 - Weight: 20 or 24lb

TAKING F.L.I.G.H.T. *Families Living In Grief & Healing Together*

These 8-week groups are designed to allow families (children, teens and parents/Guardians) to all come on the same evening and receive age appropriate grief support. To register call 216-524-3787 or email julia@cornerstoneofhope.org.
Groups are held at Cornerstone of Hope 5905 Brecksville Road, Independence.

Dates: Orientation: Thursday, April 17, 2008, 5:30 pm
Group: Thursdays, April 24—June 12, 2008
Time: 5:30-7:30 pm (pizza & beverages provided)

Register by: Friday April 4, 2008
Materials Fee: \$25 per family

Dates: Orientation: Tuesday, June 17, 2008, 9:00 am
Group: Tuesday, June 24—August 12, 2008
Time: 9:00-11:00 am

Register by: Monday, June 2, 2008
Materials Fee: \$25 per family

TURNING THE CORNER

An 8-week support group offered to those grieving the death of a loved one. To register or for additional information please call 216-524-3787 or email julia@cornerstoneofhope.org.

Groups are held at Cornerstone of Hope 5905 Brecksville Road, Independence.

Daytime Groups

Date: Fridays April 25—June 13, 2008
Time: 1:00-3:00pm (light refreshments)

Register by: Friday April 18, 2008

Date: Fridays June 27—August 22, 2008
Time: 1:00-3:00pm (light refreshments)

Register by: Monday, June 2, 2008

Evening Group

Date: Wednesday April 23—June 11, 2008
Time: 5:30—7:30pm (light supper)

Register by: Friday April 18, 2008

Date: Wednesday June 25—August 13, 2008
Time: 5:30—7:30pm (light supper)

Register by: Monday, June 2, 2008

SUICIDE SURVIVOR SUPPORT GROUPS

An 8-week support group for families (ages 6-adult) facing the tragic loss of suicide. Grief education is provided in each group with particular attention to the unique needs and issues that arise due to a loss by suicide. Families are able to find emotional support amongst others who understand the depth of their pain. To register or for additional information please call 216-524-3787 or email julia@cornerstoneofhope.org.

Groups are held at Cornerstone of Hope 5905 Brecksville Road, Independence.

Orientation: Monday, April 14, 2008 at 5:30 pm
Group Dates: Mondays, April 21 - June 9, 2008

Register by: Wednesday, April 9, 2008
Time: 5:30 - 7:30 pm (pizza provided)

Orientation: Monday, June 16, 2008 at 5:30 pm
Group Dates: Mondays, June 23 - August 11, 2008

Register by: Monday, June 2, 2008
Time: 5:30 - 7:30 pm (pizza provided)

MONTHLY GROUPS & INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING

SAVE THE DATE ~ MEMORIAL BUTTERFLY RELEASE

All are welcome to come and release a butterfly in memory of your loved one.

Refreshments following the ceremony. Donation of \$15 per butterfly.

Tuesday June 17, 2008 6:00—7:00pm All butterfly orders must be received by Tuesday May 20, 2008



MONTHLY FAMILY WORKSHOPS

Family workshops are intended for grieving children ages 5-18 and their parent(s) or caregiver(s). These workshops give families a chance to socialize, memorialize and find connections and support in a friendly, fun atmosphere. (Children may not attend workshops on their own).

Cinco de Mayo at our new Casa Come to a party at the New Cornerstone Home, 5905 Brecksville Rd. Enjoy a fun potluck with make your own tacos and taco salads. We'll have a Piñata, prizes, face painting and crafts.

Tuesday May 6, 2008 5:30-7:30pm Register by April 29, 2008

Memorial Butterfly Release All are welcome to come and release a butterfly in memory of your loved one. Refreshments following the ceremony. Minimum donation of \$15 per butterfly.

Tuesday June 17, 2008 6:00—7:00pm All butterfly orders must be received by Tuesday May 20, 2008

LIVING THE JOURNEY - MONTHLY ADULT SUPPORT

Living the Journey is not about letting go of the past, but about embracing the future with hope, with friends who are companions along the same journey. We care and want to see you embracing life. Please join us for any or all of our programs. To RSVP or get more information on any of the programs, please call Isabella at 216-524-3787

Bingo Night Back by popular demand! Enjoy a night of bingo and prizes.

Tuesday April 15, 2008 5:30—7:30pm Register by April 9, 2008

Dinner and a Walk on the Canal Come enjoy dinner at Your's Truly followed by a walk along the historic towpath.

Tuesday May 20, 2008 5:30-7:30pm Register by May 16, 2008

Memorial Butterfly Release All are welcome to come and release a butterfly in memory of your loved one. Refreshments following the ceremony. Donation of \$15 per butterfly.

Tuesday June 17, 2008 6:00—7:00pm All butterfly orders must be received by Tuesday May 20, 2008

JUST BETWEEN US ~ YOUNG WIDOWS GROUP

April 8, 2008 5:30pm-7:30pm at the new Cornerstone of Hope Home, 5905 Brecksville Rd.

May 13, 2008 5:30-7:30pm at Mavis Winkles Restaurant, 5505 Rockside Rd.

June 10, 2008 5:30-7:30pm at Cornerstone of Hope, 5905 Brecksville Rd.

INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING

Individuals (Adults, Children and Teens) seeking grief support and counseling services after the death of a loved one are eligible for bereavement services at Cornerstone of Hope. Please call to schedule an appointment with our grief counselor to determine readiness for group support and individual counseling needs. Our professional staff is dedicated to guiding the bereaved on the path toward hope and healing. In the spirit of Christ, we welcome and serve all seeking support.

* Minimal fee for service

MONTHLY PROFESSIONAL SERIES

Our monthly workshops include dinner, handouts, 3 CEU's (RN, SW, Nurse, Counselor, FD and Psychologists) and a presentation from a professional in the community. Cost is \$30. The program begins with dinner at 5:00pm and the presentation from 5:30—8:30pm. Series is held at Cornerstone of Hope 5905 Brecksville Rd.

Personal Spirituality for Ministry presented by Sr. Maureen McCarthy

Using the story of Bartimaeus, we will explore how our personal beliefs and spirituality influence our ministry.

Wednesday April 16, 2008

Register By Friday April 11, 2008

Music Therapy with the Bereaved presented by John Monnin

Alternative therapies have complemented traditional therapies in many settings. This workshop will focus on music therapy, and how music can be used therapeutically with the bereaved.

Wednesday May 21, 2008

Register By Friday May 16, 2008

Professional Ethics in Mental Health Care presented by Dr. John Betschler

Beyond the duty "not to harm," professional mental health clinicians bear responsibility at every level to practice ethically. This workshop focuses on the underlying "intimate" relationship, common ethical issues, internet counseling, disclosure matters, and creating a professional will.

Wednesday June 18, 2008

Register By Friday June 13, 2008

THE GRIEF GROUP is a network of caring individuals who work with the bereaved. Come share the programs that are happening at your agency, and receive FREE CEU's for RN, SW, C, FD, and Psychologist.

Time: 8am to 10am at Cornerstone of Hope, 5905 Brecksville Rd. Continental breakfast provided.

April 17 ~ Grief and Mental Illness

July 17 ~ Grief gets Adopted

May 15 ~ Grief gets MADD

August 21 ~ Grief and the HMO

June 19 ~ Grief goes to Jail

PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS

Hospice Foundation of America Teleconference—Living with Grief: Children & Adolescents

Date: Wednesday April 16, 2008

Register By: Friday March 28, 2008

Time: 1:30pm-4:30pm

CEU's: 3 CEU's for SW, C, FD, RN, Psychologist

Location: Cornerstone of Hope, 5905 Brecksville Road, Independence

Cost: Free, lunch included. There is a \$10 fee for CEU's, if needed.

The Pursuit of Comfort – Part 3

Have you ever accidentally stubbed your little toe on something? Or what about, while nailing a nail to hang a picture, accidentally smacking your finger with the hammer? I've done both and let me tell you, neither feel very good, in fact it just plain hurts. Pain is not very comforting.

I remember a few years ago, I had an appendectomy and to be honest the recovery and the pain wasn't all that bad. But about a week after my surgery, I developed an incision infection. While I will spare you the gruesome details, let me tell you, the procedure to "cure" me seem worse than the disease. Prior to the "procedure," I asked my doctor if it would hurt and his response was "Trust me, I'm your doctor." When it was all over, it was pretty obvious he never had done to him what he had just done to me. And if he had, his answer to my question would have been different and I am pretty sure he would have changed his procedure too! He didn't understand my pain. Been there, done that wasn't in his repertoire. He obviously knew what he was doing; he just didn't have experience from my side of the bed. But to be fair, few of us understand someone else's pain.

As a grief counselor, I've listened to countless stories of other people's pain. I have talked with persons whose fathers have died, yet I fail to fully grasp and understand their loss and pain. I understand what it was for me when my father died nearly 5 years ago, but my pain and loss is different, even though it sounds remotely the same. I have sat by people who have had a sibling die, I hear them, I will even walk with them, but to know exactly what they are feeling and experiencing, impossible. Yes, my sister died. And again, I understand my pain and suffering, but yours, hardly. But...I know someone who identifies and knows exactly what you are feeling and experiencing. He knows your pain. He's been there and done that. His name? Jesus.

In the "Spiritual Corner" we have been looking at 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 through the lens of pursuing comfort. In the first article, we know that true comfort comes from God and in the second article we found that He dispenses His comfort through others, our families and friends. Another way God dispenses his comfort is through His Son, Jesus. In our passage it says, "For just as the *sufferings of Christ* flow over into our lives, so also through *Christ our comfort* overflows" (verse 5, emphasis mine). In other words...Jesus has been there and done that. When we are experiencing pain and Jesus says, "Trust me, I'm your Savior"...trust Him. As He listens to your countless prayers that speak of your pain...He understands fully. Moreover, Christ is right there beside you, suffering right alongside with you. When you realize that you have someone who has been there and done that standing right beside you...you may suddenly realize that you don't feel so alone anymore. Amen. When the world tries and fails to understand, know that Christ does. When the world touches you with comfort, take it. But know that everyday Christ is standing right beside you giving you the best comfort of all. His presence, His understanding and His shoulder. Amen.

If you missed Part 1 and 2 you can read them at www.cornerstoneofhope.org/newsletter.html

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Shower of Hope Open House

Saturday, April 26 from 11:00am - 2:00pm

If you would like to attend our Shower of Hope, please call Cornerstone of Hope at 216-524-3787 immediately. Lunch, desserts, coffee and tea will be served. Come and get a sneak peak of our new bereavement center before our grand opening. We are registered at Bed, Bath, and Beyond, Target, and Sears.



Grand Opening Open House Celebrations

Funeral Directors, Pastors, Church Leaders

sponsored by Milano Monuments

Thursday, May 29 from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

This evening is specifically targeted for local funeral directors, their staff, and all church leaders and their respective lay group leaders. Come and receive a personal tour of our amazing new bereavement center, learn more about the programs that we offer, and gather information about becoming an official Cornerstone of Hope Partner. Please call 216-524-3787 or e-mail hope@cornerstoneofhope.org to RSVP by Tuesday, May 27.

Corporations and Local Businesses

Friday, May 30 from 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Executives, human resource directors, their related staff, and local business owners are invited to attend this session. Tour the entire facility, learn more about our EAP services, consider hosting a corporate meeting in our home like setting, gather information about joining our Corporate Partnership Program and various corporate sponsorship opportunities. Please call 216-524-3787 or e-mail hope@cornerstoneofhope.org to RSVP by Friday, May 23.

Professionals, Hospitals, & Hospices

Friday, May 30 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Social workers, psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors, art therapists, child and family life specialists, nurses, activity directors, bereavement coordinators and other licensed professionals are invited to attend this session. Receive a detailed tour of each theme room, learn about our complete service offerings, and gather information about how we can work together to enhance your own client services. Please call 216-524-3787 or e-mail hope@cornerstoneofhope.org to RSVP by Friday, May 23.

Schools & Universities

Friday, May 30 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm

School administrators, guidance counselors, teachers, aides, pupil service directors, crisis management teams, school psychologists and student group leaders are invited to attend this session. Tour the entire facility, ask our panel of clinicians about handling grief in the schools, learn about our school crisis team trainings, and how we can serve an entire school or an individual student who is seeking grief support. Please call 216-524-3787 or e-mail hope@cornerstoneofhope.org to RSVP by Friday, May 23.

Community Open House

Saturday, July 12 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Open to the public. Come to our Ice Cream Open House by yourself or with your family. Tour the facility, learn about our programs, sign-up to become a volunteer, gather resources and other information to take back to your community, church, employer, or school. Please call 216-524-3787 or e-mail hope@cornerstoneofhope.org to RSVP by Monday, July 7.

Non-Profits & Community Directors

Date to be determined

Cornerstone of Hope will host a special lunch for non-profit executives, their key personnel, and community services directors after Labor Day. Please call 216-524-3787 or e-mail hope@cornerstoneofhope.org to receive a formal notification.



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A HOME FOR THE GRIEVING
5905 Brecksville Road
Independence, Ohio 44131
216.524.3787
216.524.3743 fax



Visit Our Website!
www.cornerstoneofhope.org

If you are receiving this newsletter or any other COH correspondence at more than one address, or if you wish to be taken off our mailing list, please contact us at Cornerstone of Hope.

SAVE THE DATE

**6th Annual
Golf Outing
& Family Fun
Weekend**

Sawmill Creek Resort
Huron, Ohio

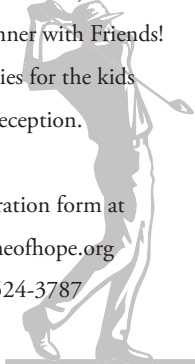
June 20-22, 2008

Friday - Golf Scramble with prizes
and awards, Silent Auction, Local
Celebrities, Steak Dinner with Friends!

Saturday - Activities for the kids
& Dinner Reception.



Download registration form at
www.cornerstoneofhope.org
or call 216-524-3787



Cornerstone of Hope's



**“Home is
Where the
Heart is III”**

Cornerstone of Hope
5905 Brecksville Road
Independence, Ohio 44131

**Friday
September 5, 2008**

Enjoy a unique outdoor dining experience
and an intimate look at our new home!

For more information, go to
www.cornerstoneofhope.org
or call 216-524-3787

**2nd Annual
Golf Scramble**

**Little Mountain
Country Club**
Concord, Ohio

**Monday
August 11, 2008**

FORE! Watch out East-siders!
Cornerstone of Hope is coming your way!
A variety of corporate sponsorships and
networking opportunities are available
while supporting a wonderful cause.

For more
information, go to
www.cornerstoneofhope.org
or call 216-524-3787



For more information regarding these events, call Cornerstone of Hope at 216-524-3787