

= The Dougy Center =

The Dougy Center , The National Center for Grieving Children & Families is a nonprofit organization based in Portland , Oregon that offers support groups and services to grieving children and young adults . Its peer support program and network of children 's grief services make the organization the first of its kind in the United States . 500 independent programs around the world are based on its model , more than 300 of which have staff who were trained by the organization 's staff . The Dougy Center serves 400 children and 250 adults from the Portland metropolitan area each month , free of charge . Its main building is located in the Creston @-@ Kenilworth neighborhood , and its satellite locations in Canby and Hillsboro are called The Dougy Center Walker 's House and The Dougy Center Linklater Commons , respectively .

The organization was founded in 1982 by Beverly Chappell , in tribute to Dougy Turno , who died of a brain tumor at age thirteen . In August 1981 , Dougy wrote a letter to Elisabeth Kübler @-@ Ross , a pioneer in near @-@ death studies , on the subject of his own death . This prompted Kübler @-@ Ross to connect Chappell with Dougy and his family , and Chappell to create support groups for grieving children . Since its establishment , more than 20 @,@ 000 children and their family members have received support from the organization .

In 2009 , an unidentified arsonist destroyed the center . Construction on a new building began in April 2012 , but in the interim , the center operated in Northeast Portland . Following \$ 4 @.@ 5 million in construction costs , the current 11 @,@ 750 @-@ square @-@ foot facility opened in February 2013 in its original location .

= = Mission and model = =

The Dougy Center , established in 1982 in Portland , Oregon offers support groups and services to grieving children . It has been described as a " safe haven where grief is normal " , and is assisted by support groups , professional staff , and trained volunteer facilitators . Groups are separated by age (for example , the " Littles " group is for children ages 3 ? 5) and type of death . Through a peer support model , children are encouraged to talk and play with one another , sharing their experiences in the process . Its peer support program and network of children 's grief services make the organization the first of its kind in the United States . 500 independent programs around the world are based on its model , more than 300 of which have staff who were trained by the organization 's staff . Its Summer Institute offers training for the leaders of other grief support programs .

The center serves 400 children and 250 adults each month , focusing its efforts on children and teens (ages 3 ? 18) and young adults (ages 19 ? 30) . Since its establishment , more than 20 @,@ 000 children and their family members in the Portland metropolitan area have benefited from The Dougy Center , free of charge . Support groups are offered in Canby , Hillsboro , and Portland . In 2004 , 140 volunteer facilitators donated more than 10 @,@ 500 hours of service to the center . The organization employs a staff of around fifteen individuals , and is supported by an advisory board and board of directors .

The Dougy Center 's main building contains round rooms designed with " creative " tunnels , some geared towards specific age groups ; interactive features , such as slides and toys ; and an art room . There exists a popular " Volcano Room " , which contains gymnastics padding , a punching bag , and soft objects , allowing children to " express their feelings in whatever form they 're comfortable with " .

The organization has satellite locations in Canby and Hillsboro , called The Dougy Center Walker 's House and The Dougy Center Linklater Commons , respectively . As of 2011 , the Hillsboro location serves 45 children and teens in three groups .

The Dougy Center is a registered 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization that has various revenue streams . According to Partnership Northwest , the center receives little government financial support and depends on donations from businesses , foundations , and individuals . In 2012 , the center received more than \$ 10 @,@ 000 from Regence Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Portland

Rose Festival , via the Regence Grand Floral Walk . Other funding sources have included a concert headlined by a local singer @-@ songwriter . The Dougy Center hosts an annual Reflection Benefit , which includes a silent auction , dinner , and live auction . Porsche Boxsters have been raffled off at the benefit for fifteen years . In April 2010 , Oregon Public Broadcasting sponsored a benefit event at Oaks Amusement Park called " Cookies with Cookie Monster " , featuring a walkaround plush Cookie Monster . The event raised awareness for a program from the producers of Sesame Street called " When Families Grieve " .

= = History = =

Beverly Chappell founded The Dougy Center in 1982 in tribute to Dougy Turno , who died of a brain tumor at age thirteen . In August 1981 , Dougy wrote a letter to psychiatrist and author Elisabeth Kübler @-@ Ross , a pioneer in near @-@ death studies , on the subject of his own death . This prompted Kübler @-@ Ross to connect Chappell with Dougy and his family , and Chappell to create support groups for grieving children . Despite Kübler @-@ Ross ' early influence on the organization , The Dougy Center does not subscribe to the Kübler @-@ Ross model (a series of five emotional stages experienced by survivors of an intimate 's death : denial , anger , bargaining , depression and acceptance) and has even expressed skepticism about the model .

In June 2009 , an unidentified arsonist destroyed the center . According to Schuurman , the center suffered three arson attempts previously : a fire burned the professional building three months prior and was followed by the discovery of a soda can filled with flammable liquid , then the burning down of the center 's play structure . Building and content losses were estimated at \$ 750 @,@ 000 . Business and financial records , as well as program materials were lost in the fire . The organization spent a year attempting to recover a " fair " insurance settlement , during which the building remained vacant and was subjected to vandalism (stolen copper pipes resulted in a flooded basement) . Deconstruction and demolition of the building began in May 2010 , following receipt of a \$ 1 @.@ 2 million settlement . During the construction of the new center , which began in April 2012 , the center operated on Northeast Glisan Street near 22nd Avenue in Northeast Portland and reportedly never cancelled a single support meeting .

On February 2 , 2013 , the center hosted a celebration to commemorate the completion and grand opening of its new facility . The 11 @,@ 750 @-@ square @-@ foot building , located at its original site on Southeast 52nd Avenue in Portland 's Creston @-@ Kenilworth neighborhood , cost \$ 4 @.@ 5 million and was designed by Scott Edwards Architecture and built by Bremik Construction . Donations and the insurance settlement supplied seventy percent of the construction costs .

= = Reception = =

In 2013 , Schuurman was awarded the Clinical Practice Award by Association for Death Education and Counseling , one of the oldest organizations in the field of dying , death and bereavement . In 2014 , the center 's reconstructed building design earned Scott Edwards Architecture an Award of Merit (also known as the Building Industry Community Spirit award) at the Gold Nugget Awards , which recognize " design excellence of U.S. and international projects submitted by builders , developers , architects and land planners " . The firm also received the Against All Odds Award at the 2014 Design Excellence Awards , presented by the Oregon chapter of the International Interior Design Association .

= = Publications = =

35 Ways to Help a Grieving Child . 35 Maneras de ayudar a un niño angustiado o apenado (in Spanish) . ISBN 978 @-@ 1 @-@ 890534 @-@ 08 @-@ 0 .

Helping Children Cope with Death . ISBN 1 @-@ 890534 @-@ 00 @-@ 5 . Cómo ayudar a un niño a sobrellevar una muerte (in Spanish) . ISBN 978 @-@ 1 @-@ 890534 @-@ 09 @-@ 7 .

Helping the Grieving Student : A Guide for Teachers . 1998 . ISBN 1 @-@ 890534 @-@ 01 @-@ 3

Helping Teens Cope with Death . 1999 . ISBN 1 890534 02 1 . Ayuda para adolescents sobrellevar una muerte de un querido (in Spanish) . ISBN 978 1 890534 12 7 .

I wish I was in a lonely meadow (1999)

We don 't like remembering them as a field of grass (1991)

What About the Kids ? Understanding Their Needs in Funeral Planning & Services . 1999 . ISBN 1 890534 04 8 .

When Death Impacts Your School : A Guide for Administrators . 2000 . ISBN 1 890534 05 6 .