

**Buddy's Place of Pillars** is a family-based children's grief support program for children ages 4-18 who have experienced the death of a parent or significant caregiver. Buddy's Place offers children and their surviving parents a safe supportive atmosphere where they can express their grief and learn coping skills with others who have experienced a similar loss.

**Buddy's Place is looking for volunteers to help support our program in a variety of ways:**

***Become a Greeter!*** A greeter would assist Buddy's Place in their fall/spring programs, which run for 8 weeks. Once a week during the 8 week session, the volunteer would help to set up the facility for the program, as well as breaking things down at the end of the evening. The greeter would greet the families as they arrive and basically serve as a host until the session was set to begin. The volunteer would need to be available on Tuesdays, from 5:00 – 7:45pm. *(20 hour, 5 week training provided)*

***Child Care!*** On the fourth Monday of every month, Buddy's Place holds a monthly parent group. While the parents are participating in the group, there are children that need to be cared for. This volunteer would care for 4-5 children at a time (infants to middle school aged children) by playing games, coloring with them or helping with homework. The volunteer would need to be available every fourth Monday of the month, from 6:00 – 7:45pm. *(20 hour, 5 week training provided)*

***Provide a meal!*** Help Buddy's Place by making or providing a meal for a monthly gathering of clients. On the second Monday of every month, children and parents gather together to work on grief related activities. Typically, there are 20-40 people in attendance.

***Group Facilitators!*** We are looking for individuals with professional experience (i.e. social worker, counselor, teacher) to facilitate group sessions for children dealing with grief. We offer an 8 week support group in the fall and spring. We also will be starting an ongoing, every-other week peer support group. 5:00 – 8:00pm. *(20 hour, 5 week training provided)*

**The 20 hour, 5 week volunteer training session is scheduled as follows:**

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 5-9pm  
April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5-9pm  
April 29<sup>th</sup>, 5-9pm  
May 6<sup>th</sup>, 5-9pm  
May 10<sup>th</sup>, 5-9pm

Training will be held at Pillars' Western Springs office. The last training session will be held at LaGrange Memorial Hospital.

**If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Buddy's Place Director Kelly Huggins at 708-995-3751 or via e-mail at [khuggins@pillarscommunity.org](mailto:khuggins@pillarscommunity.org) Please respond no later than Monday, April 5, 2010.**

Thanks in advance for your help! We truly appreciate your support