



Bereaved Families – York Region
 An Association of Families Who Have Lost a Loved One Through Death

July 20th, 2016

Mayor Van Bynen
 Town of Newmarket
 395 Mulock Dr.
 Newmarket, ON L3Y 4Y9

Please for Mayor to present at butterfly release. Done - B. Bato

MAYOR'S OFFICE		
INCOMING MAIL	REFERRED TO	COPIED TO
COUNCIL		
CAO		
JUL 20 2016		
COMMISSIONER		
DEPARTMENT		
CLERKS		
CONCERNS		

Dear Mayor Tony Van Bynen,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, families, volunteers and staff at Bereaved Families – York Region we are proud to announce that this year marks the 25th anniversary of BFOYR providing programs and services throughout York Region.

Mission Statement: Bereaved Families of York Region (BFOYR) provides bereavement support services by trained volunteers and staff to individuals and families grieving the death of a loved one.

Vision: BFOYR provides a lifeline to individuals and families grieving a death by providing compassionate support in order to cope with their journey through grief. We all experience the death of a loved one and BFOYR is committed to increase awareness in our community through education in the death, grief and bereavement.

Since 1991, we have been providing bereavement programs and services throughout the Town of Newmarket, striving to ensure that individuals grieving the death of a loved one have access to caring and compassionate support. We do not receive funding from federal, provincial and/or local government to deliver our critical programs. We do not charge a fee for our services, thusly ensuring everyone has access to bereavement support.

We are asking for your support through a formally written letter of acknowledgement of BFOYR, the organization serving your community and a declaration of our 25th Anniversary at your September Council Meeting.

“Opening Doors for 25 years, so that the hope and healing may begin”

Yours Sincerely,

Mary Beatson

Mary Beatson
 Executive Director
 Bereaved Families – York Region

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES		
INCOMING MAIL	REFD TO	COPY TO
JUL 21 2016		

Tel: 905-898-6265
 Toll Free: 1-800-969-6904
 Fax: 905-898-5870
 E-mail: bfoyr@bellnet.ca
www.bfoyr.com

Yonge Street
 Suite 203
 Newmarket
 ON L3Y 8Z4



BFOYR COMMUNITY EVENTS

www.bfoyr.com
for event
details

- April**
 - "Opening Doors" Volunteer & Sponsor Appreciation Night
 - Purse, Jewellery & Accessory Party
 - BFOYR Annual Appeal Campaign
- June**
 - Forget-Me-Not Golf Tournament
- September**
 - Memorial Butterfly Release & Walk to Remember
- December**
 - Memory Tree Light & Remembrance Service

Host an event and contribute the proceeds to support BFOYR. Your support does make a difference.



*"Opening Doors
so that the hope
and healing
may begin"*

Interested in Volunteering?

Join a committee ... apply as a board member; volunteer for special events; assist with office and administration, marketing and community engagement or receive bereavement training to help others. Just give us a call.

BFOYR FACTS

- we serve a region of over 1.1 million people
- BFOYR receives approx. 5,480 contacts per year
- 97 caring volunteers dedicate 5,280 hours annually in helping others
- Volunteers hours and support represent a "value" of \$120,000 in administrative savings to BFOYR in a year
- BFOYR provides over 3,200 informative annual newsletters to individuals, service providers and professionals
- BFOYR annually supports an estimated 1,550 people through Community Outreach Programs

"In 1999 my child committed suicide and I went into total shock, my world changed forever. I was put in contact with Bereaved Families and the counsellor understood our pain. We met other parents that just seemed to "get it". Once I completed our counselling group, I decided to give back and become a volunteer for Bereaved Families and entered the facilitator training. I had to make some sense from my child's passing and I got so much from facilitating groups".a Bereaved Parent

Mary Beaton - Executive Director

bfoyr@bellnet.ca

Christine Goguet - Bereavement Services Coord

bfoyr_program@bellnet.ca

Maria Canino - Children & Youth Bereavement Coord

bfoyr_program@bellnet.ca

Bereaved Families - York Region

17070 Yonge St. Suite #203

Newmarket, ON, L3Y 8Z4

Phone: 905-898-6265 ~ 1-800-969-6904

Fax: 905-898-5870

www.bfoyr.com



Bereaved Families ~ York Region ~

An association of families and individuals who have lost a loved one through death.

"WHO WE ARE"

"Bereaved helping the bereaved in learning to live with their grief.....together we can help the healing begin"

Serving

Markham, Richmond Hill, Vaughan, Aurora,
Whitchurch/Stouffville, King, Newmarket, East
Gwillimbury, Georgina, South Simcoe and
surrounding communities.

Bereaved Families of Ontario
York Region





**"Living with loss,
healing with hope...
together we help the
healing begin".**

We live in a society that does not speak about or deal with the whole realm of dying, grief and bereavement very well. Sadly, death touches all of our lives at one point in time.

People who are experiencing the strong emotions of grief often do not know where to go to seek support. They may choose to deal with their grief in silence because they do not want to be a burden to their loved ones and friends.

The bereaved may hear the remark to "get over it" but no one ever gets over the death of a loved one. This is where Bereaved Families ~ York Region can help.

We are a mutual support, self-help based organization

The organization began in 1991 by four mothers who came together to share the pain of the deaths of their children and in response to the needs of the community.

They wanted to ensure there was support for all who suffered the loss of a child. Today, BFOYR provides services for all losses which include children, youth, families, seniors and individuals.

Our Mission is to provide volunteer bereavement support services by trained volunteers and staff to individuals and families grieving the death of a loved one.

Our Vision is to provide a lifeline to individuals and families grieving a death, by providing compassionate support in order to cope with the journey through grief.

We are a registered charity, not-for-profit organization

We do not charge fees for programs or services and we do not receive on-going funding. The organization primarily relies on the generosity of individuals and corporate donations, annual membership appeals and fundraising events throughout the year.



**BFOYR is
recognized as...**

• **LEADERS & SPECIALISTS** in facilitator bereavement training

• **A UNIQUE ORGANIZATION** - support is delivered by BFOYR trained individuals who have themselves experienced the loss of a loved one, so they truly understand.

• **PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL BEREAVEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMS** - we train group leaders and volunteers in grief and bereavement so that every bereaved volunteer has completed the training program.

• **OFFERING SERVICES WITHOUT ANY FEES** for bereaved children, youth, family members seniors and individuals in York Region and South Simcoe communities.

• **PROVIDING A CARING ENVIRONMENT & COPING STRATEGIES** to help support children, youth, families, and adults through their own unique grief journey, by providing a non-judgmental and safe place, information on grief and bereavement as well as tools and coping strategies.

• **AN EDUCATOR** - we help to sensitize the business community, health care professionals, clergy, funeral directors, community professionals and the general public as to the needs of bereaved families and individuals.

• **OFFERING CONSULTATION & REFERRAL SERVICES** to health professionals, school boards, youth organizations, counsellors, physicians, therapists as well as community and social service organizations.



**BFOYR services are
provided free to those
seeking bereavement
support which
includes ...**

• **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORTS** - telephone support, intake, referrals, info packages, initial one-on-ones, support sessions, help for the holiday's and bereavement support groups.

• **COMMUNITY AWARENESS** - newsletters, bereavement lending library and resource centre of books and resources and also the development and distribution of informational brochures and other materials.

• **PUBLIC EDUCATION** - workshops, seminars and presentations to bereaved individuals, families, health and community professionals, public and separate schools and boards, emergency services, physicians, therapists and counsellors, in support those who work with bereaved individuals of all ages.

• **GROUP FACILITATOR TRAINING** is offered twice a year and provides information on our services and programs, grief and bereavement and how to support individuals on a one-on-one basis and in groups.

BFOYR Loss Specific Support Groups - helping those individuals who have experienced the death of a loved one:

- children 4 -13 years old who have experienced the death of a parent, sibling, family member or friend
- youth 13 - 19 years old who have lost a family member or friend: one day youth "Missing Pieces" Workshops
- parents who have lost an infant or child of any age
- spousal / partner loss
- adult loss including sudden and traumatic loss

All services are free and available to individuals who have lost a loved one through a death, including a traumatic death, homicide or suicide.