



NOVEMBER 10, 2022 (SPOKANE, WA) The nonprofit, R.I.S.E. Northwest will be partnering with Gonzaga University to mark National Children Grief Awareness Day with a special event on campus on November 17th, 2022. The event will be held at the John J. Hemmingson Center at 701 East Desmet Avenue. It will be in Room 314B and the public is invited to stop by from 2PM - 5PM. After that, there will be a private event for invited families & guests.

At the public event, students, staff and members of the public are urged to come learn more about the impact that death has on our children & youth, what R.I.S.E. Northwest is doing for bereaved children, and also visit the "Wall of Support". This is a visual display that will allow community members to share messages of support children affected by deaths of a parent.

Note to the press: Two students from Gonzaga and current volunteers with R.I.S.E. Northwest are willing to share their stories of the loss of their parents and why they are passionate about being part of our organization. If you are interested in speaking with these students before and/or during our event on November 17th, please contact Tracy Gyllenhammer at 509-998-2930.

R.I.S.E. Northwest offers 2 core programs, Team RISE and Camp Cope, that run with the help of trained volunteers, including students from Gonzaga. Team RISE is an open-ended weekly program that connects grieving children and teens with peers and mentors. Volunteer mentors engage in recreational and educational activities with the children, focusing on cultivating long lasting relationships, as well as fostering resilience & strength. Camp Cope is a 16 week program developed by a nonprofit, Adam's Place, based in Las Vegas Nevada. Trained facilitators lead peer groups and encourage kids & teens to express many feelings as part of the healing process. For enrollment information and ways to support R.I.S.E. Northwest, go to www.risenorthwest.org or call Tracy Gyllenhammer at 509-998-2930.

ABOUT R.I.S.E. NORTHWEST

R.I.S.E. Northwest, a 501 C (3) nonprofit based in the Inland Northwest, was founded in 2021 to support grieving children and teens. R.I.S.E. stands for "*Resilience Is Strength and Endurance*" and the group pledges to provide free services through mentoring and peer groups that will allow children & teens to navigate life with resilience and strength after experiencing the death of a parent.

R.I.S.E. Northwest was founded by Tracy Gyllenhammer who lost her husband and the father of her children at a young age. She experienced first-hand the physical and psychological toll of grief on kids and vowed to ensure no child has to grieve alone after losing a parent. Today, the board members of R.I.S.E Northwest consist of individuals impacted by the loss of a parent, mental health experts and local business owners.