



Press Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 11/19/2020

Wilmington DE - Today, on *National Children's Grief Awareness Day*, Children & Families First (CFF) and Supporting Kidds, Inc. announce their intention to re-establish Supporting Kidds as an independent non-profit organization. This effort is being undertaken to strengthen Supporting Kidds in its mission to provide a compassionate pathway to hope for grieving children and their families, and to empower the community to support them in the grieving process. The organizations are hoping to complete the transition by the end of December 2020.

"I am confident that the re-establishment of Supporting Kidds as its own non-profit will allow its passionate leadership team to carry the torch forward for high quality services for grieving children in Delaware," stated Children & Families First CEO, Kirsten Olson.

Supporting Kidds further announces that Louise Cummings will be serving as its Interim Executive Director. In 2019, Louise Cummings, widow of Delaware State Trooper Cpl. Stephen J. Ballard, began working with CFF to support individual grief counseling services and create a sustainability plan for programming. "Supporting Kidds has been a tremendous help for my daughter in processing her grief. We believe re-establishing Supporting Kidds as a standalone non-profit will help these critical services grow and thrive. I am grateful for CFF's partnership as we worked to make this happen."

As Supporting Kidds re-emerges as an independent non-profit entity, you can help them jump-start their movement to support grieving children and families on their pathway to hope and healing by joining their Virtual Luminary fundraising event. Please take a moment to reflect on those we have lost or are honored to remember by visiting <https://connecttothelight.org/> All proceeds benefit Supporting Kidds programming through a fund established at the Delaware Community Foundation, whose support has been critical to this transition period.

About Children and Families First

Children & Families First is a Delaware-based non-profit whose legacy of transforming the lives and futures of our most vulnerable children and their families spans over 136 years. CFF is committed to the prevention, intervention, and healing of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). We use cutting-edge brain science research and trauma-informed practices in all of our evidence-based programs. We provide a comprehensive array of services for children and families across the state of Delaware. For more information please visit us online: www.cffde.org

About Supporting Kidds, Inc.

Originally established in 1989, Supporting Kidds is dedicated to serving the needs of bereaved children in Delaware. *The Center for Grieving Children and their Families* in Hockessin provides a safe place to participate in healing programs that bring hope for their future. It also serves as the central hub for our outreach programs that engage the community to support them in the grieving process. For more information please visit us online: www.supportingkidds.org