

February 16, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Sierra Hospice, a volunteer, community-based program, has existed in Chester, California since 1981. One of our favorite programs is our children's bereavement camp called **Camp HUG (Hospice Understands Grief)**. We are now taking applications for children for our 20th annual camp and need your help in identifying those children who (sadly) qualify to attend.

The requisite for Camp HUG is children between the ages of 8 and 18 that have experienced the loss of a loved one that has impacted their life. The camp is particularly helpful if the loss has occurred in the last 6 months to 2 years. However, if it has been longer they may still attend. There may be exceptions when camp may not be appropriate (i.e. the loss occurred when they were too young to have a memory of the person).

Camp HUG dates for 2017 are **August 18, 19, & 20th**. It takes place at Camp Ronald McDonald at Eagle Lake, Ca. Maps and detail are included in camp packets. The goals of Camp HUG are:

- To create a safe environment where children feel comfortable sharing and expressing their grief with other grieving children.
- To help children learn healthy ways to deal with grief.
- To have FUN!

Camp HUG is free to everyone that attends. It is fully staffed with awesome volunteers that have completed a mandatory training. We are also looking for interested volunteer staff. If you know of possible children or staff that would be interested in attending Camp HUG, there are a couple of ways to go about it:

1. Applications are available on our website at **Sierra Hospice.com** with full instructions.
2. Pass on this basic information about Camp HUG along with the phone numbers at the bottom of this page and we will follow up with them when they contact us.
3. Copy the forms included in this packet and they can be mailed or faxed directly to us when completed.

ALL PAPERWORK MUST BE IN BY Thursday August 3th. There is substantial paperwork for us to complete once we have all the applications in, so **PLEASE** meet the deadline.

Applications must be specific about any medical, food issues, and/or behavior issues we need to know about. We provide a camp nurse that will oversee and disperse any medications a child needs to take.

Children are welcome to attend Camp HUG regardless of where they reside though transportation to and from the camp are **ABSOLUTELY** the responsibility of parents or guardians to arrange. **STAFF IS NOT TO BRING CAMPERS WITH THEM DUE TO MANDATORY TRAINING SESSION. THERE IS NO CHILDCARE AVAILABLE DURING TRAINING TIME. NO EXCEPTIONS PLEASE.**

This is a wonderful camp opportunity and has been described by many as magical. We are very dedicated to this annual event and look forward to sharing the Camp HUG experience with you. We also host Camp BIG HUG, an adult bereavement camp, the first weekend in June.

Sincerely,

Shirley Canalia, Sierra Hospice Coordinator/Camp HUG Director

Sierra Hospice
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