



**PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Organization:** **The Cove Center for Grieving Children**  
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January 11, 2019

### **The Cove Center for Grieving Children Announces Executive Search**

It is with mixed sadness and gratitude that the Board of Trustees (the Board) announces Mary Andersen's planned departure as Executive Director of The Cove Center for Grieving Children (The Cove), a non-profit organization that provides comprehensive services for Connecticut's grieving children. Ms. Andersen's departure will be effective in the second quarter of 2019 with a transition plan in place supported by the Board. Since 2010, Mary has played an important role in the growth and development of The Cove, and while we will miss her and her passionate leadership, we wish her the best of luck in her next endeavors.

During Ms. Andersen's nine-year tenure as Executive Director, she has worked to grow the presence of The Cove, and has created a strong organizational infrastructure for the future, through expansion of services, internal and IT systems development and improvements, reorganization of programs, along with human resource and events management. Ms. Andersen also helped in increasing the number of Cove sites from 4 to 7, allowing The Cove to serve hundreds of children and families each year. Under her leadership, The Cove opened Camp Erin Newtown which later became Camp Erin CT, part of the Eluna Network, which has served over 500 children since its inception six years ago.

Over the next few months, the Board will be conducting an executive search to identify the new Executive Director. During this transition period, it is our priority to find a leader who will maintain the stability of the organization and guide The Cove into the next phase of growth and success. We are excited to experience the continued evolution of The Cove and nurture its important work. Thank you for your support and partnership in upholding The Cove's mission in providing hope and healing for grieving children.

If you have any questions or concerns during this transition process, or if you are aware of any potential candidates for our new Executive Director, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at [kevin@covect.org](mailto:kevin@covect.org)

Sincerely,

**Kevin Kearney, Chairman, Board of Trustees**  
**The Cove Center for Grieving Children**

## **Statement from Mary Andersen:**

*“Serving as the Executive Director of The Cove for the past 9 years has been a wonderful experience that I will carry in my heart for years to come. Working with children and families grieving the loss of a loved one has been a distinct honor. Working on our “Good Grief” Cove in Schools Program and Camp Erin has been a particular gift, as I have come to know some amazing children, whose resilience and honesty shines brightly in the face of profound loss. I am grateful to The Cove’s Board, volunteers, and staff for their gifts of friendship, time and presence. I leave at this time knowing that The Cove is on firm footing, and will move forward to its next stage of growth, under new energy and leadership. It is my sincere hope that The Cove always remain a mission-driven organization dedicated to the unique needs of grieving children.”*

All my best,

**Mary Andersen, Executive Director  
The Cove Center for Grieving Children**

## **INFORMATION ON THE ORGANIZATION:**

The Cove Center for Grieving Children (the Cove) is a non-profit organization with a Coordinating Office based in Meriden CT. The Cove is based on a program developed by the New England Center for Loss and Transition, starting in Guilford, Connecticut, in 1995 by Jim and Mary Ann Emswiler and therapist Renée McIntyre. The Cove was separately incorporated as a 501 (c)(3) organization in 1998. For 24 years, The Cove has provided programs that have helped children and their families deal with the grieving process. These support initiatives were designed to create a positive change with real results. Our results include; helping children understand the grieving process, how to communicate openly, how to ask for help, how to avoid the negative effects of unresolved childhood grief and, most importantly, to help them understand they are supported and served in a safe and healing environment. We help children understand that within each of them is the capacity to heal.

Today, there are seven Cove Family sites throughout the state serving hundreds of grieving children and family members through regular support sessions. Seven sites in Meriden, New Haven, Guilford, Stonington and West Hartford, East Hartford and Easton serving Newtown/Fairfield County, are taking applications for the 2018-19 program year. The Cove also offers an outreach program that touches an additional 1,500 individuals in the State of Connecticut each year through “Good Grief” School programs, community education, professional training, consultation and referral. The Cove is also providing a summer camp experience for children in June 2019 through Camp Erin CT - a collaboration between The Cove and The Eluna Network (formerly The Moyer Foundation.) Camp Erin CT is part of a nation-wide network of bereavement camps that provide opportunities for grieving children to experience a fun and challenging camp experience while processing their grief amongst peers.

The Cove provides free services to families and relies on individual, corporate and foundation support to fund our programs.

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