

THE GRIEF BRIEF



Emma's Place

Staten Island Grief Center for
Children and Families

Support ~ Community ~ Hope

"Planting Seeds of Hope" Emma's Place Fourth Annual Fundraiser

More than 120 members of the Staten Island community attended Emma's Place fourth annual fundraiser dinner on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at Li Greci's Staaten on Forest Avenue. In the spirit of this year's fundraiser theme, Planting Seeds of Hope, these caring Staten Islanders gathered to support the meaningful work of Emma's Place, connect with their neighbors, take a chance at winning one of the spectacular raffle baskets, and honor Vickie Fossella, and Deacon Novella Lawrence, the 2019 Fundraiser's awardees.

The evening began with a cocktail hour and a chance for the attendees to network, and get to know each other through an Icebreaker Bingo game. Congratulations to Barbara Walsh for participating and winning a gift certificate to Beso restaurant donated by Maura Ellis.

Afterwards Karen Goldman, the Founder/Executive Director of Emma's Place, warmly greeted the crowd, Dr. Carolyn Taverner, Director, Early Childhood Center, Wagner College, Co-founder and a counselor at Emma's Place, explained how through the services of Emma's Place, we "Plant Seeds of Hope" for those grieving the loss of a loved one. As these individuals, grow, heal, and blossom, they go out into our community and plant their own seeds of hope.

More highlights of the evening were the award presentations. Dr. Amarjit Kaur, Emma's Place Board Member, presented the *Community Leadership Award* to **Vickie Fossella for her significant service and** for her commitment to the Staten Island community. Vickie has volunteered through Community Health Action to assist those in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, providing mental health assessment and services, and is a leader or board member at many other community groups.

Currently, Vickie is a social worker at Integration Charter Schools (Lavelle Prep), where she created the GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance) club, plus many other innovative and meaningful programs that help students and promote effective behavior.



Karen Goldman presented Deacon Novella Lawrence with the *Support-Community-Hope Award* for her service and dedication to the bereaved members of our community. Novella has been a wonderful support to Emma's Place since its inception. She has served as a Hospice-Hospital Chaplain, and while she retired from Hospice, and among other volunteer commitments, she continues to facilitate Bereavement Support Groups open to the entire community, for St. Theresa's RC church. She is faithfully assisted by volunteers, Judith Capolongo, John Kosinsky, under the auspices of Msgr. William Belford.

Joseph Patella, Emma's Place Board President was an engaging and engrossing Master of Ceremonies. In addition, the evening wouldn't have been as successful as it was without the help of the Emma's Place Board, Programming Committee, and volunteers. In addition, we'd also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to those of you who came to the event and kindly donated to Emma's Place, and to those giving and caring Staten Island community business owners who generously donated goods and services so we could create our beautiful raffle baskets. Please view www.emmasplacesi.com to access a list of these donors.

The warmth and sense of community was felt throughout the room as the participants mingled, danced to the amazing music of DJ Kitty, and enjoyed the delicious food. Thanks to all the support, Emma's Place can continue to plant "seeds of hope" through their meaningful services. Looking forward to seeing you next year!

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At Emma's Place you will

- Be supported by those who have journeyed through their own path of grief.
- Find a community of welcoming, caring and committed individuals who will listen.
- Learn healthy grief processing in a private, safe-setting which facilitates healing while offering the hope and tools to move forward to a meaningful life.

*"What is to give
light must endure
burning."
-Victor Frankl*

Emma's Place Schedule

Emma's Place
Staten Island Grief & Loss
Center for Children and
Families
P.O. Box 10311
Staten Island, NY 10301
Contact us at:
Telephone: 347.850.2322
E-mail:
info@emmasplacesi.org
Website: www.emmasplacesi.com

CHILDREN'S
GROUPS
1st & 3rd Tuesdays
Ages 5-9 5:30 pm
Ages 10-14 5:30 pm
Ages 15-19 TBA

ADULT GROUPS
TBA
PARENTS GROUP
Coinciding with Children's
Groups at
5:30 pm

Read more about
Emma's Place at:
[Staten Island Live](#)
[Column](#) or see us on
Facebook

Please contact Emma's Place at 347.850.2322 for more information about the groups

Support ~ Community ~ Hope



We rely on you.
Our Center is supported through donations, grants, memorials and bequests; which will allow us to provide these services at no cost to the children and families it serves. There are a variety of ways to support Emma's Place and to help reach grieving children and families. We are currently looking for a permanent, cozy home for Emma's Place. Anyone with knowledge of a safe, house or building for rent or as a donation would be greatly appreciated.

Donations can be made out directly to Staten Island Grief Center and mailed to Emma's Place, P.O. Box 10311, Staten Island, NY 10301. Emma's Place staff members are available to make presentations or talk further on the phone – please contact us at 347-850-2322 or info@emmasplacesi.org

We greatly appreciate your generosity!

Grief Garden Activity

On each circle on the dandelions below, write a way in which you've grown since you have been going through your grief process. Then on the lines below write a description of a seed that your loved one had planted in your mind that you would like to nurture and let grow, and maybe plant in someone else.

