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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Lory's Place Receives \$2,500 Michigan Gateway Foundation Grant

**St. Joseph, MI** – Lory's Place, a grief healing center for children and their families received a \$2,500 grant from the Michigan Gateway Foundation. The funds were granted by the Foundation's Youth Advisory Council, a group of area students from Buchanan, Niles, Brandywine, Cassopolis, and Edwardsburg high schools, from the Youth Endowment, a collection of funds dedicated to supporting the needs of area youth. The grant helps to fund the outreach to youth in the Buchanan Community Schools who are unable to attend the age appropriate peer support groups offered at Lory's Place.

Lory's Place, a bereavement center of Hospice at Home, is committed to grieving children and their families in the Southwest Michigan and Northern Indiana region. Approximately 1 out of 8 children will lose a parent or close loved one before reaching the age of 18. Lory's Place provides services to children, ages 3 to 18, and their parents, guardians, grandparents, other relatives, and close friends through peer support groups, community education, and supportive activities. This grant targets children in Buchanan Community Schools who are unable to come to Lory's Place yet desperately need the services.

"Funding this proposal will impact the Buchanan community by addressing grief in children and their families," states Lisa Bartoszek, Director of Lory's Place. "When grief is understood and accepted, children are better able to cope, learn, and become productive citizens and members of their community." Bartoszek will implement this grant by working closely with Buchanan area schools to create new ways for children to access Lory's Place services while in their school setting.

Since opening on November 15, 2004, hundreds of children from Allegan, Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties in Michigan, as well as from Elkhart and South Bend in Indiana, have taken the courageous step of accessing the bereavement resource services of Lory's Place. With professional bereavement staff and trained volunteers, Lory's Place provides regularly scheduled age-appropriate support group sessions that allow children and adults to interact with peers who have suffered similar loss. Located in the Edgewater Area of St. Joseph, there is no charge for the services that Lory's Place provides.

To receive more information about Lory's Place call 269-983-2707 or 1-800-717-3812, or go to [www.lorysplace.org](http://www.lorysplace.org).