



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **HopeHealth's Camp BraveHeart Provides Healing and Support for Over 55 Grieving Children and Teens in the Attleboro Area**



*Caption for photo one: Owen Andrews of Glocester, RI shares the story of his loved one at the remembrance ceremony for the late Joseph Halus, the former executive director of the Hockomock Area YMCA.*

*Caption for photo two: Nicholas Palmieri of Franklin, MA blows bubbles during the closing ceremony at Camp BraveHeart.*

*Caption for photo three: Addison Templeton (left) and Asaata Casteel of Plainville, MA (middle) share what they are going through with prompts from the "feelings ball game."*

**North Attleborough, MA** – Over 55 children and teenagers found solace and support at HopeHealth's annual Camp BraveHeart. Held on July 20th and 21st at the Hockomock Area YMCA in North Attleborough, MA, the camp offers a safe space for young individuals aged 4 to 17 who are dealing with the loss of a loved one.

Kids joined in a blend of traditional and therapeutic activities specially designed to help them navigate through the challenges of loss. This year's camp featured a poignant remembrance activity dedicated to the late Joseph Halus, the former executive director of the Hockomock Area YMCA. Sarah DeCosta, HopeHealth's manager of grief support services, led the touching tribute, expressing gratitude for Halus' invaluable assistance in establishing Camp BraveHeart at the Hockomock Area YMCA.

"Joe's boundless compassion and unwavering support were instrumental in making Camp BraveHeart a success at the Hockomock Area YMCA. He deeply cared about this camp and all the young hearts it touches," said DeCosta. The remembrance activity revolved around a red-tailed hawk, symbolizing love, strength, and courage - emotions that can be difficult to experience during the grieving process. Participants created drawings of the hawk and wrote heartfelt letters to their departed loved ones. As a lasting memento, each camper received a replica hawk feather, handed out by DeCosta, who encouraged them with heartfelt words, "Whenever you look at this feather, think about Joe and how much he cared about this camp and each one of you." The YMCA staff members wholeheartedly embraced the activity, participating alongside the campers and also receiving these meaningful feathers to cherish.



"Camp BraveHeart has had a profound impact on those who need it the most - young individuals searching for an outlet, a listening ear, or even a moment of happiness amidst their grief," remarked DeCosta. "Being part of this program has been an honor, and we are committed to expanding its reach to help as many youths as possible."

The camp concluded with a closing ceremony where campers wrote messages to their departed loved ones on dissolving paper, which were then placed in containers of bubbles. As the bubbles floated upwards, the heartfelt messages soared symbolically, carrying their love to their loved ones wherever they may be.

HopeHealth's Camp BraveHeart is made possible by the generosity of businesses and individuals who believe in its mission. This year, we'd like to thank: Bristol County Savings Bank Charitable Foundation, Inc.; Megan L. Cordeiro Memorial Foundation; Shriners of Rhode Island Charities Trust; Charles P. Ferro Foundation; Anthony F. Cordeiro Charitable Foundation Inc.; Amica Companies Foundation; OSPC Charity Fund; and Jonn "PBR" DuClau Memorial Foundation. Those who wish to contribute to the Camp BraveHeart fund and support its vital work may send tax-deductible donations to HopeHealth, Department of Philanthropy, 1085 North Main St., Providence, RI 02904.

#### **About HopeHealth Hospice & Palliative Care**

With over 40 years of experience, HopeHealth Hospice is the second oldest hospice in the nation and a renowned leader in hospice and palliative care. This not-for-profit organization offers comprehensive medical, emotional, and spiritual support to individuals facing serious illnesses. HopeHealth Hospice proudly serves as the major teaching affiliate for hospice and palliative medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

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