

## When We Started

Fernside grew out of Rachel and Paul Burrell's experience with grief following the death of their son, David.

While attending a grief support group, Rachel realized that she was not alone in wondering why there was no grief support for children and teens in our community.

In the fall of 1986, Fernside opened its doors to 16 children and 12 adults. Their credo evolved – a safe and loving, non-judgmental haven for grieving children and teens. Rachel said, "We would learn from the children and they would create the place."

Today, hundreds of children, teens and adults attend support groups annually. Our services have expanded and now include community outreach, crisis response, in-school groups, camps, training and consultations.

**Fernside is the name of a street near Walnut Hills High School, where David attended. When David was a student and needed a ride home, he would say, "Meet me at Fernside."**

**"Fernside services have enriched our program. I feel this was a great collaboration and hope this will continue for our future students."**

*- School counselor*

**"No one understood what we were going through, no one wanted us to be different. Fernside understood."**

*- Fernside participant*



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To learn more about our free services or to make a donation visit:

[www.fernside.org](http://www.fernside.org)

## About Fernside



 **FERNSIDE**  
SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND  
FAMILIES THROUGH GRIEF

## Who We Are

**F**ernside is a non-profit organization offering support and advocacy to grieving families who have experienced a death. Fernside offers peer support for grieving families – children, teens and adults. Fernside works to increase community awareness of grief issues through community outreach.

Fernside, established in 1986 as the nation's second oldest children's grief center, remains today a national leader in providing grief support services, outreach and education to the community. Fernside is an affiliate of Hospice of Cincinnati. All Fernside services are offered free of charge.

“Fernside’s programs are mental health services at their best. They give children the tools to work through their grief rather than hide it, and a safe and caring community to work in.”

– Editorial  
*Cincinnati Enquirer*

## What We Do

### Evening Program

We offer support groups for families with children ages 3-18, who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. Children and teens are divided into groups with others close to their age, while their parents/guardians meet with each other at the same time.

### School Program

We offer time-limited groups, on-site, during the school day, at area elementary, middle and high schools.

### Crisis Program

We provide support to schools and other organizations following a death. We can provide consultation as well as on-site support for faculty, students and staff.

### Special Collaboration Program

We serve children and adults with special needs or in special settings. We collaborate with schools and social service agencies to ensure grief support is available and accessible to everyone in our community.

### Camp Program

We offer an annual summer day camp for children ages 3-8, an annual summer camp for children ages 7-12 and a springtime retreat for teens ages 13-18.

### Community Outreach & Education

We provide information about our history and services as well as presentations on a variety of grief-related topics.

## How We Are Funded

Fernside is a 501(c)(3) organization supporting programs for children and families who have experienced a death. All donations are 100% tax deductible under U.S. law.

No fees are charged to participating families for our services.

Donations can be made through our website at [www.fernside.org](http://www.fernside.org) or mailed to:

**Fernside**  
**P.O. Box 633597**  
**Cincinnati, OH 45263-3597**

### How You Can Help

- Make a donation to celebrate a birthday or accomplishment or to honor someone's memory
- Support our annual fundraiser
- Make a donation from our Wish List
- Donate proceeds from a third-party fundraiser
- Ask your employer about a Corporate Matching program
- Become a volunteer – donate your time and talent to Fernside

“Fernside helps people make connections with their peers so that they can do some of the difficult work of grief together.”

– Fernside volunteer