



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Who: FRIENDS WAY and Gateway Healthcare
What: SEMINAR: How to talk about Grief and Loss
When: Thursday, November 29, 2007 at 6:30pm
Where: Marriott Providence, Orms Street, Providence, RI

Providence – FRIENDS WAY, Rhode Island’s only bereavement organization for children and teens, is hosting a panel discussion with area experts on how to talk about grief and loss with students, young adults and one another. The panel will be held on Thursday, November 29th at the Marriott Providence. It is free and open to the public.

“Recently, the Rhode Island community has tragically lost too many teens and young adults to sudden death. These events have left families, peers and communities seeking resources to cope. It is not always easy to find the right words to help someone who is grieving and in emotional pain, making the healing process more difficult,” said Carolyn Kyle, Executive Director of FRIENDS WAY.

Teachers, parents and students are encouraged to attend the discussion which will focus on how to deal with grief, understanding how to help one another, understanding resources available, what to look for in a grieving child or teen and where to turn to for help.

“Trusting, respecting and valuing the grieving experience of teens is of utmost importance when trying to support them. Talking with them openly and with genuine interest is a must in fostering a safe environment for them to share their feelings. Teens and young adults are often the "forgotten" mourners. Following a significant death loss, they often do not actively seek support nor share their feelings. In fact, most report that they want to be treated the same as before the loss because so much of

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their sense of self and how they create meaning for themselves is based on their perceptions of how they are seen by their peer group. They struggle with creating their individual identities and don't usually want to be seen as 'different',” said Jennifer Kaplan Schreiber, Founder and Board Member of FRIENDS WAY.

The expert panel will be moderated by NBC 10’s Barbara Morse Silva and will include Carolyn Hames, FRIENDS WAY Board Member, Fellow in Thanatology and Associate Professor of the College of Nursing at URI; James Campbell, Ph.D, VP of Clinical Services at Psychological Centers, Inc.; Laurie Fitzgerald, Program Director of FRIENDS WAY; Jennifer Kaplan Schreiber, Founder and Board Member of FRIENDS WAY; and Pamela Shuman, MD, Child Psychiatrist at Gateway Healthcare.

ABOUT FRIENDS WAY: FRIENDS WAY, a private nonprofit child and family bereavement center located in Warwick, Rhode Island, is a haven for healing and hope for children, teens and young adults ages 3 to 25 and their families who are mourning the death of a loved one. Founded in 1998, FRIENDS WAY specializes in counseling families who have experienced a sudden or unexpected death loss and is the only family bereavement center in Southeastern New England that is committed to its mission of offering no cost peer-based support to grieving children and their families in a safe, nurturing environment. Through bi-weekly support sessions, which are staffed with mental health professionals and extensively trained volunteers from the community, children and families work through their grief by experiencing comfort and support from peers struggling with similar feelings of loss. For more information, visit www.friendsway.org.

ABOUT GATEWAY HEALTHCARE: Gateway Healthcare, Inc., a non-profit behavioral healthcare organization, provides a broad spectrum of preventative and treatment programs for children, adolescents, families, and adults throughout Rhode Island suffering from severe mental illness, substance abuse problems, and emotional and behavioral disorders. Gateway Healthcare, Inc. is headquartered in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Gateway serves over 14,000 children, adults and families each year. For more information, please visit www.gatewayhealth.org.

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