



Different Pathways

Working Together to
Find Common Ground

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What Connects Us?

Grieving the loss of a loved one who has died as a result of a substance.

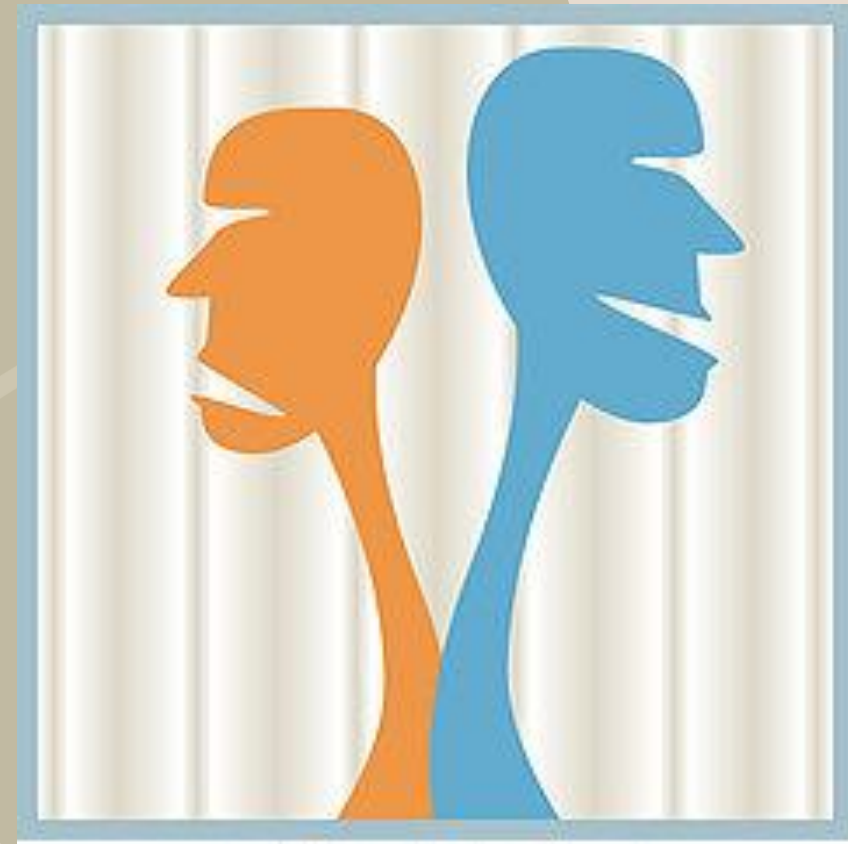
Advocating and or raising awareness for a solution to a health crisis that resulted in the loss of someone we love.

Empathy and compassion for those struggling with substance use and their families.

What Divides Us?

Loss as a result of . . .

- an overdose vs. poisoning
- using an unregulated, poisoned substance with no history of illicit substance use.
- using an unregulated, poisoned substance with a history of illicit substance use.





WHAT ALSO DIVIDES US?

**The solutions we are advocating for to
help end the losses and keep others
from
the heartache of losing someone
they love.**

LETS
TALK
ABOUT
THE
“WHY”

HOW DOES OUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IMPACT WHAT WE BELIEVE IS A SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS?

No known use of illicit substances:

Experimentation with no knowledge or understanding of the danger/consequences of a pill, medication or substance.
“Unknowingly”

History of prescribed medication misuse and/or illicit substance use:

Addressing Social determinants of health
Lack of resources
Criminalization/trauma
Grief

We don't know what we don't know

Understanding how our passion and anger can lead to unintended consequences?



How can we find common ground?

We all come here with a purpose. We can treat each other with dignity and respect. Let's reduce the harm and the pain we put on families already struggling from different pathways and outcomes. We can come together. We must come together to help educate and support other families. We don't have to agree with each other on everything, however, we can respect each other's path and the incredibly important work being done to save lives.

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THANK YOU!

What no one tells us about grief:

Grief is isolating

There are so many secondary losses

The pain of grief can hit unexpectedly

Grief is exhausting

We may experience many feelings in one day

Grief lasts longer than expected

Grief profoundly changes us

Grief brain is real

You may lose your patience

There may also be physical issues

Grief is disorienting

Grief is transformative

David Kessler

www.grief.com