



GWEN KAPCIA
Programming Director

Hello, I can't believe it is 2019 already. Last year just seemed to fly by, would you agree with me? Since we did not send a fall newsletter my update technically needs to reach back to June of 2018; so rather than give a breakdown of all that has happened, I can give you the bottom line, so to speak. From September 2017 to August of 2018, which marks our programming year, we served 1946 individuals. In September we began our new program year in Jenison AND Muskegon. So many more families have reached out for support! We also attend community events and continue to train and support the local church.

Our team has changed and grown to meet the increased demands. You can meet them all on the following pages.

The biggest area of change is a transition in my position and leadership at Starlight. The ministries strategic plan is to grow outside of our area, to create a reproducible model of our unique biblically based grief support groups. It became apparent that this is a full-time job and God made it clear that I am the person for that job; which would leave a job opening for a new Executive Director. In our timing we thought this would happen sometime midyear, 2019. But God's timing was different, and he provided a new Executive Director now. We were surprised. It was not a quick decision; it included a lot of prayer, plenty of meetings, thought, and planning. Our new Executive Director will focus on and has an awesome skill set for board development, team building and operations, and experience in raising funds.

Please meet Bev Thiel:



BEV THIEL
Executive Director

I am excited and honored to be a part of the Starlight family. I look forward to meeting you and working alongside the board and staff to spread the vision and mission of the ministry. My experience in non-profit management has included operations, board development and policy and procedure implementation. My involvement with Starlight is a blessing and I am enthusiastic about God's plan for what lies ahead.

My family and I moved to West Michigan eleven years ago and call Rockford home. My husband Randy works for the Rockford School system and we have two children Brooke and Ty and are pleased to be grandparents. In my spare time I love to blog, cross stich, read and love anything fitness.

Please take time to drop me an email or stop by the office. I would love to meet you!

THE IMPACT OF YOUR DOLLARS:

Since September 2017, Starlight has helped **1946** individuals (accumulatively) through various branches of grief support programs.

We've expanded to Muskegon with support from the Muskegon Community Foundation

MEET OUR STAFF



Annise Koops, MSW
Family Services Coordinator



Rosanna Doornbos
Office Manager



Lisa Matthyse
Outreach & Events Coordinator



Maggie Dryer
Volunteer Coordinator



Paula Dryer
Program Assistant

SHARING HOPE

Starlight Ministries is a non-profit ministry, supported entirely by contributions, foundation, and grant monies. Our annual fundraiser, "Embrace the Hope," provides for community support and donor awareness of our mission. Starlight Ministries is passionate about keeping our programs and services free of charge to our participants. Our donors can be assured the highest percentage of every donor contribution possible is directly benefitting the children and families we serve. In 2019 we will serve 2,480 individuals.

How can you help? Funding our program through your gift means....

\$100 allows a Mom to attend the Bereaved Mom's Retreat, a one-day retreat for bereaved mom's

\$200 sends a child to Camp Anew, Starlight's Christ centered grief camp for children

\$300 supplies a weekly meal for our support groups participants

\$500 allows our families to attend one of our quarterly Rays of Hope events

\$1000 sponsors the training of our facilitators

\$2500 provides the resources to support one person for a year of programming

"Our family is honored to be able to support Starlight ministries. We created a foundation many years ago with a mission to lead children to Christ. After taking a good look at how we were fulfilling this mission we realized we were missing connections with an organization who supports the emotional and mental well-being of children (all while keeping their eyes fixed on our Creator). This is when Starlight was brought to us. We were overwhelmed with all that we learned the organization as doing. We especially loved when Gwen explained that the way children are taught to grieve and feel emotions and how it's all tied back to how God created us! We recognized that from our first meeting with Starlight we only hit the tip of the iceberg and we cannot wait to unveil more! Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus and for allowing us to join you!" - A Starlight Donor

Please prayerfully consider your support of Starlight Ministries

Save the Date!

**"HELD"
BEREAVED MOM'S
RETREAT**

Saturday, July 27
GVSU Alumni House

LUNCH & LEARN

Plan to join us for a delicious lunch and to gain helpful tools and information to assist those who are grieving

Tuesday, Feb 26, 2019, 11:45 AM

Terra Square, 3380 Chicago Dr, Hudsonville, MI 49426

Our guest speaker Peter Smit & Bonnie Sawusch speaking on the topic "Legal Questions After A Tragedy"

Tuesday, June 11, 2019, 11:45 AM

Terra Square, 3380 Chicago Dr, Hudsonville, MI 49426

A panel discussion on suicide with QPR training available at our office following lunch from 1:30-3:00 PM

To register visit www.starlightmin.org or call 616-662-1999

HELD TOGETHER DINNER FOR BEREAVED COUPLES

Saturday, March 9, 2019, 6:15 PM
Wallinwood Springs Golf Club, Jenison, MI

Join us for a delicious dinner followed by guest speakers Ron & Jill Meyer. In 2012, their 18 year old daughter, Holly, died tragically by suicide. With broken hearts they participated in a Starlight support group where they continued their grieving process. With God's grace they slowly began to find their way out of deep grief to a different kind of life without their daughter. Come hear their story of Hope and healing through Jesus, and be encourage!

To register visit www.starlightmin.org or call 616-662-1999

SAVE THE DATE

**CAMP ANEW**
A Safe Place For Grieving Kids

June 27-29, 2019

Camp Anew is a branch of Starlight Ministries and ministers specifically to children & teens ages 7-17. It is held at Grace Adventures and is a place where campers can experience the value of gathering with other children who are grieving, learn biblically-based coping skills and are offered HOPE to lead a meaningful life going forward.



Registration Begins April 15

VOLUNTEER FEATURE: Richard Brummel

Richard Brummel has been a valuable member of the Starlight Ministries Board from 2016 -Dec 2018. Richard has journeyed with Starlight as we have grown and expanded and made strategic plans for our future.

On top of being a board member Richard and his staff from the Vredevoogd Brummel Insurance Agency have been managing our set up at our Jenison location each Thursday night for about 4 years. Thursday's are our busiest day's at Starlight and having volunteers responsible for set-up ensures that our small staff can finish other preparations for our support groups to meet. Due to family commitments and other conflicts Richard and his team are no longer able to fill this role. If you, your family, friends, small group, or business would be interested in meeting this need for Starlight, please contact our volunteer coordinator at maggie@starlightmin.org or 616-662-1999 x 2006.

Thank you, Richard and Staff, for your many hours of service to Starlight Ministries!

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Upcoming Events:

Women's Book Study, Wednesdays 1:30-3:00 PM
An 8 week study beginning Wednesday, Feb 6
Led by Starlight founder, Jolynn Van Wienen
Held at the Starlight Hudsonville office

February 26, 2019
LUNCH & LEARN

Lunch at Terra Square in Hudsonville
with speaker Peter Smit & Bonnie Sawusch

March 9, 2019

HELD TOGETHER DINNER

Dinner for bereaved couples at Wallinwood Springs
golf club with speaker, Ron & Jill Meyer.

THE STAR JOURNAL

Where Hope Outshines Grief

Starlight Ministries Inc.

3376 Central Blvd. Hudsonville, MI 49426 | 616.662.1999 | starlightmin.org