



The Who: HEARTplay and Camp Erin Boston support Massachusetts children, teens, and young adults of all abilities and their families who have experienced the death of an important person in their lives.



- Since 2013, Camp Erin Boston has hosted **11 camp sessions**, supporting more than **600 children & teens and their families** with the support of up to **150 dedicated volunteers per camp session**.
- HEARTplay has supported MA families coping with the life limiting illness and/or death of an important person for over 25 years. **In 2022, HEARTplay supported approximately 200 families.**

The What: All services offered at **NO COST** to all families.

- HEARTplay provides **home visits, family support, peer support groups, concurrent adult caregiver support, one time events and workshops.**
- Camp Erin Boston provides **camp experiences and pre/post camp continuum of care.**



The How: HEARTplay and Camp Erin Boston aim to address **social-emotional and practical needs** of families who are grieving through:

- Trauma-Informed programming
- Expressive arts therapies and creative approaches
- Staff of Licensed Mental Health Counselors and Expressive Arts Therapists
- Provision of food at all groups and programs
- Online and in person programs to increase access
- Programs and services designed to be inclusive of people of all abilities



The Why (impact):

- 1 in 14 children & teens in MA will experience the death of a parent or sibling before age 18 (CBEM).
- We have seen a steady increase in substance use related deaths in our programs. **In 2022, 50% of Camp Erin Boston campers were grieving a death due to substance use.** This is an increase from 10% in 2013.
- **49% of 2022 Camp Erin Boston campers qualify for free school lunch.**



From Our Participants:

"Camp Erin helped me because now I know that I am never alone and someone will always have my back."

- Camper, age 12

"I love Camp Erin because it reminds me how brave and strong I am."

- Camper, age 10

HEARTplay & Camp Erin Boston are programs of

