

## Joel's Place for Children -Biographies

### **Board Members:**

John Crane has been involved with Joel's Place since October 2010, and is currently the head of the Fund Development committee. He became involved with Joel's Place because he wanted to be involved with a non-profit organization focused on helping children, and one that served an unmet need. John's favorite part about working with Joel's Place is building relationships with the other board members and volunteers all working toward the common goal of raising funds and helping grieving children. John is a Certified Financial Planner professional and owns Plum Creek Wealth Advisors in North Olmstead, Ohio, focusing on life transitions, such as retirement and survivor planning.

Bill Goodill has been involved with Joel's Place for nearly two years. Bill wanted to give back to the community and work with an organization that could use his help. He became involved after being referred to Joel's Place by Business Volunteers Unlimited. His favorite part about working with Joel's Place is interacting with the people—the other Board members and volunteers that are also passionate about helping children. Bill is the CAO/CFO at Western Reserve Partners LLC, and lives in Bay Village with his wife Linda and his two teenage daughters.

Lois Klein has been involved with Joel's Place since 2007. Lois got involved because after she lost her mother at a young age, she felt as though her grief was not adequately understood and addressed. She wanted to help children who carry similar grief by offering support in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Her favorite part about working with Joel's Place is making a difference in the lives of children who need support.

Becky Loas has been involved with Joel's Place since its inception in 2003. Becky's daughter died at age 20 of a congenital heart defect, and after seeing her sons struggle with that loss, she wanted to get involved with an organization that would provide needed grief support to children. Her favorite part about volunteering with Joel's Place is her ability to interact with the children. Becky is a reading specialist with the Cleveland Municipal School System.

Mary Sue McGorray-Hanna has been involved with Joel's Place for about five years, after responding to the request of Mary and Kathy to act as a Board member. Mary Sue is grateful to know that there is a group in which children can receive the support they need during a traumatic time in their lives. She also knows that families are grateful knowing there is somewhere to turn to for help. Mary Sue enjoys knowing that her work on the Board helps keep the support groups running. Mary Sue has been a funeral director for 27 years at the McGorray-Hanna Funeral home. She has a degree in Applied Social Science (Social Work) from Case Western Reserve University and is also a parishioner at St. Luke Church in Lakewood.

Erin Murdock-Park has been involved with Joel's Place since 2010 and is currently the head of the Marketing committee. She learned about Joel's Place through Business Volunteers Unlimited, and after meeting the Board members and volunteers, knew she had found a place committed to helping children. Her favorite part about working with Joel's Place is the ability to help an organization that makes such a positive impact on the lives of children that are dealing with a traumatic loss. Erin is an attorney with Baker Hostetler and lives in Avon with her husband David and their small zoo of pets.

Steve Petras has been involved with Joel's Place since it began in 2003 and is currently the head of the Governance committee. He became involved with the organization because of his belief that children need a way to deal with their grief in an honest and constructive way, and an important part of this involvement is interacting with other children who are in similar situations. Steve's favorite part about working with Joel's Place is seeing the commitment of the organization to helping children deal with their emotionally difficult and important issues. Steve is an attorney with Baker Hostetler and lives in Bay Village with his family.

Richard W. Pressler, M.D. has been involved with Joel's Place since 2008. As a practicing physician, and after losing his brother in the Viet Nam war when he was a teenager, Dick has seen first-hand the effects of grief on children who have lost a loved one. He believes that the services provided by Joel's Place help address the special needs children have after such a loss, without a cost to the family. His favorite part of working with Joel's Place is simply being able to help those that need the help. Dick is a Physician in Family Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic and is married with three children and two grandchildren.

Kathleen Kennedy Rice has been involved with Joel's Place since 2003, after seeing a request for volunteers in the St. Raphael's church bulletin. She thought her prior experiences would be put to great use by helping children who had suffered a loss. Kathleen finds the compassion of the adult volunteers and the time spent with the children the most satisfying part of working with Joel's Place.

Kathy Stellato is one of the founders of Joel's Place and is the head of the Program committee. She is passionate about listening to and supporting children and families that are grieving a loss of someone special. Kathy's favorite part about working with Joel's Place is watching the children interacting and sharing with one another. Kathy is a nurse who lives in Chagrin Falls with her husband of 38 years and has two grown children.

**Facilitator Coordinator:**

Mary Willhite is one of the founders of Joel's Place and has been running the children's groups since they began in 2003. Mary believed that there was an unmet need for providing support to children who had a special person in their lives pass away. Her favorite part about working with Joel's Place is seeing the children become more comfortable about able to share their story of loss and their grief.