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Children's Bereavement Art Group Celebrates 25 Years of Service in Sacramento and Placer Counties

More than 9,000 children and their families received support from program

SACRAMENTO – This April, the Children's Bereavement Art Group (CBAG) is celebrating its 25th anniversary as a creative outlet for children from ages 4 to 17 to express their grief over the loss of a loved one. Through this group, which is facilitated by art therapists with extensive backgrounds in childhood grief, children express their thoughts and feelings through a variety of art activities, including drawing and painting.

"It is not so much of how many years we've been in existence, but how many lives we've been able to touch in that time," said Peggy Gulshen, board-certified art therapist/marriage and family therapist, CBAG program founder and coordinator. "These children, some of whom are now adults, are special individuals and have had such an impact on this program through the years."

To date, CBAG has provided support to more than 9,200 children and teens, and their families. The program, which began at Sutter Memorial Hospital in 1985, has since expanded to sites including Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital and Sutter VNA & Hospice Roseville, which are facilitated by Patricia Caputo and Dennis Cox, respectively. CBAG also broadened its scope in September 2005 to include a school outreach program, offering grief sessions on campus to elementary, middle and high schools in the greater Sacramento area.

The CBAG program has earned a great deal of regional recognition, but has earned a fair share of national attention as well, including receiving the 573rd Point of Light Award from the George H.W. Bush administration in 1991.

CBAG will host a private celebration in April where current staff, volunteers, program donors/supporters and some past CBAG participants and their families will have the chance to reconnect, reminisce and reflect. For more information about the program, please call 916-454-6555.

CBAG is a community service project of the Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital Foundation, Sutter Roseville Medical Center Foundation, Sutter Medical Center Sacramento Foundation and Sutter VNA & Hospice Development Department. This special service is also made available due to generous donations from community members and organizations. For more information, call 916-454-6555 or visit http://checksutterfirst.org/cancer/forpatients/support/groups_art.cfm.

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