

SouthernTM

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CANA Convention in Ft. Lauderdale & Cremation Trends are Just Beginning to Heat Up

100th Annual CANA Convention Preview
and Agenda

How Elberton Granite is Battling Cremation
by Adina Solomon

Cremation + Paperwork = State Law
by Larry Stuart

First Crematory in U.S., 1876, in LeMoyne, PA,
is Featured This Fall at National Museum
Funeral History

Keys to Service = The Vital and Active Role
of the Funeral Professional by Todd Van Beck
National Alliance for Grieving Children Company
Profile

C&J Financial Acquires Beta Capital

In Memory of Tom Flynn - A True
Canine Companion

The National Alliance for Grieving Children

The National Alliance for Grieving Children (NAGC) appreciates and applauds the funeral profession. The work you do is very honorable but must surely be difficult. We affirm the importance of memorialization. The NAGC is privileged to share with you the honor and responsibility of caring for families when a death has occurred. Many deaths, involve children and adolescents. Our mission is to raise awareness about the needs of those children and teens grieving a death and provide education and resources to anyone who wants to support them.

All children grieve, regardless of age. All bereaved children and adolescents, no matter where they live or their circumstances, should have the support and resources they need to positively adapt to a loss in their lives. **Our vision is that no child grieves alone.**

The history of The National Alliance for Grieving Children dates back to 1997 with an inaugural Symposium on Children's Grief held in Oberlin, Ohio. This meeting served as a platform to bring together social workers, chaplains, counselors and volunteers from across the United States. This was the conduit for initiating a dialogue amongst death and bereavement professionals to share their work and discuss challenges. United in one purpose, they conceived a broader vision for addressing the issue of childhood grief in an effort to increase awareness about support services.

Childhood bereavement professionals have continued to meet annually at the Symposium in cities across the country, giving practitioners in thousands of communities the opportunity to learn and work together. As a result, a network of hundreds of organizations began to emerge, which led to our robust alliance. This year we celebrate our 22nd in San Antonio, Texas with approximately 500 individual attendees working to increase the services and quality of programs offered to bereaved children and adolescents across the nation. We welcome participants from the funeral profession. Together we can strengthen our services to bereaved families. Through the collective voice of our members and partners we educate, advocate, and raise awareness about childhood bereavement and healthy families. Today, the NAGC is a nationwide network comprised

of professionals and volunteers from a variety of backgrounds who promote best practices, educational programming, and critical resources to facilitate the mental, emotional, and physical health of grieving children, teens, and their families.

As an alliance we exist as thought leaders, researchers, and professionals in the childhood bereavement field to:

- Strengthen and expand research and information in our field in order to collectively raise awareness.
- Promote the availability of resources in communities across North America and elevate the profile of grief support programs and services.
- Provide education and information to professionals from a variety of disciplines on topics related to childhood bereavement support.
- Increase public sensitivity and competency in supporting bereaved children, while garnering community support.

The NAGC is honored to partner with many funeral homes and service providers across the United States. Almost every day you, as a funeral professional, experience a child affected by the death of a loved one, whether it be a parent, sibling, grandparent or friend. Our goal is to equip you as professionals to empower families to do the difficult work of grieving. The end goal is to create healthy grief systems and opportunities that create healthy families; thereby creating healthy communities.

As a way of strengthening the resources provided to your families and your communities, the NAGC offers an opportunity to connect funeral homes and end of life professionals to a wealth of resources that are specific to grieving children in communities across the nation. Essentially, we want to help you be the expert by connecting your families to best practices and programs in the child bereavement field. Please check out our website www.childrengrieve.org to find resources. On the website, you will find a map that displays programs that are available in your area at little to no cost to your families. In addition, explore other tools such as "10 Ways to Support a Grieving Child" and a video "Talking to Kids About Death and

Dying.” The NAGC has recently published an activity/discussion book for elementary children and their caregivers. This book was created by experts in the field of childhood bereavement. This is a user-friendly tool that encourages discussion and offers guidance to adults on connecting with children on the very difficult subjects of death, dying, and bereavement. Many funeral homes distribute the books to a family when a child has been affected by the death of a loved one. “When Someone Dies – A Child-Caregiver Activity Book” is available at a nominal fee on orders starting as little as 50 or individually on Amazon. For more information, contact Kathy Wisnefski at Kathy.wisnefski@childrengrieve.org.

Each fall, the NAGC holds a Fall Conference and LIVE webcast. The location of the conference and topic changes annually yet the LIVE webcast is available virtually anywhere. This webcast provides a great vehicle to host community events. This would be a great opportunity to bring in your local partners (schools, churches, hospice, civic groups) and view the webcast followed up with a community discussion. This year the conference will be held in Princeton, New Jersey and the panel of experts will speak on supporting youth and schools after a community tragedy. Please let us know if you would like to be a leader in your

community on this very important topic. We would be pleased to equip you for this role in your community. As a national alliance the NAGC is very interested in connecting funeral homes to our member organizations in every community that is providing grief support to children, teens and their families. We believe the stronger the network, the stronger the community. Please let us know if we can help connect you to our members. The NAGC would love to have you join us as a member and become an official part of our network. Memberships are very nominal and include access to ‘members only’ resources on the NAGC website, free monthly webinars, discount to Annual Symposium, discount to Marian University for a degree in Thanatology and much more. Please contact Megan Lopez at Megan.lopez@childrengrieve.org for more information about membership with the NAGC.

The NAGC is a nonprofit organization with a nationwide network comprised of professionals, organizations, institutions and volunteers who promote best practices educational programming and critical resources to facilitate the mental, emotional and physical health of grieving children and their families. **Please consider joining us in our vision that no child will have to grieve alone.** Please visit www.childrengrieve.org or contact vicki.jay@childrengrieve.org.

National Alliance for
Grieving Children

No child should have to grieve alone.

DOWNLOAD SUPPORT RESOURCES

- Talking to Children About Death
- Preparing Children For Funerals
- Supporting a Grieving Child
- Children, Grief & Holidays

FIND LOCAL SUPPORT

- National Listing of Grief Support Service Providers Who Serve Children, Teens and Their Families

ChildrenGrieve.org