DOUGY CENTER | The National Grief Center for Children & Families

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I am writing on behalf of Dougy Center, The National Grief Center for Children & Families, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting children and families navigating grief and loss, to express our enthusiastic support for Cleanup on Aisle 9, a narrative film exploring grief and widowhood.

Since 1982, Dougy Center has provided grief support in a safe place where children, teens, young adults, and their families can share their experiences before and after a death. Through this work, we have seen firsthand how isolating and disorienting grief can be — and how rare it is for that experience, particularly the specific experience of grieving a spouse or partner, to be portrayed with honesty and care in film or media.

Cleanup on Aisle 9 does exactly that. Grief is often misunderstood by those who haven't lived it, and widowhood carries its own particular weight — the loss of a partner, a witness to one's life, often compounded by practical burdens like finances, solo parenting, or navigating a couple-centric world alone. Films that treat this experience with nuance rather than sentimentality serve an important public purpose: they help people who are grieving feel less alone, and they help others understand how to show up for someone who is grieving.

We believe *Cleanup on Aisle 9* has the potential to reach audiences well beyond those already familiar with grief support resources, and to open conversations that are too often avoided. We would welcome the opportunity to lend our support for the film without reservation.

Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or if there is additional support we can offer.

Sincerely,

Jana DeCristofaro, LCSW
Advocacy & Education Manager/Host of Grief Out Loud
Dougy Center, The National Grief Center for Children & Families