

# Healing HOPE MINISTRIES

HELPING FAMILIES  
& THEIR SUPPORT  
SYSTEMS FIND  
HOPE & HEALING  
AFTER THE LOSS  
OF A CHILD,  
SIBLING, OR  
GRANDCHILD



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# WHO WE ARE

## SUPPORT FOR GRIEVING FAMILIES

At Healing Hope Ministries, we provide encouragement, compassion, and support for families who have lost a child, sibling, or grandchild. We do this through a variety of opportunities including retreats, education and small groups. Through love, we meet people where they are and hold a safe space to process grief. It is our desire to light a path for hope and healing.



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# OUR STORY

Healing Hope Ministries was founded by Denny and Karri Allen in March of 2016. The creation of Healing Hope was sparked by their own personal grief journey. On July 2, 2012, Denny and Karri Allen lost their precious son, Asher, when he died suddenly at just 15 months old.

The first year after Asher's death Denny and Karri felt a deep need to talk about Asher and talk to other parents who had lost children. It was a way for them to process their own grief and seemed to bring some comfort to their hearts. They attended a four day retreat at Smile Again Ministries, located in northern Minnesota which changed the trajectory of their life. This time on retreat opened up communication between the couple and helped them learn how to navigate life moving forward.

With this intense desire for a community who understood their grief, Karri and Denny continued meeting with other parents who had lost children. In the summer of 2015, Denny and Karri both felt God calling them deeper into ministry to help families who've experienced the death of a child, grandchild or sibling. With the idea to bring a grief retreat setting to South Dakota, Healing Hope Ministries was born.

The vision of Healing Hope Ministries is to hold a safe space for families to intentionally work through their grief. Denny and Karri, as retreat facilitators and peers who have walked a similar journey, hold space for families to share stories, have hard conversations and learn more about grief and mourning. This intentional work provides a pathway of hope.



**ASHER ALLEN**

Healing Hope Ministries relies heavily on the material developed by Smile Again Ministries as well as the teachings of Dr. Alan Wolfelt. Dr. Wolfelt, of the Center for Loss in Colorado, is known around the world for his compassionate messages of hope and healing as well as his companioning philosophy of grief care. In addition to these resources and their own personal life experiences, the Allens have taken many grief training courses and are certified Grief and Loss Coaches.





# OUR SERVICES

## FAMILY RETREAT EXPERIENCE

At our guest house located on five acres in rural Alcester, SD, we invite families to stay for 2-4 days. Unlike other retreat experiences, Healing Hope hosts only one family at a time, creating a personalized one-on-one experience. The facilitators walk alongside families, not as counselors, but as peers who have been on a similar journey. The retreat is designed to give you and your family a safe space to grieve - a place away from all distractions. This allows time to reflect and explore the complexity of grief and learn how to navigate life moving forward.



The cost of a family retreat is \$2,500, but thanks to the support of our donors and sponsors, we are able to offer it to families for just \$250. Scholarship opportunities are also available.



## THE CLAUSEN FAMILY



“On the way there, I remember telling my husband, ‘I don’t know if I’m going to survive this.’ We lost our precious son, Bryce, age 10, three weeks prior. The pain was so deep and hurt so bad for so long. I wasn’t sure about this place [Healing Hope] as my husband was the one who made the contacts with them. Upon arrival and meeting Karri & Denny, that hopelessness lifted. We immediately shared our story with them, although it was hard, it began to help us heal. I remember them sitting telling their story and seeing the word HOPE above them on the mantel, and thinking to myself, there really is HOPE...they survived their loss, I can get through this. They walked us through many difficult conversations that we were afraid of having, but they gave us permission to have. They were healing to us and we would have never had those conversations without them guiding us. Thank you for sharing your love, your words, your hospitality, your wisdom and your genuine care with us. We will be forever grateful.”

- Mandy Clausen, mother to Bryce Clausen

# OUR SERVICES

## SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCES

In grief, we need to tell our story and we need safe people and spaces to do so. After the loss of a child, we know it can feel lonely, dark and scary. The complex nature of grief demands gentle and compassionate support. Grief deserves to be witnessed and over the years we have seen tremendous healing happen through shared experiences.

Our small group experiences include one-day retreats, workshops, one-on-one companionship, and a monthly grief group that meets the third Monday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Whether you have experienced loss as a parent, grandparent or sibling, we invite you to join us. Come as you are. Find our full calendar of events at [www.healinghopes.com](http://www.healinghopes.com)



### THE GODBER FAMILY

Our son, Will, died in November 2017, and his loss has devastated us beyond measure.

Throughout our journey however, God has strategically brought so many caring and compassionate people into our lives. Denny and Karri of Healing Hope Ministries, have been key components in our journey through grief. The truth is that grief never ends. It comes in waves, and you're never quite sure when a storm will hit, but with the support of Denny and Karri, we have been able to put one foot in front of the other in order to proceed on our pathway through grief. We are regular attenders of their monthly support group, and it is through the sharing of our stories with others going through these grievous losses that we are able to heal. We aren't meant to grieve alone. Fortunately, Healing Hope has created a growing community of folks caring for one another, despite unspeakable losses.

-Melissa Godber, mother to Will



# OUR SERVICES

## EDUCATION

### GRIEF IN THE WORKPLACE

Research shows the workplace impact grief has on employees. It may include:

- Higher absenteeism
- Decreased Motivation
- Loss of Productivity
- Increased Errors
- Forgetfulness
- Incomplete Tasks
- Reduced Job Satisfaction
- Communication Issues
- Disruption to Workflow
- Higher Turnover Rates

The impact of grief due to a child loss is long term. Our education focuses on how to navigate interactions and improve communication during what is likely the hardest time in your employee's life. By focusing on proactive conversations and considerations of everyone involved, including the grieving employee, co-workers and the company's needs, employers can take a forward-looking approach that will greatly impact performance, morale, and company loyalty.



Traveling through grief after a loss is a marathon not a sprint. Through our education opportunities we provide mentoring and consulting for support systems and employers to help them navigate hard conversations and provide support and encouragement for their employees, staff, and students after the loss of a child, grandchild, or sibling.

Resources we offer:

- Our book, The Walk, by Denny and Karri Allen
- Public speaking events to increase awareness about issues surrounding child loss and grief
- One-on-one visits

