

A look inside Jessica's House

2019 Annual Report



Jessica's House

*Grief support for children, teens,
young adults and their families*

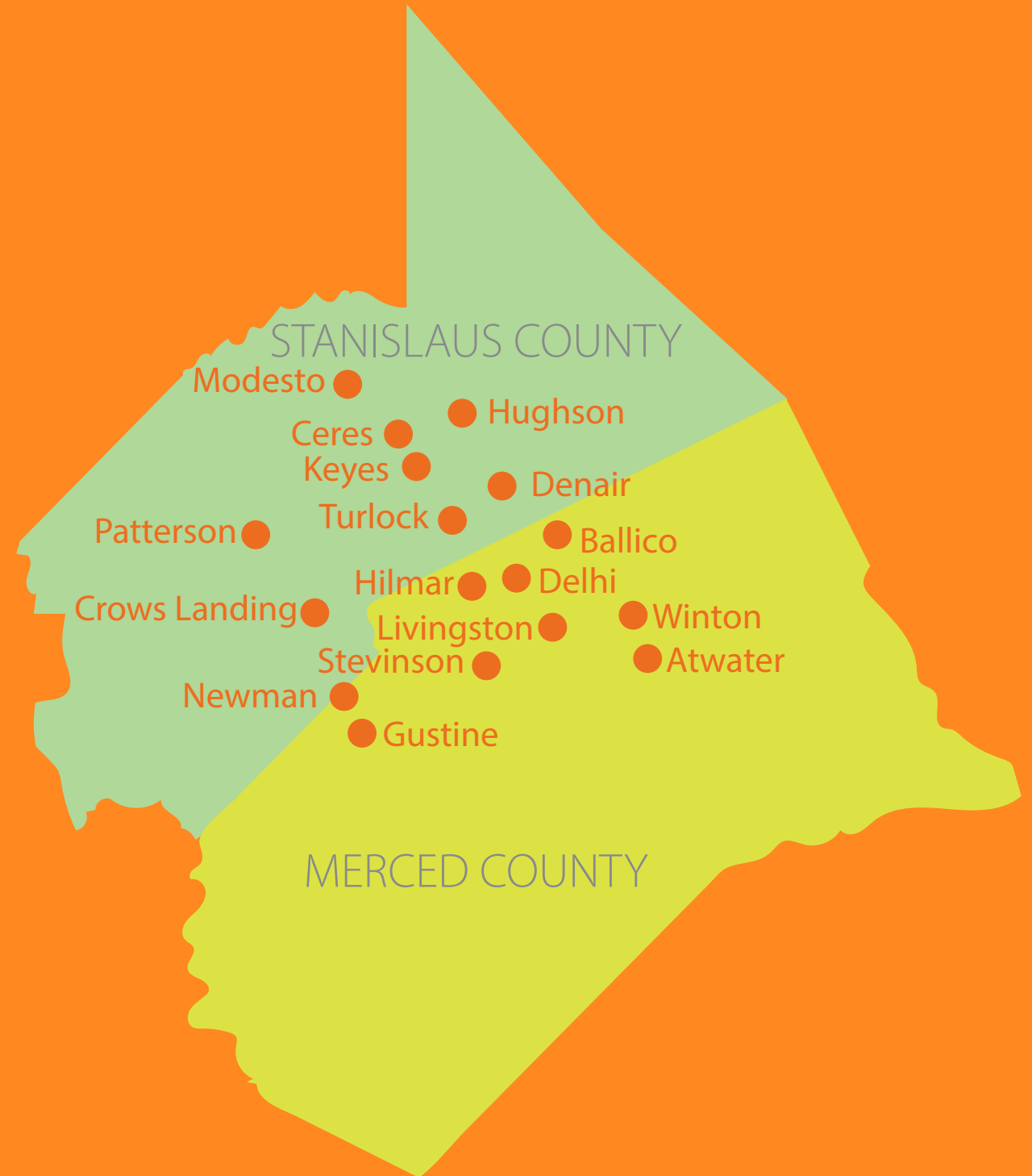
2

counties in our primary service area

including these great communities:

Stanislaus: Ceres, Crows Landing, Denair, Hughson, Keyes, Modesto, Newman, Patterson, and Turlock

Merced: Atwater, Ballico, Delhi, Gustine, Hilmar, Livingston, Stevenson, and Winton



Jessica's House provides grief support to anyone, regardless of their residence.



1,079
individuals served

Our team walked alongside and supported little brothers to big sisters, solo moms to widowed dads, and legal guardians to primary caregivers. Each person with a unique story, yet all of them with one commonality—***grieving the loss of a loved one.***





specialized grief support groups

Grieving children, teens, and young adults are placed in groups by age, type of loss, and relationship to the person who died.

Parent Loss

Sibling Loss

Hope After Homicide

Hope After Suicide

HeartStrings

(stillbirth and pregnancy loss)

Grandparent Loss

139

**grief support groups
facilitated**

In just one year, our compassionate and highly trained team of staff and volunteers facilitated groups supporting:

160 participants in the Parent Loss Support Group

43 participants in the Sibling Loss Support Group

30 participants in the Hope After Homicide Support Group

25 participants in the Hope After Suicide Support Group

21 parent participants in HeartStrings Support Group

47 participants in the Grandparent Loss Support Group





cost to participate in grief support groups

All of Jessica's House support services, including grief support groups, are provided at no charge to families thanks to generous private support from our community.



individual grieving children, teens, and young adults supported

Members of 176 grieving families were supported through groups at Jessica's House. The groups provided grieving children, teens, young adults and their families with moments of connection, expression through art and play, and opportunities to share and practice coping skills.



319

grieving children and teens supported at school-based groups

Our staff and volunteers provided weekly grief support to 68 groups on 30 school campuses. We worked with school personnel to ensure that they had the resources they needed to provide an environment that was sensitive to the needs of grieving students.

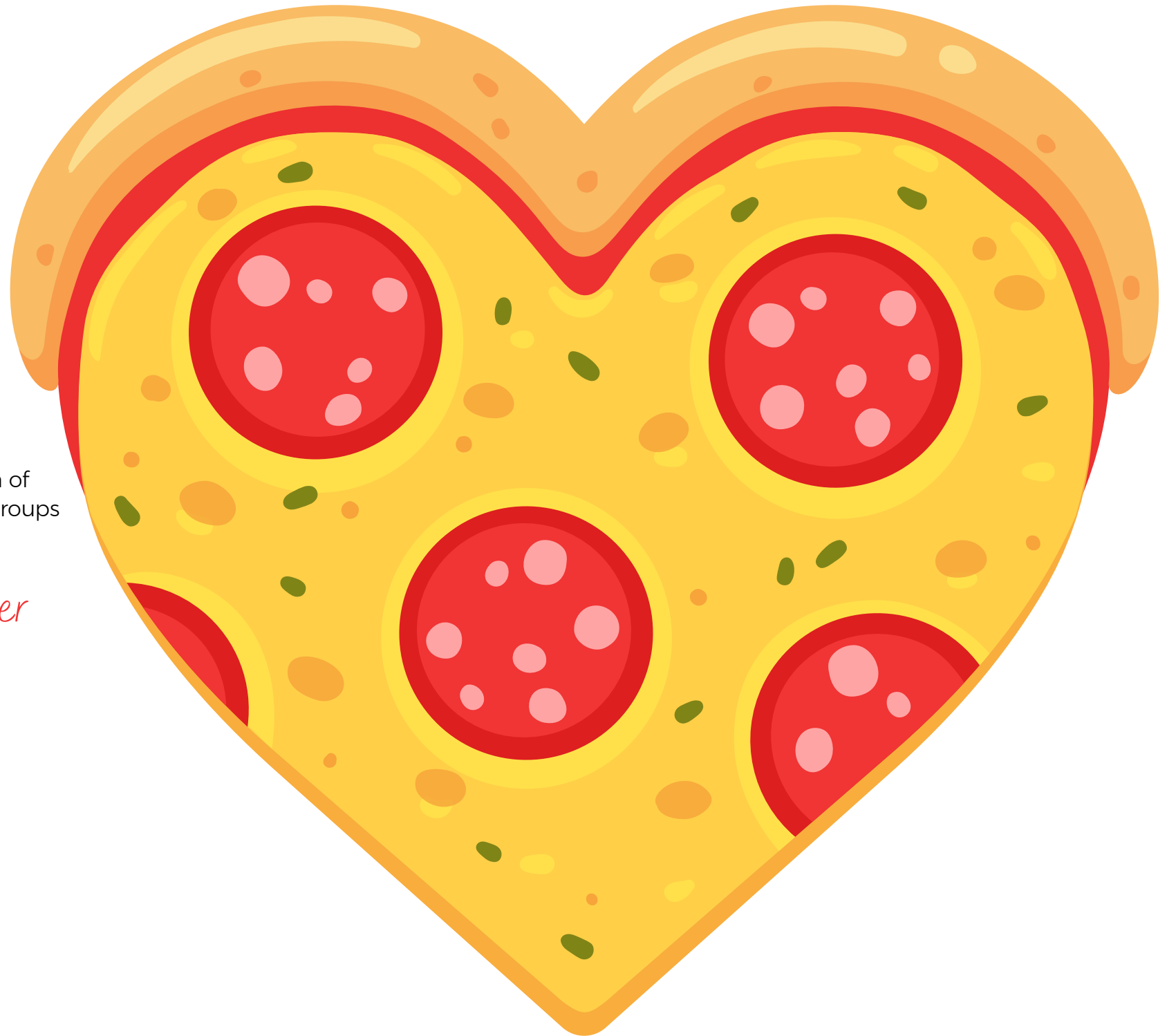
#HOPEINHAND
#GRIEVED

8,316

**slices of pizza served to
our children.**

Our grief support families arrived 30 minutes before group began to have dinner together. This eased the burden of mealtime before or after group since groups are offered at dinner time.

*“A family that eats together
stays together.”*





9,987

estimated tail wags

Grief support comes in all shapes, sizes, and textures. And Douglas a certified therapy dog, has a special way of making others feel like they are going to be okay. A warm “Hello,” expressed with a wag, and a gentle hug back says, “I feel better now.”





10,765

hand hugs

Our grief support groups always conclude with a closing circle where all participants hold hands and pass a hand hug around the circle. It's the Jessica's House way of saying to one another, "We are in this together."



197

**children supported
during critical incidents**

Our Critical Incident Response Team consists of highly trained personnel who worked alongside law enforcement and emergency responders at 19 critical incidents affecting children.

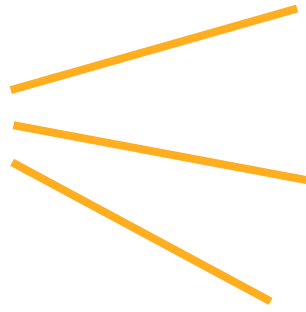


22

grief training programs conducted

Jessica's House provided training for teachers, school administrators, and county agencies to prepare them to support their organization when a death or tragedy occurs.

43



speaking engagements

Our grief education team shared their knowledge with community organizations too. Their presentations covered those challenging questions like, “How do I tell my child that someone has died?” “Should my child attend the funeral?” “How can I help a loved one transition back to school or work?”



202

printed resources supplied

Hospitals, funeral homes, and churches are often the first point of contact when a death occurs. Our team provided helpful educational materials to these professionals as they guided those they serve at the early stage of dealing with a death.

*Because
Grief Comes
in All Sizes*



**Jessica's
House**

*Grief Support For Children, Teens,
Young Adults And Their Families*

We're Here for You
When You Feel Alone

*Welcome to
Jessica's House*

Someone has died.
Everything has changed.
But there are people who care and
want to support you.
There is a place for you to grieve
in your own time, in your own way.





5,963

social media fans

We're liked and we're followed on Facebook and Instagram. This is another place where we provided support, encouragement, and resources for our families, and to those grieving who may never have walked through our doors.



5,760
volunteer hours donated

What would we do without them? After completing a mandatory 21-hour volunteer training program, our 131 dedicated and compassionate volunteers gave of their hearts and hands. Volunteers co-facilitated grief support groups, greeted our grief support group participants to create a warm and welcoming environment, helped staff community events, and assisted in the office.

7

full-time staff

Yes, just seven full-time staff and two part-time staff make all this happen each year. “How is this possible?” you may ask. The answer is, “It takes a team.” Our team includes the expert guidance of our CEO, our Board of Directors, the generous support of our donors, and the regular assistance and support of our committed and compassionate volunteers. Together, we make it happen.



351,022
dollars donated

Our generous donors sponsored a child, funded grief support and school-based groups, and covered program costs such as art for activities, toys, kitchen and office supplies for group nights, and more. Our heartfelt thanks for the financial support from individuals, businesses, and organizations.



SUPPORT AND REVENUE SOURCES:

Contributions	\$162,248.49
Events and Sponsorships by Community	\$188,773.53
EMC Health Contributions	\$360,557.04
Total	\$711,579.06

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$619,190.74
Management and General	\$42,199.63
Fundraising	\$50,188.69
Total	\$711,579.06

For calendar year January 1 - December 31, 2019



6

million dollar capital campaign goal

Jessica's House programs and services cannot be sustained in our current small and rented facility. It is time to build a permanent home that will expand our ability to provide best-practice grief support to children and families throughout the region. A move to a new permanent home is essential for the long-term viability of our program.

Our For Healing Hearts capital campaign launched in 2019. Thanks to major donors throughout the region, and a generous \$3 million match from EMC Health, we are excited to announce our progress as of December 2019.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019

Total Committed Pledges	\$1,438,150.00
Total Pledge Payments	\$419,700.00
Total Campaign/Construction Expenses	\$14,148.13



100 billion “thank yous”

2019 was a year of grieving, growing, and gratitude.

Hundreds of grieving children, teens, young adults and their families walked through our doors with unimaginable pain.

Over the months that passed, we watched them learn new coping skills and over time we watched them heal and transform. We are honored to walk alongside them.

In our own family we suffered tragedy with the loss of our son, Carter, in September. We never imagined that we would need the support of Jessica's House in our own family, but we do.

I am grateful to each one who has supported the mission of Jessica's House as well as our family during 2019.

Because of you, children and families do not grieve alone.

With heartfelt thanks,

Erin Nelson

Executive Director
Jessica's House

