

Heartfelt continues to walk beside parents as they journey through grief

Almost two decades have passed since families and parents in the Seward community recognized the lack of support for grieving parents. Tragedy strikes when it's least expected and those in its path are unprepared to handle such terrible loss. That's when a few families banded together and decided to make a change.

Heartfelt Connections began in 2002 to support parents grieving the loss of their children. At the time of unimaginable loss, parents are adrift adjusting to life without their children and are emotionally overwhelmed. Realizing parents often don't know where to turn for help, Heartfelt wanted to be there for those who needed support.

By reaching out, Heartfelt is letting parents know there is hope. There are others who have gone through the same devastating times they are now experiencing and have managed to cope. Just being there, letting parents know there are resources and where to find help, is often what matters most. Offering comfort and support brings a feeling of relief and belonging.

Through newsletters, social media, websites and even one-on-one grief counseling, Heartfelt Connections has delivered resources to parents in need through the most difficult times and beyond.

Apart from emotional support and guidance, parents also need to remember their children and celebrate their lives. Heartfelt realized the want of a physical place

parents and families could visit to remember their loved ones and set out to create the Heartfelt Children's Memorial.

What began as a dream of the parents who had lost a child, became a reality in 2015. Through generous donations, fundraising, volunteering and community support—both financial and emotional—the dream was actualized.

On the corner of Hillcrest and Columbia, on Concordia University's campus, resides a welcoming,

Some parents are unable to visit their child's final resting place and want somewhere that represents that to them. Nearly 300 bricks are dedicated. Multiple states and even an international brick can be found on the memorial's walls. Knowing your child will never be forgotten, that their life did matter and that

Anyone interested in learning more about Heartfelt is invited to visit their website, heartfeltseward.org, their Facebook page @ [heartfeltseward](https://www.facebook.com/heartfeltseward) or email them at heartfeltinc12@gmail.com. All donations made to the People's City Mission box located in the Fast Mart parking lot, adjacent to the Civic Center in Seward, directly benefit Heartfelt and alleviate annual costs



Bricks are etched on site with inscriptions from parents.



"Fly Home" Lifetile wall is made of 8" x 8" glass tiles.

peaceful memorial that will stand forever as a physical representation of parents' love for their children. A sculpture and stunning Lifetile wall add charm and fascination to the landscape. Three brick walls, etched with loving inscriptions from the parents to the children, sit among flowers and trees. It is a serene location to reflect and connect with cherished memories. Visitors walk along the curving path and can feel the love in each inscription; so many memories reside in just one small brick.

"It is a wonderful place for meditation and comfort. Death ends a life, but not a relationship. Love never ends," said Diane Krieser, president and founding member of Heartfelt.

The memorial provides a tranquil physical location that brings all the children together.

they have left a lasting mark on this world, is priceless.

Heartfelt continues to improve the memorial and cultivate relationships and resources for connections through a Board of Directors and committees. New lighting to better view the bricks at night was just lately installed and a sign for those driving by, directing them to the memorial is underway. Though the memorial is built, there is so much yet to be accomplished.

and maintenance.

The memorial is located at 115 E. Hillcrest in Seward, and hosts an annual Remembrance Ceremony the Sunday preceding Memorial Day when new bricks are dedicated and current bricks are honored and remembered. All are welcome.

Krieser encourages not only the family and friends of the children, but anyone who wishes to visit, to come and enjoy the memorial.

Heartfelt Incorporated Invites you to attend

the Heartfelt Children's Memorial Annual Remembrance



Sunday, May 24th, 2020, 3:00PM

115 E. Hillcrest Seward, NE 68434

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