

- HOW YOU CAN HELP -

A Resource Guide for Family & Friends of Grieving Individuals & Families

'Together... we are BRAVE!'

- Understand that grief has no timeline or end point, it is not a linear journey, lasts a lifetime, and differs for everyone.
- Visit, call, text and continue to do so months and years from now, not just immediately after the death.
- Actively listen without offering your opinion and without judgement.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions; be curious leading with love.
- Mention their loved one's name.
- Ask to view photographs, if available.
- Help organize the memorial, funeral, reception, celebration of life.
- Don't ask what you can do, just do.
- Provide a meal soon after as well as years later on a random day, keeping in mind food preferences and specific dietary needs.
- Do morning check-ins bring over a coffee or tea.
- Accompany them on walks or during workouts.
- Take them out to a movie, dinner or shopping.
- Perform household chores such as the laundry, vacuuming, washing dishes, cleaning bathrooms and kitchen.
- Purchase paper goods for easy clean up and disposal.
- Provide maintenance work around the house such as checking air filters in air conditioning and heating units, cleaning window screens, mowing the lawn, weeding, etc.
- Pay bills or check due dates and set alarm reminders.
- Provide childcare for any children, if applicable.
- Offer to drive and go siit with them to any appointments.
- Provide pet sitting.
- Grocery shop or set up grocery delivery service.
- Be extra patient.
- Remember and mention their loved one on important milestone dates and holidays, but also on random days.
- Encourage them to make healthy choices.
- Guide them to receive professional help and get in community with those who have experienced a similar loss.
- Show them unconditional love, no 'if this, then I can/will...'
- Continue to show up, even when it feels difficult or uncomfortable for you.