

How Carson's Village Started

On April 28, 2017, our youngest son, Carson, aged 11, passed away unexpectedly. We were completely blindsided and had no idea what to do next. The hospital didn't have a "brochure" or any information regarding next steps for us. We went home empty-handed, without our child and with no idea what the next few days held in store for our family.

Afterward, we knew that what we had learned from our experience could benefit others, so we created Carson's Village to help families navigate the practical details involved with a sudden loss, from the moment of passing through the funeral. We don't want another family to be as unprepared as we were.

- April and Jason, Carson's parents



Carson's Village *can help you through the funeral and beyond*

www.carsonsvillage.org

1-877-789-0722

help@carsonsvillage.org



**Helping families
navigate the decisions they face
immediately after the loss
of a loved one**

A service provided to the
Houston ISD families by the
Houston ISD Foundation



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ORGANIZE=A VILLAGE=

Helping Families Organize Their Village

If you've never experienced the sudden loss of a loved one, you can't really imagine how many practical details there are to manage. Making burial arrangements, hosting family and friends, planning and coordinating funeral services, managing grief and stress, and ensuring you have the resources to pay for it all are just a few of the tasks you'll need to focus on in the days following your loss.

Carson's Village provides a wide range of free support services to help your family navigate this difficult time.

Contact us as soon as possible so that we can help you avoid the many common pitfalls that come with an unexpected loss.

How Carson's Village Can Help

- Assign a compassionate Advocate to walk you through the process
- Navigate the funeral home experience
- Provide a tool to help you raise money from your friends and family
- Create a family webpage to organize and communicate family needs and news
- Provide resources to address the increased stress and anxiety you and your family will face during this difficult time
- Provide financial coaching and cost assessments to help reduce expenses
- Provide a timeline of to-dos
- Provide templates to write an obituary or eulogy
- Coordinate food, guests, and visitors

Things to consider before you start making decisions:

- Try to **avoid releasing your loved one** to a funeral home until you have a plan in place. Our Advocate can help you create that plan.
- **Be careful before setting up a fundraising site.** Depending on the site, the fees can be substantial and impact how much money can be directly raised for the family.
- **You have options** for where you can purchase a casket, urn, and grave markers. Check our resource library for helpful links.



This process is hard to navigate and the Advocate provided guidance. Everything was there; all the steps were provided which made it easier.
-Robert P.

They helped me think and get organized; in those moments you just can't think clearly.
-Angie R.

Carson's Village Can Help You

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Our Advocate asked all the right questions to help me get my thoughts out of my head.
- Damian L.