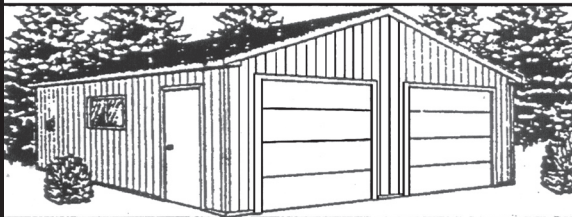


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Healing Center offers Long-running Camp for Grieving Children and Teens

Applications being accepted for 26th Annual Camp Courage.



-- February 19, 2019, Muskegon, MI



Harbor Hospice has been offering Camp Courage for 25 years as a way to help children and their families following the death of a loved one. The emotions of grief can be overwhelming and isolating for children who have not yet developed the verbal and emotional skills to navigate the grief process.

Children grieve differently than adults, and need time to just “be kids,” as well as time to honor and remember their loved one. Kids often feel alone in their grief and thrive when able to connect with others who understand their unique experience.



Harbor Hospice staff and trained volunteers, create a safe, stable environment for children to explore and express their grief, remember their loved one, and connect with others who have experienced a death. Children participate in

traditional camp activities such as swimming, hiking, and campfires, along with grief-tailored activities that teach healthy coping skills.

This weekend overnight camping experience



for children ages 6-12, and teens for the junior counselor program, is held at Pioneer Trails on Big Blue Lake in Muskegon County. Camp Courage 2019 will be held Friday, June 21, through Sunday, June 23. Application deadline is Friday, May 10. The only cost is a \$10 registration fee per camper. Harbor Hospice is also looking for compassionate volunteer counselors for the weekend.

For more information or to register, contact Laura Ecker or Kari Allen at 231.728.3442 or 1.800.497.9559 or email: info@HarborHospiceMI.org or visit our website at: HarborHospiceMI.org.

Library Friends Open the Book Nook

By Julie Sanderson

The Friends of the Fruitport District Library, affectionately referred to as FOFL, have had quite a year since they first formed last Spring. Two successful book sales and several volunteers’ efforts supported the library in various ways. FOFL supplied many of the new books for last year’s summer reading program kickoff party. Each child was able to choose one new book to bring home. FOFL assisted with many of the children’s events, as our volunteers joined library staff to help run the activities and provided craft materials, candy, and even bunnies at the most recent “Pat the Bunny” event.

This past winter, our president, Karla Brown, shared an idea to open a used book store in the lower level of the library. Volunteers’ time, energy, and skills helped bring this idea to life. On March 2nd, The Book Nook held its grand opening and has continued to be a success. The Book Nook’s purpose is to provide books at a reasonable cost to our visitors and raise money to fund our support of the library.

Operated and staffed entirely by volunteers, the Book Nook is open twice a week, Thursdays from 4-7 pm, and Saturdays from 10 am-2 pm. Items for sale include over 1,500 books, CDs, DVDs, audiobooks, and puzzles. Donations by community members, other organizations, and our own library discards fill our shelves for The Book Nook, as well as our book sales. Each

week, as space allows, new inventory is added to the store.

The Book Nook has impressed many of our visitors with the quality and prices of our books. Fiction, non-fiction, children’s, teens, and classics are sorted and organized. All fiction books are alphabetized, and children’s books are organized by reading and interest level. We offer a selection of new, recently published, and special interest books at reasonable prices. Many customers have purchased these as gifts for others.

FOFL will be holding their 3rd annual Fruitport Old Fashioned Days book sale this year. Each year this sale continues to grow. Three days of setup, five days of the book sale coinciding with the dates of the carnival, and two days of break down, require many hands to make this a success. If you are available to help in any way, or if you have any lightweight 6’ or 8’ tables to lend us, please let our library staff know as soon as possible.

We’d like to thank the community for their donations and patronage. One special need is chapter books, as the children and area teachers are buying these books as fast as we can put them on the shelves. Donations may be dropped off at the library during open hours.

The Friends of the Fruitport District Library has had a great year and is looking forward to what this next year will bring. Our meetings are usually on the 3rd Friday of every month at 10am and are open to the public. Currently there is no cost of membership and everyone is welcome to join us.