

Rainbows for All Children

Rainbows for All Children has been in Canada for 30 years. Founded in 1983, by Suzy Yehl Marta, Rainbows has been helping children of all ages deal with loss (most commonly death, divorce, deployment, incarceration, and adoption/foster care) but has also helped in many community crisis. (For example, in Fredericton and Moncton after violence in their cities) Although Rainbows is not religious in nature, there are supplemental materials should churches wish to set up their own sites. Rainbows delivers a standard program aimed to get children talking about their feelings and processing them. The cost, aside from start up program materials, is relatively affordable, and I do have some ideas for that. Right now, I am looking for potential facilitators so that we can get at least one group going for each age range. (There is a program for every age from 3 to two different adult programs)

My own journey with childhood loss began at age 4, and I have been passionate about helping children cope with loss ever since. I only wish that I had the opportunity to attend something like Rainbows as a child. It really would have helped. My credentials are: That I've been a trained Rainbows Director for almost 2 years, I've been writing resources for children dealing with grief for over 10 years (including being a moderator and contributor to the once popular "Shape of their Light" blog), I've dabbled in art therapy dealing with grief and loss and have over 100 funerals under my belt. I've processed a lot personally and as part of a larger family. I'm not an expert with credentials behind my name, but I've got some experience. :)

The website for Rainbows Canada is: www.rainbows.ca and I'm attaching an informational brochure and an FAQ sheet.

At this time, I'll be offering the 6 hour facilitator training for free in 3 zoom sessions. (approx. \$100 value - to do it online in the US is \$160)

The time commitment after the training would be 1-2 planning sessions so we can adapt the program to zoom and then 40mins a week for 10 weeks.

Folks don't need to have experience or credentials, they just need to be willing to listen to kids share some of their most vulnerable stories in a respectful way.

After the 10 weeks are up, if folks wish to continue on to establish a site in their congregation, a session to learn the forms required and to present to their board/council will be required as well as subsequent facilitators to do the facilitator training. If folks don't want to set-up their own site, that's ok too. Right now, the goal is to help kids who aren't dealing with the isolation well or have been affected by the violence in Nova Scotia last weekend.