



*June 9, 2022*

Dear Uplift Community,

Today we are announcing that Darcy Walker Krause has decided to step down as Uplift's Executive Director on July 31st after almost ten years of extraordinary leadership. Building on her work in the field and her own personal experiences, Darcy plans to focus her time on writing opportunities as well as spending time with her family.

Along with her staff of clinicians and leaders, Darcy has led Uplift to become an organization of tremendous impact on the children and families of Philadelphia. Under Darcy's leadership, Uplift grew from serving 100 children annually to thousands of children each year. Uplift is now recognized regionally and nationally as a leader in the field of childhood bereavement. In our most recent fiscal year, Uplift served more than 5,000 children, parents/caregivers, and mental health practitioners. Uplift's family and in-school grief groups, post-crisis support after gun violence deaths and community tragedies, Philly HopeLine, and trainings in children's grief and trauma are collectively a critical lifeline in the City of Philadelphia. Darcy and the Uplift team have helped change the way that people view grief and access services to help them build on their own innate resilience and cope with losses.

The Board is proud and humbled to serve Uplift, to support its work, and to thank Darcy for her leadership and commitment.

As we reflect upon the immediate needs of our organization, the Board of Directors will hire an Interim Executive Director to allow us the opportunity to meaningfully plan for the future of Uplift. Many of you participated recently in the community survey as part of Uplift's strategic planning process that is currently underway. We intend to rely on the information gathered, the Uplift team, a Search Committee, and with the guidance of a professional Interim Executive Director, to identify and define the qualities and experiences we will want in our next Executive Director. We are confident that this transition plan allows for both stable leadership and the opportunity for thoughtful planning. Uplift will emerge from this transition an even stronger and more vibrant organization.

We are grateful that Darcy, the Uplift team, and our Board have worked together to build an organization with a strong mission and deep foundation on solid financial footing. We are well-positioned to continue our mission: *to ensure that children grieving a death are offered the services needed to heal and grow through their grief, while strengthening families, communities, and professionals' understanding of how best to respond to the children's needs.*

We look forward to the opportunity to celebrate Darcy and thank her for her leadership. We are also grateful for your continued partnership and support of Uplift.

Sincerely,



Kristine Grady Derewicz, Chair



Brigitte Addimando, Vice-Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors of  
Uplift Center for Grieving Children