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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New support for kids grieving a COVID-19 loss

Turlock, Calif. – Registration is now open for a new peer support group especially for children, teens, young adults and their caregivers who have lost a family member to COVID-19.

Jessica's House is offering an **all-new peer support group** that has been developed **especially for youth and their caregivers who have lost a family member to COVID-19.** The COVID-19 Loss peer support group **begins October 1** and will meet every other week **via Zoom**. The peer support group is open to residents of Stanislaus and Merced Counties. There is **no charge** to participate. To join the group, phone 209-250-5395.

"A death by COVID-19 can be complicated," said Erin Nelson, executive director of Jessica's House. "The natural grief processes can be compromised in cases where safety guidelines or other circumstances have prevented family members from physically saying goodbye to their loved one." Nelson said another difficulty may arise if a person has been precluded from attending a loved one's memorial service or if circumstances resulted in no ceremony being held. "Not attending or having a ceremony can make it tough to heal in community. These are some of the factors that make COVID-19 bereavement challenging. However, support with others who understand this unique loss can help."

The new COVID-19 Loss peer support group is among seven groups offered by Jessica's House. Every other week groups are for Parent Loss, Sibling Loss, Hope After Suicide and Hope After Homicide. Monthly groups are Grandparent Loss and HeartStrings, a group for stillbirth and pregnancy loss. Peer support groups provide families with moments of connection, expression through art and play, and opportunities to share and practice coping skills.

For more information, please visit: www.jessicashouse.org.

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*Grief Support for Children, Teens,
Young Adults and their Families*

About Jessica's House

Jessica's House began as a grassroots effort inspired by Erin Nelson and Turlock community members who had experienced untimely deaths in their families. When they sought grief support service for their children, they realized there were no local organizations specializing in supporting grieving children. Since the program launched in 2012, Jessica's House has been a place of comfort, hope, and healing for grieving children, teens, young adults, and families throughout the region. Jessica's House is a grief support ministry under the leadership of EMC Health, Inc., a Turlock-based nonprofit organization affiliated with Covenant Ministries of Benevolence. Generous community support allows Jessica's House to provide not only grief support groups but community trainings and crisis response teams in Stanislaus and Merced counties.