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JESSICA'S HOUSE ANNOUNCES BOOK DEAL WITH BAKER BOOKS TO PROVIDE A MUCH-NEEDED RESOURCE FOR FAMILIES GRIEVING A DEATH

Turlock, California – Over the past eleven years, Jessica's House has helped thousands of families throughout the Central Valley find peer support from others who have experienced the death of a loved one. Today, Jessica's House is pleased to announce it has signed a book deal with Baker Books.

The book written by staff authors, Erin L. Nelson and Colleen E. Montague will offer gentle wisdom from Erin's personal losses and their combined professional experience supporting parents after the death of a spouse, partner, or child. The book will be a needed companion for parents raising children who are grieving. Parents will feel understood and better equipped to support and comfort their children, alongside taking care of themselves. From how to explain death to their child and support their daily well-being, to healing practices for building resilience, this book addresses parents' greatest concerns after a death impacts their family.

Erin Nelson is the founding director of Jessica's House and writes from her personal and professional experience on grief after the loss of her husband and son. Erin is an advanced certified trainer, consultant, and trauma practitioner through the National Institute of Trauma and Loss in Children. Nelson added, "I am grateful for the opportunity to share my personal memoir along with learnings from Jessica's House. Parents need a resource when death impacts their family. My hope is that parents who are grieving find the companion they need through this book as they learn to support their children while also taking good care of themselves." Colleen Montague is a Marriage and Family Therapist and Director of Outreach and Education for Jessica's House. She supports grieving parents at Jessica's House and develops needed resources for families in grief.

The death of a parent, sibling, or another important person in a child's life is one of the most frequently reported disruptive childhood experiences, and without appropriate support, can lead to adverse health and welfare outcomes. Jessica's House provides free peer support to children, teens, young adults and their adult caregivers through seven unique support groups. These groups include Parent and Sibling Loss, Hope after Homicide, Suicide and Accidental Overdose, HeartStrings for pregnancy, stillbirth and infant loss, and Spanish-speaking groups. Each group combines therapeutic talk, play, and creative expression to promote healing and hope for the future. All services are provided at no cost to families.

The book is set to be released in Spring, 2025. Erin and Colleen are represented by Wendy Lawton with Books and Such Literary Agency. For more information about Jessica's House or to make a donation, visit www.jessicashouse.org.

About Jessica's House

[Jessica's House](#) was established in 2012 in Turlock, California. It is a ministry of EMC Health, Inc.

In the U.S. it is estimated that approximately 1 in 12 children will experience the death of a parent or sibling by the age of 18 and by the age of 25, that number doubles to 1 in 7¹ making the need for Jessica's House even more vital to helping children in our community. The death of a parent, sibling, or another important person in a child's life is one of the most frequently reported disruptive childhood experiences, and without appropriate support, can lead to adverse health and welfare outcomes.

Jessica's House offers peer support groups based on type of loss. Each group responds to the unique experiences of its participants and combines therapeutic talk, play and creative expression to promote healing and hope for the future. Thanks to generous donors, grief support is always offered at no cost to families.

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¹ According to The Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM) – visit judishouse.org/CBEM