Helping Communities Heal
The Role for Libraries

Colorado Association of Libraries
Annual Conference, September 13, 2018
Your Presenters

Claudine Perrault
Director, Estes Valley Public Library District
○ Librarian
○ 2014 Colorado Librarian of the Year

Dayle E. Spencer
President, Loving Spirit, Colorado 501(c)3
○ Lawyer and Educator
○ Author, Loving Allie, Transforming the Journey of Loss and Loving Spirit, Self-help for the Journey of Loss
Library as Community Facilitator
How the Estes Valley Library is Helping Heal our Community

- “Social infrastructure”
  - Companionship for Older Adults, Parents & Kids
  - Language instruction for Immigrants
  - Advanced Directive
  - Civic Dialogue and Conflict Resolution
  - Social Services referrals

- Flood

- Community tragedies in a row
"The world breaks everyone, and afterward many are strong at the broken places."
Ernest Hemingway, *Farewell to Arms*

Partnership enables members of our community to be strong again.
How the Partnership Works

The Library provides:
- Meeting space
- Parking
- Technology & support
- Marketing/Advertising
- Safe environment
- Set up/take down

Loving Spirit provides:
- Trained facilitators
- Registration
- All workshop materials
- Marketing/Advertising
- Snacks
- Participant Surveys
- Follow up
loving Spirit
Transforming the Journey of Loss
A movement to change the way we respond to and recover from grief and loss

- Colorado 501(c)(3) established in 2015
- Working in partnership with other organizations with allied interests to help individuals recover from the major losses in their lives
“Dayle Spencer’s deeply personal “Loving Allie” offers an insightful and candid look at the cycles of life and death we must all encounter. Whether currently in grief or not, we highly recommend it for all families.”
—JIMMY CARTER and ROSALYNN CARTER, 39th President and Former First Lady of the United States of America, New York Times Bestselling Authors

“With care and wisdom born of her own loss, Dayle E. Spencer offers a helping hand that encourages with empathy but is also clear that we can help ourselves. She shows us how.”
—BISHOP MINERVA G. CARCANO, The United Methodist Church

Dayle E. Spencer
Death does not discriminate and neither do we

○ We love all, serve all
○ Workshops are completely free to all participants
  ○ Funds are raised through donor events, gifts in memory of deceased loved ones, and a pay-it-forward approach.
Workshops are intentionally small to insure that participants are seen, heard, and validated

- Maximum of 30 per workshop.
- Attendance is by pre-registration only.
- All participants receive a free Myers-Briggs personality assessment as well as workshop materials
Aspects of the Experience / Workshop Materials

- Marketing/Advertising
- Online Registrations
- Personal Phone Calls
- Myers-Briggs Assessments
- Two, seven-hour days of presentations
- Personal Phone Call Follow Up
To date we have held workshops in the following venues:

- Denver, Colorado Hotel
- Estes Park, Colorado, Library
- Aurora, Colorado, Central Library
- The YMCA of the Rockies
- Seabury Hall, Maui
- The Westin, Maui
- Palm Desert, California Hospital Auditorium
- Tucson, Arizona Country Club
- Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs
- Ogden, Utah School Admin Bldg.
- Sun Valley Wellness Festival
- Ketchum, Idaho Library
- Naples, FL Community Hospital
What participants have said:

“It is an experience of hope.”

“This was a life-changing experience for me.”

“I was transformed by the whole experience.”

“It was amazing!”

“It was a safe, non-judgmental place to grieve.”
Mindsets

“A happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes.”

-Buddha
Kintsugi, more beautiful because it is broken.
Questions?
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