

Jan 2022 – Jun 2023



JUST ENDURING, INC.

# Annual Report

# Table of Contents

3

Message From the Board

4

Thank You Volunteers & Donors

5

2022-23 Impact

7

Vision & Contact Info

# From the Board

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are so grateful for the support we received and the progress we made in the past year and a half. Just Enduring continued providing impactful resources, such as our new step-by-step guides and care packages, to bereaved parents, as well as their families, friends and caregivers. We could not have done this without the support and generous contributions of our volunteers and donors.

This year, one of our co-founders, Nick McGeehon has stepped into an advisory board position with Just Enduring. However, Nick remains an integral part of Just Enduring and will continue to be involved as we move forward with our mission. We are fortunate to have welcomed Jack Stapleton to our board of directors. Jack comes to us as a bereaved father and with a wealth of experience and knowledge in finance, fundraising and personal relations.

Just Enduring has also begun expanding its reach by partnering with a variety of collaborative organizations to spread awareness and get our resources in the hands of more families who need our support.

As we move forward into the 2023-24 year, we continue to see the need for Just Enduring's resources and the impact we are making on families' lives. We will be focusing more on fundraisers, awareness events, and providing customized grief resources to parents this coming year. As always, we are committed to serving families who are enduring the tragic death of a child and strive to inspire hope that there is life and love after child loss.

Many Thanks!

*Just Enduring Board of Directors*

*Ben Gillham (President)  
Martha McGeehon (Vice President)  
Lara Gillham (Secretary)*

*Allison Remy  
Ken Remy  
Jack Stapleton*

# Thanks for Your Support

*You each deserve a million hugs!*

## Volunteers

### **Social Media Coordinator**

- Sarah Kariniemi

### **Blog Writers**

- Kyle Mertens
- Lester Hand
- Becca Kohn
- Liene Ciguze
- Lara Gillham
- Nick McGeehon

### **Special Thanks!**

- Jeff Watkin (Logo Design)
- Dan Zlatic (Digital Tech Support)
- Miranda Lee (Facebook Support)
- Julie Turner (Strategic Recommendations)
- Eric Mulherin (Grant Writing)
- Filament (Thinksgiving Facilitator)
- MiTek (Thinksgiving Team)
- Betty Mertens (Thinksgiving Team)
- Mary Aubrey (Thinksgiving Team)
- LittleBits Gym at Cheer STL (Kid Like You Event)
- Duo Dogs (Kid Like You Event)



## Top Donors

Ken & Allison Remy  
Rodger & Paula Riney  
Nestle Purina  
Lich Family Charitable Fund  
Keough Chiropractic  
Sarah & Isaac Shields  
Sue, John, Emily & Lauren  
Nancy Latham  
Michael & Lori Meehan  
Lance LeComb

## Fundraisers

**Lindsey Hand Annual Golf Fundraiser**  
*Lester Hand in Memory  
of his Daughter Lindsey*

**Brecken's Memorial Golf Fundraiser**  
*Sarah & Daryl Kariniemi in Memory  
of their Son Brecken*

# Jan 2022 – Jun 2023 Impact

We have continued to expand Just Enduring's footprint by:

## 1 Supporting Bereaved Parents

During the past year and a half, we have continued to expand the resources we offer, focused on driving more traffic to our website, continued to match parents in our peer support program, and made connections and partnerships with like organizations to expand our reach.

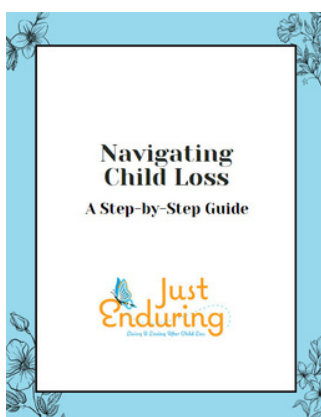
From January 2022 to June 2023, we interacted with 92 parents who requested to be a part of our "A Parent Like You" peer support program. We also saw an average of 750 visitors to our site each month, with the traffic increasing month after month.



Just Enduring continued to expand its partnerships and connections with local organizations. We partnered with Hutchens and Baue funeral homes to provide resources and care packages to bereaved parents; we partnered with the Ollie Hinkle Heart Foundation in a joint effort to promote each other's services to grieving families; and we joined Ella's Umbrella and Love Like Jackson to provide resources to families for grieving siblings.

## 2 Creating New Resources

Just Enduring is proud to now offer care packages to funeral homes and hospitals in an effort to reach parents in the early days of their loss. These care packages include not only information about Just Enduring and the services we offer, but also comforting items such as tea, hot chocolate, chocolates, a photo keychain, and a coffee mug. We even include a card letting the parents know the choice of what they do with their mug is up to them – enjoy a warm beverage or destroy it into many pieces, whichever helps them grieve better. We are currently partnering with several locations and are always looking to expand our impact.



We are excited to announce that we have created a step-by-step grief guide for parents called "Navigating Child Loss", which can be found on our website. This guide provides a checklist as well as detailed information on what to do after the death of a child, from the early days to months and years later.

We have also created "A Parent's Guide to Helping Children Grieve the Death of a Sibling". This guide is meant to help parents learn how to help their living children cope with the death of their sibling, as well as inform parents about the unique ways in which their children might be grieving their loss.

# Jan 2022 – Jun 2023 Impact

We have continued to expand Just Enduring's footprint by:

## 3 Interacting with Our Community

As the pandemic let up, we began expanding our community involvement efforts through events and media. We participated in the "Always Andy's Mom" podcast (episodes 143 and 144), where four of Just Enduring's founding members share their stories, and we were featured in an article for the UMSL (University of Missouri – St. Louis) Daily Publication. We are grateful for the privilege to be featured and hope it continues to raise awareness about the resources we offer.

We also participated in Thinksgiving, a Saint Louis event ran by Filament for nonprofits to collaborate with local businesses to creatively problem solve and focus on future endeavors. During the event, the Just Enduring team focused on automating grief experiences for those we serve, as well as focusing on collaboration with funeral homes to reach more parents in need.



Finally, Just Enduring organized the first of many events that fall within our "A Kid Like You" program. This event was co-sponsored by Ella's Umbrella, another nonprofit dedicated to helping siblings in their grief journey. The event included a book reading about sibling loss, gym play, face painting, crafts to remember siblings, and therapy dogs. It was very successful and a great beginning to the program.

# Our Vision



**Offer Easy-to-Find Child Loss Resources**



**Match Parents to Help Them Feel Connected**



**Inspire Hope that Life & Love Exists After Child Loss**

For support or questions, please feel free to contact us.

**Just Enduring, Inc.**

*Living & Loving After Child Loss*

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