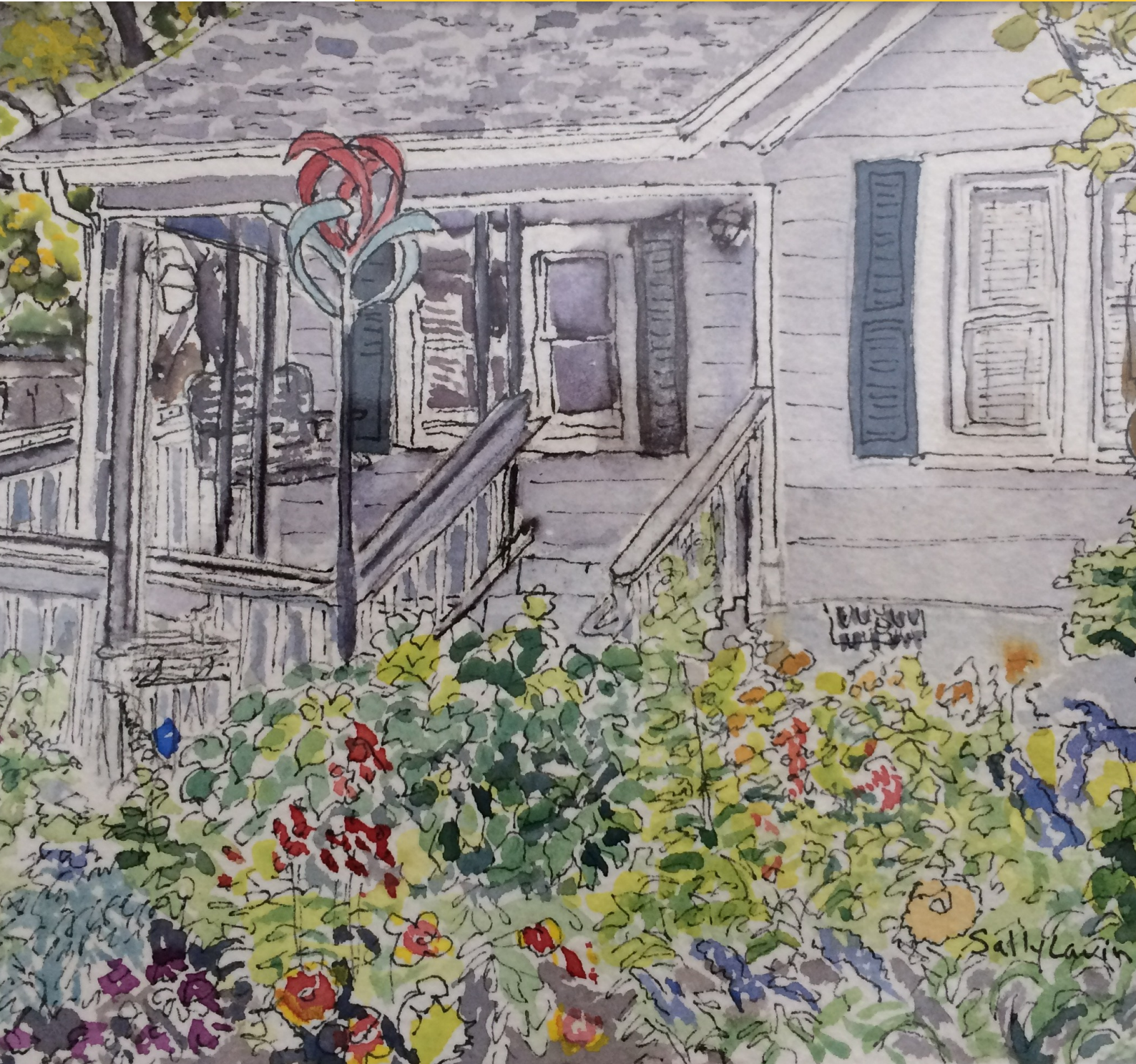


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# Annual Report

THE CHRISTI CENTER



CHRISTI  
CENTER 

Always Here After Your Loss



# ABOUT THE CHRISTI CENTER

## Mission

*The Christi Center offers hope after the death of a loved one by providing support networks, community education, and therapeutic activities that are free, peer-based, and ongoing.*

The Christi Center has been providing grief and loss support in the form of peer-to-peer support groups to adults, teens, and children five and older in Central Texas for 35 years. Support groups are facilitated by trained volunteers under the direction of clinical staff, many of whom have also experienced a similar loss to others in the group.

Since grief does not have a cure and requires ongoing maintenance, our services are available for as long as a person or family needs and are *always free of charge.*

## Who We Serve

The Christi Center partners with schools, foster care facilities, criminal justice agencies, civic and service organizations, businesses, churches and other community groups. We cross-refer with over 150 community agencies to ensure that we can meet the broad range of needs grieving families have. Our services are open and available to all of Central Texas, with group locations in Austin and Georgetown.

At the heart of the organization is the Center's peer-based grief support group model, which "normalizes" the grief experience by connecting the bereaved with others who have experienced losses of a similar nature, showing them that hope is possible after loss.

## Vision

*Through the Christi Center's work, we ensure that no one in Central Texas has to grieve alone.*

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Christi Center Supporter,

In late October of 2021, I was proud to join the Christi Center as Executive Director. I was compelled by the Christi Center's simple but powerful vision: *no one in Central Texas has to grieve alone.*

While the pandemic lingered throughout a second year, the Christi Center team was undaunted - finding innovative ways to support our members during trying times. We offered an average of 35 group session meetings monthly for hundreds of individuals, totaling 13,275 interactions. Additionally, we trained 1,332 individuals in grief education and bereavement support

Our unique, proven model is grounded on a premise of free, ongoing, peer-based support groups serving the unique needs of our members based on age or type of loss. In 2021, we provided specialized groups for:

- loss of a partner
  - loss of a child
  - pregnancy and infant loss
  - mixed loss (i.e., sibling, parent, etc.)\*
  - children's individual counseling\*
  - teen group
  - Spanish speaking group
  - COVID-19 loss
  - loss to suicide\*
  - loss to overdose\*
  - loss to crime
- \*fastest growing/greatest demand

As Central Texas slowly recovers from the pandemic, there will be a lot of grief work to be done. The Christi Center stands ready to lead our community in that healing process, as we have for the past 34 years. Thank you for sharing our vision, and supporting our good work.

Gratefully,



Jennifer A. Edwards  
Executive Director  
[jennifer@christicenter.org](mailto:jennifer@christicenter.org)

## OUR CORE VALUES

- To provide grief support at no charge to grieving families for as long as they need it
- To educate and increase community awareness on issues facing the bereaved
- To build community partnerships to better support grieving people
- To preserve a diverse and sustainable base of volunteer and financial support to ensure that the Center's services will always be available for those in need

# 2021 BY THE NUMBERS



Despite another year spent online, the Christi Center persevered and was able to reach people throughout Central Texas and beyond.

## 13,275

**TOTAL MEMBER ATTENDANCE**

The total number of members (all ages) who accessed our services in 2021.

## 475

**ADULT MEMBERS**

## 70

**CHILDREN + TEEN MEMBERS**

## 285

**NEW MEMBERS (ALL AGES)**

In 2021, the Christi Center welcomed 285 new members into our community.

# 2021 BY THE NUMBERS

## 421

### GROUP SESSIONS HELD

On average, the Christi Center hosted 35 group sessions per month. In 2021, we hosted 421 group meetings ranging from loss type to age group.

## 470

### INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN'S COUNSELING SESSIONS

The Christi Center provided individual counseling services for children grieving the loss of a loved one.

## 1,332

### PEOPLE TRAINED IN GRIEF SUPPORT

The Christi Center provided grief training to educate our community on the effects and symptoms of grief and to learn how to support the bereaved.

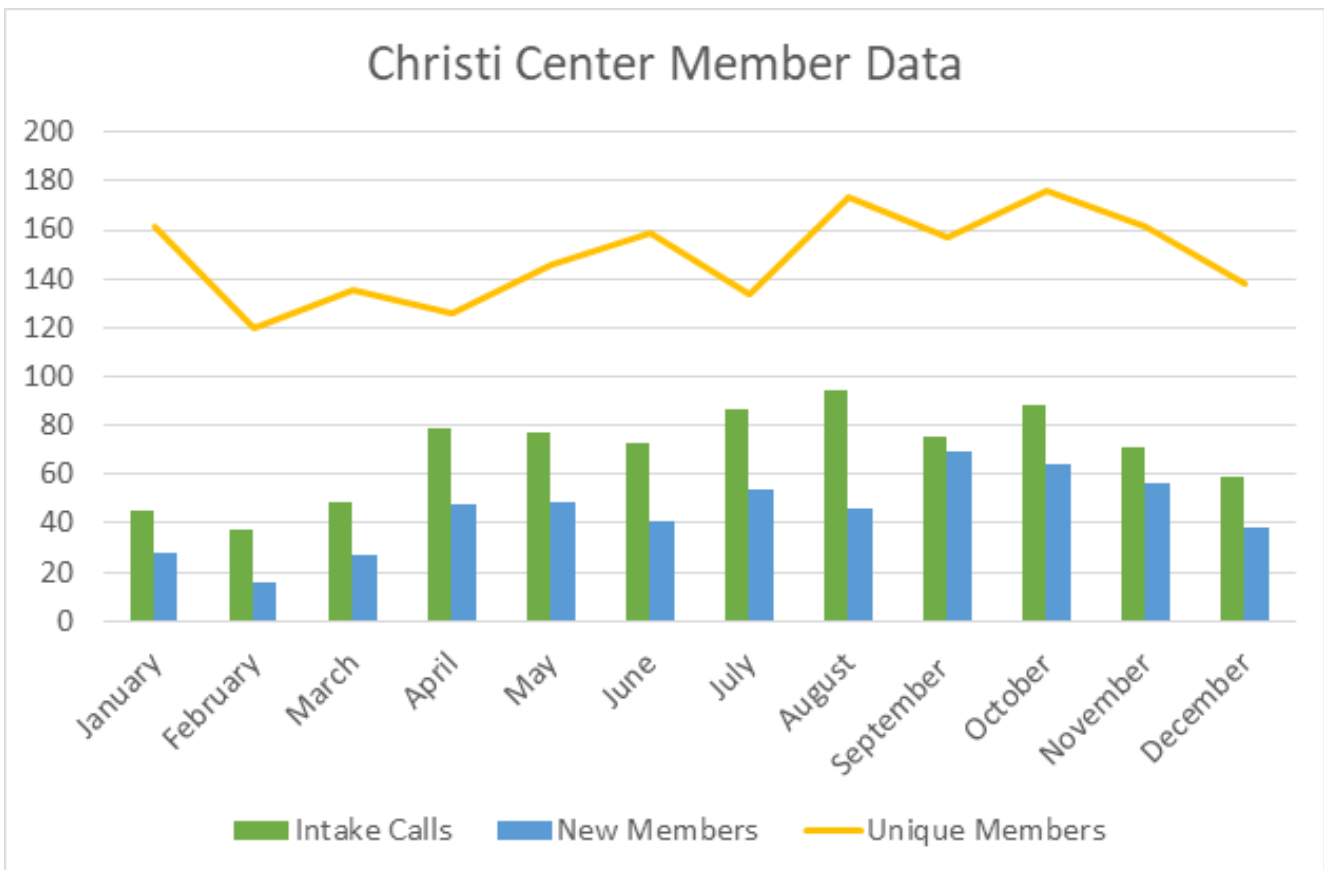


# Coming home to the Christi Center

In 2021, our beloved Remembrance Service looked a little different than what we have held in the past. With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to have a homecoming and welcome our community back into the Christi Center.

Over 160 people joined us in early December for our 34th annual holiday Remembrance events at our Austin and Georgetown locations. This was a time to honor and remember loved ones, hang photos on one of our Remembrance Trees, and light candles in memory of those who live on in our hearts forever. After 2 years apart, it was indescribable to come home and celebrate with you.

At the Christi Center, we believe that no one should grieve alone, and our events reflected that.



# Heart Connections

On October 21st, the Christi Center held our fundraising luncheon at the Austin Country Club known as Heart Connections.

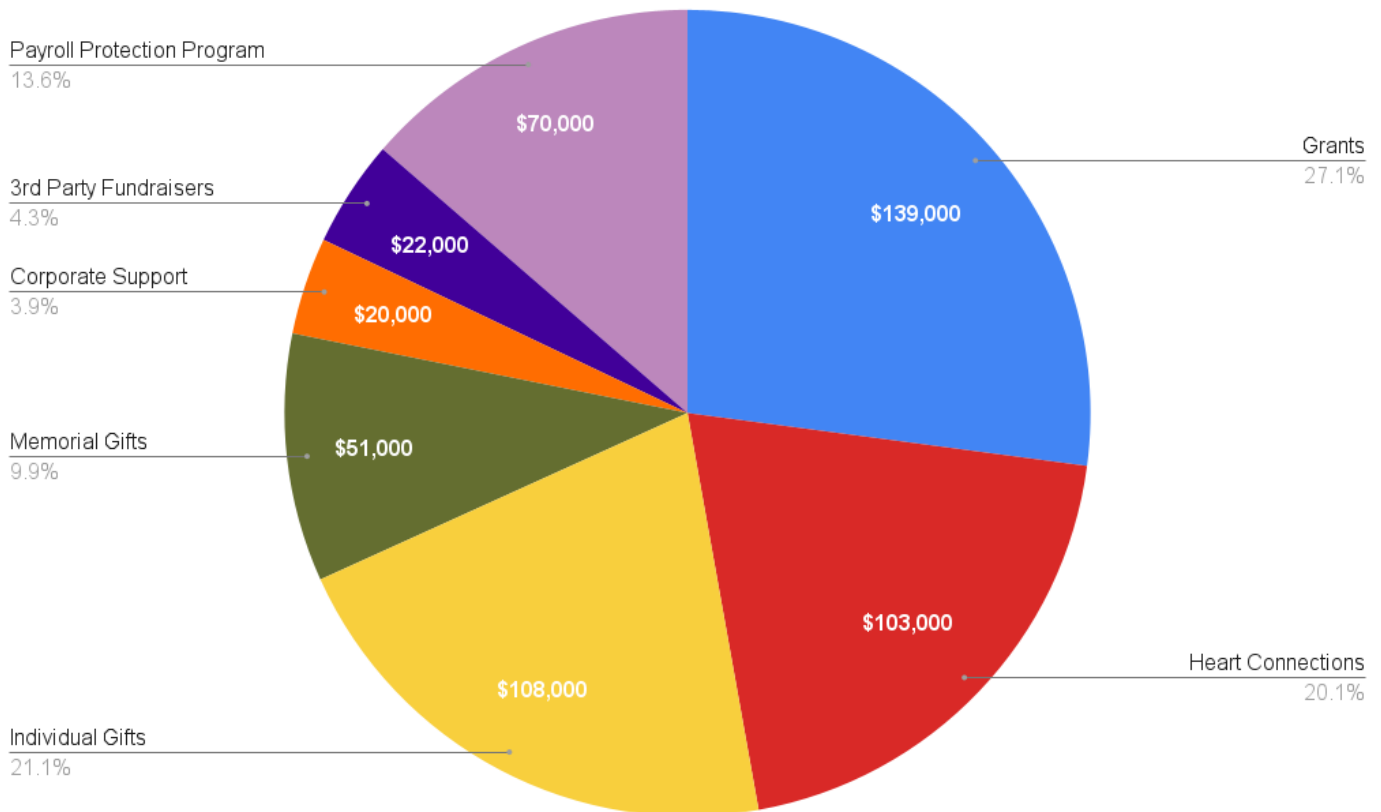
Heart Connections is not only a fundraiser, but a way to introduce more members of the Central Texas community to the work we do. This year's Heart Connections event raised over \$100,000 with all proceeds benefiting the Christi Center's services.

Pictured on the top is the Christi Center's founders, Don and Susan Cox, with Former KVUE Anchor, Judy Maggio. Maggio was the 2021 Heart Connections emcee.

The bottom photo features the 2021 Heart Connections guest speaker, Misty Valenta (far right), with her grandma and mom. Misty came to the Christi Center after losing both of them in 2016 and has been a beloved member and volunteer since.



## 2021 REVENUE: \$513,000



# How to Help

We are so proud of the work we do at the Christi Center. But our mission is a 24/7 undertaking. In order to continue offering free and ongoing services to grieving people in Central Texas, we need your support.

Your donation will go directly to support individuals and families heal after the unimaginable. Our work would not be possible without the help of supportive donors like you.

Please make a donation to offer hope today. Thank you for being a part of our community and our story.



## Where to Donate



The Christi Center  
[www.christicenter.org/donate/](http://www.christicenter.org/donate/)  
Tax ID: 74-2463672

Checks can be made out to  
"The Christi Center" and sent to  
2306 Hancock Drive, Austin, TX 78756



# OUR PEOPLE

## 2021 BOARD MEMBERS

Jeffrey Richard, *President*  
Dianna Groves, M.Ed, LPC, *Vice President*  
Elliott Hendrix, *Treasurer*  
Theresa Golde, *Secretary*  
Mike Twomey, *Immediate Past President*  
Don Cox, *Co-Founder*  
Susan Cox, *Co-Founder*

Dr. Kevin Hull  
Kyle McFather  
Julio Mendoza-Quiroz  
Patricia Ortega  
Fred Patrizi, Ph.D.  
Maureen Patrizi  
Brooks Slaughter

## 2021 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Megan Forcke, *Development*  
Mike Twomey, *Evaluation*  
Elliott Hendrix, *Finance*  
Kathleen McCeskey, *Governance*  
Dr. Pat Forgione, *Nominations*

## STAFF

Jennifer Edwards, *Executive Director*  
Erin Spalding, LCSW-S, *Program Director*  
Jocelyn Chamra-Barrera, LCSW, *Program Manager*  
Cathy Collins, *Crime Victims Advocate*  
Christi Neville, LPC, *Peer Support Coordinator*  
Mary S. Wynn, MA, *Community Program Coordinator*  
Makaila Heifner, *Development and Communications Manager*  
Melissa Bjørdal, *Operations Coordinator*

## CONTACT

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