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• **Houston Solari Hospice Care**
• **NEWS RELEASE**
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NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Camp Solari Helps Children Overcome Grief

Houston, Texas – Nov. 29, 2011 – Losing a loved one is never easy. But, it can be particularly difficult for children who must say goodbye to parents or siblings in the prime of their lives.

That's why the Solari Hospice Foundation has established Camp Solari, a weekend-long bereavement camp for children and their surviving guardian(s). Run by a warm and compassionate group of professional counselors who specialize in grief counseling, the camp's mission is to teach children ages 6 to 18 and their families healthy ways to work through their grief, meet others who have experienced similar losses, and continue life as positively as possible while honoring their lost loved ones.

The next Camp Solari will be held from March 23-25, 2012, at the beautiful Blisswood Bed & Breakfast at Lehmann Legacy Ranch, about an hour west of Houston.

"We want to get the word out to as many people as possible that we are currently accepting applications for our Spring 2012 Camp Solari," says Bren Hingle, admissions director, Houston Solari Hospice Care.

Attendees are chosen based on need and prioritized on a first-come, first-served basis. The Foundation covers all costs for camp participants through fundraisers and charitable donations.

"It is so profound when kids connect with each other so they don't feel like they're the only one," says Gail Cohen, who has worked as a bereavement counselor at Camp Solari. "[Camp] just gives them that space and opportunity to explore."

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Lance Botthof, another Camp Solari bereavement counselor, echoes that sentiment. "I have seen teens come on Friday night so scared and in so much pain, made worse by not feeling like they have a safe place to share. Then by the end of the weekend, they seem to have a new sense that 'things are going to be all right.' These young people are truly amazing at telling the truth, maybe in some ways even better than their parents, who've had more years practicing how to hold in painful emotions."

Camp Solari is the brainchild of Solari Hospice Foundation Founder Gary W. Polsky, who launched his first bereavement camp for children and their families in Arizona in 1999. Currently, Solari Hospice Foundation operates camps in Houston and Las Vegas. Polsky would like to increase the number of camp locations in the future.

"It has always been my goal to help eliminate potential dysfunction in these children so they can move forward in their lives with joy, zeal and enthusiasm," he says. "I'd love to see this program expand and help even more children."

To request an application for Camp Solari, please call 713-664-7120. To learn more about the camp, or to make a donation, visit www.solarihospice.com and click on the link for Camp Solari.

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