



CBC Children's Stories*

Maggie and her teenage daughter Monica came to the CBC shortly after Monica's father died by suicide. Maggie was worried that Monica felt isolated and alone. Since his death, their relationship had been very strained and neither mother nor daughter felt they could talk about their feelings with each other. However, after more than a year of regular attendance at the Center, Maggie recently reported that she and Monica have begun to talk about what had happened, and how the death had impacted each of them. Throughout their first year of attending the CBC, they each had needed the unconditional support of the group to find their way.

Luis, Carolina and Sophia ages 7, 5 and 4 were brought to the CBC by their aunt, uncle and grandmother after their young mother died suddenly in a car accident. Over the course of this past year the kids have been in the CBC's youngest group of participants. They have slowly learned to talk about their feelings while being supported by caring facilitators who are able to give them the individualized attention they crave. Their aunt and uncle, 'Tata' and 'Tio,' as the kids call them, have likewise received comfort and guidance from CBC facilitators and the other adult participants as they are learning to become first time parents to their sister's three children.

Suzie came to the CBC with her Dad, aunt and grandmother after her Mom died of cancer. While she attended the older elementary group, the adults in her family attended a group of their own. Although Suzie was very quiet and somewhat withdrawn when she first arrived at the CBC, as the months went by she slowly became more comfortable in group, sharing her story with the other kids. Part of that story was the love of playing a flute that both her mother and aunt shared. We were all so proud of Suzie when she played her mother's flute at the CBC candle lighting ceremony for more than 100 participants and guests.

*Names have been changed to ensure privacy.