



Marlon Guzman, Artist

2025



Doing Grief

Impact Report



The year in review



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“Doing Grief offered a safe, welcoming space to explore grief and connect with others. There’s laughter, tears, and a deep sense of inclusivity and compassion — a truly supportive community.”

Participant, Banner Olive Branch Senior Center

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A letter from our Director

When I launched Doing Grief Community Healing Project in March 2023, my vision was simple yet deeply needed: to create accessible, compassionate spaces where people could learn to live with grief and heal grief-related suffering together.

Since Doing Grief became a nonprofit in 2024, I’ve been fortunate to grow this work alongside a dedicated board, facilitators, and volunteers who bring expertise, heart, and creativity to every program. Together, we’ve developed programs that nurture healing in mind, body, and spirit, ensuring everyone who comes through our doors feels welcome, supported, and seen.

Over 800 attendees participated in Doing Grief programs this year, across three community partner locations, online Healing Circles, and community outreach programs. These numbers reflect attendance rather than unique participants, and they capture the courage and commitment of people who show up—often in moments of vulnerability—to learn, reflect, and heal in community. *(continued on page 3)*





Program Highlights of 2025

- **800+ attendees** participated in Healing Circles, Story Circles, grief education, expressive arts, and spiritual enrichment.
- **The Healing Project at First Church UCC–Phoenix** became self-sustaining, driven and supported by dedicated volunteers.
- **Banner Olive Branch** home base strengthened outreach, deepened community ties, and kept grief support accessible in the Northwest Valley.
- **Consistent participant feedback:** Participants reported that they felt seen, heard, uplifted, inspired, and less alone.

Again and again, participants share that our programs give them a reason to get out of bed in the morning and remind them that they are not alone. People often leave feeling uplifted, hopeful, and supported, sometimes calling these gatherings the best part of their day.

This year, our work was supported by a \$15,000 grant from First Church UCC–Phoenix, \$1,500 from the Walmart Spark Good community grants program, and \$8,200 in contributions from program participants and supporters. These contributions have allowed us to provide grief support that is consistent, compassionate, and accessible to all who need it.

With strong partnerships, a dedicated volunteer base, and a deep commitment to those we serve, we enter 2026 ready to grow our reach, strengthen relationships, and build the resources and community that make healing possible. Thank you for your encouragement, participation, and generosity in bringing our mission to life.

Shea Darian
Founder & Director



More than a grief support group, we're a **LIFE support community** where your contributions helps us cast a wide welcome for all to *belong & heal*

800+
Attendees

\$16,500
Received in grant funding

\$8200+
Donated by participants & supporters

Watch a brief impact video – Real Stories. Real Healing.

Featuring participants, team members, and a Doing Grief Board member from the Healing Project at First Church UCC–Phoenix



Thanks to our donors, volunteers & Community Partners



- ✦ Banner Olive Branch Senior Center
- ✦ Desert Palm United Church of Christ, Tempe
- ✦ First Church UCC-Phoenix

For your
generous support



Help us. Help others.

Give today.

