

Program Report: From Heartbreak to Hope

August 2022 – July 2023

AVVA's new program, "From Heartbreak to Hope" was developed under the direction of AVVA National President, Sharon Hobbs and introduced at the 2022 Leadership and Education Conference. The program is designed to train organizers to initiate and conduct local programs that help our members, and their families, work through the loss of a loved one.

Along with providing participants with comfort, social connection and hope, the program addresses the emotional and practical issues associated with their loss. Emphasis is on creating support networks and providing information on community and survivor benefits resources.

Training for "From Heartbreak to Hope" is provided in two sessions. The first is a program overview. The second session provides trainees with the goals, structure and mechanics of a functional support group. Both sessions are delivered in an online format.

Currently, over 20 members have participated in online training sessions. Plans are to expand the program to include quarterly organizer meetings. While we expected these quarterly meetings to begin this July, convention activities prevented such from happening. Other hurdles notwithstanding, start date for the quarterly meetings has been rescheduled for the fourth quarter of 2023.

Since its introduction, "From Heartbreak to Hope" has been actively promoted in Regions 2, 6, 7, 8, and 9. We are encouraged by the positive response in these regions and look forward to promoting the program throughout the remaining regions. Since "From Heartbreak to Hope" is essentially a grassroots program, special focus will be at the state and local levels.

If you are interested in obtaining additional information on the "From Heartbreak to Hope" program, or would like to register for a training session, contact Nina Schloffel. Nina can be reached at 209-743-7422 or by email at neenr@att.net.

Nina Schloffel
Program Chair,
From Heartbreak to Hope