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Foundation leader praises HAP efforts

by Kyle Garmes

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On Giving Tuesday, Amy McNicholas, who established the John McNicholas Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation in memory of her son, partnered with The HAP Foundation, which provides hospice and palliative care.

Giving Tuesday is annual fundraiser held nationally on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving.

John McNicholas, a 14-year-old from Beverly, was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2010, after waking up with a headache.



He spent four months in hospice care and died 10 months after his diagnosis.

The HAP Foundation, based out of Oakbrook Terrace, offers the Missing Pieces program, which provides a child-loss grief support network, and Amy McNicholas said in a news release she is grateful for such support.



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“John’s hospice care was such a gift,” she said. “Connection is so important when you are coming to terms with losing your child because the journey can be alienating.”

According to The HAP Foundation, Missing Pieces provides a centralized hub for grief support, education and resource navigation for families and communities affected by a child’s death.

The network includes over 70 organizations that provide expertise on child loss that occurred through illness, trauma, homicide, suicide or other factors.

“Missing Pieces speaks to connection and community; it walks with families and helps them navigate these unfathomable and unfamiliar spaces,” McNicholas said. “Every grieving family in every community should have access to Missing Pieces.”

For more information, visit the website at [thehapfoundation.org](https://www.thehapfoundation.org).