

PARTNER IMPACT STORY

THE GRAPEVINE FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

A member of the Monadnock Alliance of Families



In 2020, the joy of first-time parenthood was marred by tragedy for Amber and her husband when one of their twin sons was stillborn and the other needed to stay in the hospital for two months. Amber describes it as a scary time with COVID-19 since their son was vulnerable and could not get sick. "Not being able to go out and see people made it really hard, especially since we were grieving the loss of our other son," said Amber.

After a year, Amber felt it was safe to venture out with her son to connect with others. Despite seeking solace in grief groups and spaces for sharing her loss, Amber often found that other group members were indifferent. Fortunately, another parent introduced her to the Better Beginnings program at the Grapevine. "**The Grapevine has become my village,**" Amber remarked gratefully. "**Here, I have a haven where I can entrust my child to caring adults while I connect with fellow parents.**" Amber reflects on this as the first time she and her son separated. She found support and a nonjudgmental atmosphere in her Grapevine parent group. "I also appreciate what a difference it makes having a group facilitator like Carol. She helps build conversation and facilitates an environment for sharing."

What would Amber say to other parents and caregivers looking for a connection for themselves and their children? "**Parenting communities can be full of labels and sometimes feel divisive,**" Amber concluded, "**But the Grapevine is a place that feels safe and full of acceptance.**"

*name changed for confidentiality



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