FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 28, 2026

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Golf Tournament to Benefit Growing Need for Free Grief Services Across Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – Calm Waters Center for Children and Families, Oklahoma's largest grief center, and the Northwest Oklahoma City Lions Club invite community members and local businesses to participate in the 2026 Charity Golf Classic, taking place Tuesday, Sept. 1, at Kickingbird Golf in Edmond. Registration and sponsorship opportunities are now open.

Every year, children across Oklahoma face the unimaginable loss of a parent. At just six years old, Alina experienced that loss when her father died from cancer. Through Calm Waters' free grief support groups, she and her family found a community of support and healing. So moved by the experience, Alina later donated $23 of her own savings to help other children facing similar losses.

For 34 years, Calm Waters has served as Oklahoma City's only grief center, providing free support services to children, adults, and families grieving the death of a loved one, divorce, or another significant loss. Through support groups, private counseling, grief education, and outreach, Calm Waters helps individuals and families find hope and healing after loss.

"Grief touches every community, yet too many people feel they have to face it alone," said Calm Waters Chief Executive Officer, Trisha Koelsch. "Alina's generosity reminds us why our mission matters. Support from events like the Charity Golf Classic allows us to continue providing free grief support services so that cost is never a barrier to healing."

Research shows that 1 in 10 children will experience the death of a parent or sibling before age 18, underscoring the need for accessible grief support at every stage of life. Tournament proceeds will directly benefit Calm Waters' free grief support and mental health services, helping ensure that families like Alina's have a place to turn after loss.

The tournament begins with registration at 7:30 a.m. and an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start, followed by lunch and awards. Community members can register as individual players or teams, while businesses and organizations can support the event through a variety of sponsorship opportunities.

To learn more, register, or explore sponsorship opportunities, visit www.calmwaters.org/events/golftournament/ or contact Development Coordinator, Sue Smith, at sue@calmwaters.org.

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Calm Waters Center for Children and Families provides grief support services for children, individuals, and families on their grief journey caused by death, divorce or other significant loss. Since beginning in 1992, Calm Waters has impacted more than 95,000 Oklahomans. For more information about Calm Waters and their services, visit calmwaters.org.

Link to photos:
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/lzytbfu4q3zqvcjo3y2gj/AJXRuhZG7JozJcU8KGOQvdw?rlkey=gtsold2i0umr02iwcw70sagpy&st=shc93neg&dl=0