



CITY OF BELLINGHAM
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
KELLI LINVILLE

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, In the United States one in five children will lose someone close to them by the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, 1.9 million children have experienced the death of one or both parents; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 73,000 children die every year in the United States with 83% leaving behind surviving siblings in need of support; and

WHEREAS, 7 out of 10 teachers have one or more students in their class who have lost a loved one within the past year, and the majority of these teachers report witnessing a negative impact on the student's academic performance following a death; and

WHEREAS, Many grieving children feel misunderstood, alone and fearful and struggle to find support for their grief; and

WHEREAS, Bellingham is committed to supporting the wellbeing of all children, grieving or not; and

WHEREAS, There are at least 2,000 children in Whatcom County alone who are grieving the death of a parent or sibling.

NOW, THEREFORE, DO I, Kelli Linville, Mayor of the City of Bellingham, proclaim Thursday, November 15, 2018 to be

CHILDREN'S GRIEF AWARENESS DAY

in the City of Bellingham, Washington and urge all citizens to support the grieving families in Whatcom County and encourage grieving families to utilize the support of Our TreeHouse so no child grieves alone.

Signed this 11th Day of October, 2018

Kelli Linville, Mayor
City of Bellingham

