

GriefWorks – A Bereavement Resource for Education and Support

NEWS RELEASE

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New Auburn School District Superintendent

Will Speak at *GriefWorks*' October 17th Breakfast

In Auburn, Dr. Kip Herren, the new Auburn School District superintendent, will be the special guest speaker at the *GriefWorks*' annual fundraising breakfast. The breakfast, Compassion Partners, will be held on Friday, October 17, 2008 at 7:00 a.m. at Emerald Downs. Dr. Herren has served 32 years in public education and will bring his humor and stories of compassion to this special event.

GriefWorks has served over 9,000 children, teens, and adults since 1998. The mission of *GriefWorks* is to serve as a bereavement resource providing education and support for people grieving a death or seeking to understand the grief process. Its motto is "Together we're mending hearts... and re-landscaping lives."

Mel Erickson, *GriefWorks*' co-founder, is thrilled about Dr. Herren's presence at the breakfast. "Dr. Herren has supported *GriefWorks* from our beginning ten years ago. How wonderful that he will help us celebrate our passion for serving grieving children in the school setting."

GriefWorks new executive director, Daryl Thompson, predicts that having the honor of Dr. Herren as the guest speaker will definitely be a draw to potential breakfast attendees. "This community is very committed to supporting non-profits, and *GriefWorks*' continuation in providing grief counseling and education is dependent on that community support. In the past, we have had good turnout and giving at our annual breakfasts. That said, I think Dr. Herren's presence will increase the amount of people who will accept invitations to our fundraising breakfast. The new superintendent's speaking skills, experience as an active community volunteer and leader, and charismatic personality are well-known. People will want to hear him speak!"

Roger Thordarson, retired Auburn School District transportation supervisor, past Auburn councilmember, and *GriefWorks*' board member, is greatly encouraged by Dr. Herren's acceptance of the keynote speaker invitation. "Kip will do a great job and will spotlight the one-of-a kind service that *GriefWorks* provides this community."

For more information about *GriefWorks*' annual breakfast or about *GriefWorks* programs and services, contact the *GriefWorks* office at (253) 333-9420 or the website at www.GriefWorks.org.