



**GRIEVING KIDS & FAMILIES BEGIN TO HEAL
AT CAMP GOOD HOPE & TEEN ENCOUNTER**

PHOTO

CAPTION: At one of the group support sessions, campers were guided through a discussion about broken hearts.

HIGH SPRINGS, Fla. – On Saturday, October 8, they came to Poe Springs Park from local cities as well as from several surrounding counties. Families with children who had experienced the loss of a loved one gathered under the auspices of Hospice of the Nature Coast’s Herry’s Kids Pediatric Services to address their grief in hopes of learning how to cope and move on.

What they found at Poe Springs was a day of renewal filled with age-appropriate group support sessions, recreational activities, arts and crafts, and canoeing. They also enjoyed lots of food, fun and discovery.

Guided by grief support professionals from Hospice of the Nature Coast and trained volunteers, campers shared their stories, completed group assignments, gained

insights, overcame fears and began their journey of healing. “It’s okay to have a broken heart,” said one young girl in summarizing what she learned from the day.

“I met a lot of wonderful people that could relate and understand what I’m going through,” one parent commented; while another parent stated, “I felt like the children really got to express themselves and be around people who care about them and their welfare.”

These camps, sponsored by numerous local and regional businesses and individual supporters, were provided for the families who participated at no charge.

Hospice of the Nature Coast, a program of Hospice of Citrus County, Inc., licensed 1985, is a nonprofit charitable organization serving patients in 12 counties of north-central Florida. It has earned the Gold Seal of Approval from the Joint Commission. Its Herry’s Kids Pediatric Services program provides specialized services to children and teens with life-threatening illnesses and offers grief support and therapeutic camps to children who have experienced a loss. More information is available at www.hospiceofthenaturecoast.org or by calling 386-454-1338 or toll free 866-642-0962.