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Men seek healing together, share stories in book

By RYAN TRARES
Staff writer

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Members of a grief support group for fathers share their stories to process the hurt in their lives.

They hope talking about their experiences supports others in similar situations.

In that effort, the Indianapolis-based group has compiled a book, "Tuesday Mornings With the Dads." Fourteen men have written about their loss and how they've dealt with it.

"We have this bond. We don't want to be part of it, but we are," said Chuck Findley, a Center Grove area resident. "Any dad who is going through the worst situation they can imagine can relate to it."

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Findley submitted his story for the book about the deaths of his children, Jake and Travis. The boys were 12 and 10 respectively, when they died after the vehicle they were riding in was struck by a train in 2007.

The book was proposed during one of the group's weekly meetings after a member mentioned he wanted to write about his experience.

Fellow member Adolf Hansen of Indianapolis also had considered writing about the loss of his daughter, Bo, who died in 1996. He suggested that any father who wanted to should submit his story, and he would spearhead it into a book.

Not every member felt comfortable sharing his grief with the world, so a spin-off of the weekly grief meeting: up to handle book business.

Though the men would regularly talk about their losses, writing down the details in stark black-and-white pri more difficult than many anticipated, they said.

"That was the hardest thing I've ever done," said Rick Larrison, a Noblesville resident whose son, Marc, die "I still cry when I read it."

To introduce the volume, the group tapped one of Indianapolis' most recognizable figures, former Colts coa Dungy.

He could relate to the group, having lost his son, James, when he committed suicide in 2005.

Dungy agreed to write a foreword because of a connection to Findley.

His sons died Feb. 3 and 4, 2007, the weekend of the Colts' victory in Super Bowl XVI. Dungy had been stri newspaper accounts of the accident that took the boys' lives. That feeling stuck with him; and when Travis I third-grade teacher contacted the coach about speaking to her class about grief, Dungy agreed.

He met Findley during that appearance, and the two started a friendship that continues.

"Tuesday Mornings With the Dads," published by Inkwater Press of Portland, Ore., will be available Sept. 11

The book can be purchased online at barnesandnoble.com and amazon.com, as well as at Inkwater's Web inkwaterpress.com. Area Barnes and Noble stores also will carry the book.

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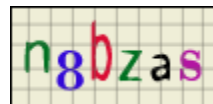
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