

Biography

Author, two-time cancer survivor and former elementary school teacher and counselor, Emilio Parga is the founder of The Solace Tree – Child and Adolescent Center for Grief and Loss. He holds a M.A. degree in School Counseling, a Master’s Equivalency in childhood education and a MBA. He is a Ph.D. student at the Graduate Theological Foundation and the University of Chicago while also attending Oxford University as a fellowship in thanatology specializing in child and adolescent death issues.

Emilio Parga serves as a Pediatric Thanatologist and bereavement consultant to Washoe County Department of Social Services and trainer to hospitals, clergy, funeral homes, emergency services and businesses. He is an educator in the areas of issues related to grief and death, peer support groups for grieving children, teens and adults and the death of a child. He has provided in-service credits and lectures on children, adolescent and grief (peer support groups) in areas of death and grief at local schools, service clubs, hospitals and universities throughout the nation.

He is the Special Interest Group chair for the Association for Death Education and Counseling, committee chair for The National Symposium on Children’s Grief Support, National Alliance for Grieving Children and a member of American Society on the Abuse of Children and American Academy of Pediatrics.

Emilio is a consultant for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) in Washington D.C. and a mentor for the US Military working with children and adolescent survivors of The World Trade Center tragedy on September 11, 2001.

Emilio Parga is the author of *I Will Never Forget You: A Teen Journal of Love and Remembrance*, *The Solace Tree: Coping with Loss*, *No Child Should Grieve Alone: A Guide for Parents, Caregivers and Professionals* and *Love Never Stops: A Memory Book for Children* and has written several articles on children and grief.