

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alderwood of Davidson County Announces Annual Professional Conference on Grief and Loss: "Loss in the Margins"

Regional conference offers 5 CEUs for care professionals and features Dr. Laura S. Wheat as keynote speaker.

THOMASVILLE, N.C.—September 8, 2026 — Alderwood of Davidson County, alongside presenting sponsor J.C. Green and Sons Funeral Home, has announced its 14th Annual Professional Conference on Grief and Loss, titled *"Loss in the Margins,"* scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2026, at Davidson-Davie Community College. The full-day educational event will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and offer critical continuing education for mental health professionals, healthcare providers, and end-of-life care practitioners across the region.

This year's conference centers on loss in underserved populations, and practical clinical applications for individuals navigating disenfranchised and marginalized grief—types of loss that are often unacknowledged, invalidated, or overlooked by broader societal structures.

"Our annual conference continues to serve as an essential gathering place for professionals dedicated to supporting individuals through life's most complex transitions," said Cole Warner, Director of Counseling and Support Services for Alderwood of Davidson County. "By focusing on 'Loss in the Margins,' we aim to equip clinicians, chaplains, and care directors with the specialized insight needed to support disenfranchised individuals with dignity, empathy, and evidence-based care."

The keynote address will be delivered by **Laura S. Wheat, PhD, LPC/MHSP, NCC** an adjunct instructor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNC Greensboro) and a widely respected scholar and practitioner in counselor education and grief counseling. Dr. Wheat will share evidence-informed strategies designed to help practitioners better identify and serve clients whose loss experiences fall outside traditional paradigms.

The event is specifically tailored for counselors, social workers, funeral directors, hospice staff, chaplains, and caregiving professionals. Qualifying participants will earn 5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs), awarded through both the North Carolina Board of Funeral Service (NCBFS) and the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC).

Registration is \$50 per person, which covers full program access, morning coffee, and a catered lunch. Attendees can register online at alderwoodhealth.org/news-events or by calling 336-475-5444. Space is limited, and early registration is encouraged.

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About Alderwood of Davidson County

Alderwood of Davidson County (formerly Hospice of Davidson County) provides compassionate, expert hospice and palliative care to patients and families navigating end-of-life journeys. Serving Davidson County for more than 40 years, the nonprofit organization operates the county's only inpatient hospice care facility and is dedicated to providing expert physical, emotional, and spiritual support tailored to the unique needs of every individual. Alderwood of Davidson County ~ With You For Life. For more information, visit **AlderwoodHealth.org**.

About Dr. Laura S. Wheat

Laura S. Wheat, PhD, LPC/MHSP, NCC (she/her) is a private practice therapist at Knoxville Counseling Services, specializing in grief, trauma, anxiety, depression, and LGBTQ+ care. A veteran counselor educator with over a decade of university faculty experience, Dr. Wheat also serves as a consultant and adjunct instructor for the Lloyd International Honors College at UNC Greensboro. Since 2006, her clinical and academic work has centered on grief across the lifespan, including founding the GOI youth bereavement initiative and serving in leadership with the Association for Death Education & Counseling (ADEC).

About J.C. Green and Sons Funeral Home J.C. Green and Sons Funeral Home is dedicated to serving families throughout Davidson County and the surrounding communities with compassionate, personalized, and dignified funeral and memorial services. Committed to community education and supportive end-of-life care, J.C. Green and Sons proudly sponsors local initiatives that foster healing and professional growth.

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