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Source: The Star-Ledger (Newark, NJ), Oct 17, 2002 p001.

Title: Group helps kids who lost parents through violence; AROUND THE TOWNS. (TOWNS)

Electronic Collection: CJ92968112
RN: CJ92968112

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Byline: PAULA SAHA

When Karen Carbonello was the executive director of the Deirdre O'Brien Child Advocacy Center, she often got calls from parents with children who had experienced loss.

Because the center's mission was specifically for abused children, Carbonello did not have a place to direct them.

Now she does. Carbonello is the founder and director of Creative Heartwork, Inc., an arts therapy organization for children who have suffered trauma, loss, serious illness or disability.

The first program, to be started next month, is titled "Everything in Its Place." It is a 10-week workshop to be held in Dover for 10 Morris County children who have lost parents through acts of violence. The children will create their own compact discs, and they will refinish a three-drawer nightstand with photographs of family members. "We're really trying to make sure that the kids learn a skill in addition to the healing piece of it," Carbonello said. Learning a skill will help the kids with their self-esteem, she added. "Hopefully, they'll have something of value at the end, something they really treasure."

Next year, the organization hopes to offer workshops for children who have been abused or witnessed violence, who have suffered trauma and who have experienced depression.

The group is also having a number of fund-raising events this month. There will be a discount designer handbag sale on Oct. 24 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in the Community Club of Brookside in Mendham. The group is also one of 75 New Jersey charities participating in Bloomingdale's Charity Day on Oct. 29. For a \$10 ticket, shoppers get a 15 to 20 percent discount on store items.