

A family memory commons

DearestEllie is a private archive where a family gathers the stories, photos, voices, and letters that make a person knowable — so that a grandchild who came too late can one day meet someone their family loved. It is built and governed as a commons, not a product.

What is always free

- Creating and keeping a family archive. No archive is ever lost to money.
- Privacy: every archive is private by default and shared only by the family's explicit choice.
- Export, anytime, in an open documented format with checksums — a family can always walk away whole.
- Remembrance itself. Access to a loved one's memories is never gated by billing, quotas, or lapsed cards.

How it is funded

Voluntary contribution: families who can help carry the cost for families who can't, through the Family Memory Fund. Donors and sponsors cannot buy control over the mission — giving funds free access; it never purchases a vote, priority over other families, or influence over policy. The commons publishes its books at www.dearestellie.org/transparency.

What support makes possible

- Free archives for hospice families, through care-team partnerships and printable legacy-work materials.
- Free life-stories workshop kits for libraries and senior centers.
- Long-term preservation engineering: open formats, verifiable exports, media that outlives devices.
- Keeping the promise for families who can never pay — which is the point.

Ways to help

- Give once or monthly at www.dearestellie.org — processed at nonprofit rates; every amount is published in aggregate.
- Partner with us: hospices, libraries, genealogy societies, and funders of memory, aging, and grief work.
- Put our free materials in front of families who need them — they carry no paywall and no catch.

Contact: hello@dearestellie.org · www.dearestellie.org · materials on this page may be reprinted freely.