

MISSION

Community collaboration to address our community's needs through raising awareness of education and training on suicide prevention, intervention and postvention.

GOALS

Promote Awareness

of suicide as a health issue, warning signs and symptoms, barriers to getting help, need for front line education

Facilitate Education of Target Groups to promote community educational opportunities

Foster Community Partnerships to bring the community together on this important public and mental health issue

Research and Evaluation within our community to determine trends and effectiveness of programs

For more information visit our website at www.sjcsuicideprevention.com or call (574) 220-6381

POSITION STATEMENT

The *Suicide Prevention Council* is an independent, *collaborative group of many organizations and individuals united* to enhance our community's efforts in suicide prevention across the lifespan.

Accomplishment of the council's goals occurs through continual community collaboration and needs assessment, ongoing education and training, and active participation in the Indiana Suicide Prevention Coalition.

The council meets on the third Wednesday of every month and welcomes individuals committed to providing an unbiased, united approach to the cause at hand.

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SUICIDE PREVENTION COUNCIL
of St. Joseph County and Surrounding Areas

Crisis and Suicide Intervention National HOTLINE

1-800-273-TALK

Local Help: Emergency Services
(877) 234-0061 toll free
(574) 234-0061 local

(operated by Madison Center)

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The Surgeon General has declared suicide prevention a national initiative: education is the key to prevention.

- The majority of individuals who attempt suicide, the National Mental Health Association reports, have given clear warnings and it is critical that warning signs of suicidal ideation are recognized and that one knows how to respond appropriately.
- People are afraid to talk about suicide: to understand and prevent suicide is a means of promoting human well-being.
- Nationally, more persons lose their lives to suicide than to homicide.
- An average of 1 person every 17 minutes dies by suicide; 1 elderly person kills themselves every 1 hour 40 minutes and an average of 1 young person dies by suicide every 2 hours 12 minutes.
- Suicide is the third leading cause of death among the 15-19 year age group, and for every completed suicide, statistics suggest there are as many as 100-300 attempts.
- In Saint Joseph County, there are 2-3 suicides every month. For each completed suicide, there are at least six survivors intimately affected.

Key Community Sectors Represented on the Council

We are continually expanding to address our community's needs. Individuals and agencies on the Council represent a myriad of disciplines and interests.

- Mental Health & Addictions
 - Providers & Clinicians
 - Crisis Intervention Services
 - Advocacy & Support
 - Education
 - Employee Assistance
- Education
 - Colleges and Universities
 - High Schools
 - Middle Schools
 - Elementary Schools
- Criminal Justice
 - Law Enforcement
 - Juvenile Justice
 - Courts
- Healthcare
 - Hospitals
 - Physicians
 - Nurses
 - Public Health Agencies
 - Community Coalitions
- Government
 - Elected Officials
 - First Responders
- Social Services
 - Youth Services
 - Family Services
- Religious & Spiritual Communities
- Survivors

HISTORY

- 1974 through 2002 - a suicide/crisis 24-hour Hotline and Helpline is provided by the Community Resources Center (CRC).
- 1998 to 2002 - the *Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program*, a local extension of an internationally recognized proactive outreach program to help prevent youth suicide, was brought to area schools through CRC.
- 2001 - CRC received international recognition of its Yellow Ribbon Program by The Light for Life Foundation as one of seven model programs in the world.
- Spring 2001 - the Junior League of South Bend took on Youth Suicide Prevention as a one-year project with the CRC, and was the recipient of The George W. Bush *Presidential Daily Points of Light Award* for their efforts.
- December 2001- dissolution of the Community Resource Center. The *Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program* continued through the Family and Children's Center.
- April 2002 - a separate local collaborative task force initiative on suicide prevention began as an offspring of the CRC/Junior League community project. It is now an independent collaborative organization: *Suicide Prevention Council of St. Joseph County and Surrounding Areas*.