



A CONFERENCE ON SUICIDE: CONFRONTING A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

November 8-10, 2018 | The Inn at St. John's | Plymouth, Michigan



The third annual Conference on Suicide will focus on suicide as a public health problem with profound human and economic costs to individuals, families, communities, and society. The 2018 Conference will bring together policymakers, researchers and noted advocates of this public health model to address:

- *Approaches that impact groups or populations of people, in addition to the treatment of individuals.*
- *Preventing suicidal behavior before it ever occurs (primary prevention), and addressing a broad range of risk and protective factors.*
- *A strong commitment to increasing our understanding of suicide prevention through science, so that we can develop new and better solutions.*
- *The importance of collaboration among disciplines, with diverse communities, and with those with lived experience.*

Who's Invited:

- Mental Health and Medical Professionals
- Crisis Center Workers
- Educators/Parents & Students
- First Responders
- Policymakers
- Employers/Human Resource Professionals
- Veterans and Veteran Support Groups
- Loss Survivors and Attempt Survivors of Suicide
- General Public

Mission

EMPOWER COMMUNITIES TO
PREVENT SUICIDE & OFFER HOPE
AND HEALING TO SURVIVORS

Vision

A WORLD WITHOUT SUICIDE

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1 (800) 273-8255

Crisis Text Line:
Text: "Go" to 741741

What is Kevin's Song?

Kevin Francis Urso was loved and respected for his quick wit, his intelligence, his sense of humor and his caring nature. He enjoyed working with young men in crisis and was respected by many for his kindness, firmness and humor in their interactions with him.



Kevin Urso

Others remember Kevin fondly for his love and care of animals. As a child he rescued numerous stray dogs and, as an adult, he delighted in caring for his own dogs as well as those of others.

Kevin also loved music so much so that many of his major life experiences were identified and even defined by specific songs or artists.

Sadly, Kevin also dealt with depression. On March 23, 2013, at the age of 41, Kevin ended his life at his home in Florida. He will be forever remembered and missed.

Following his death, his parents, John and Gail Urso, founded Kevin's Song - in honor of Kevin and to give voice to his memory.

Kevin's Song | 21 Kercheval Ave., Suite 345 | Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236 | 313.236.7109

Learn more at KevinsSong.org

The 2018 Conference on Suicide will Feature the Following Key Themes, with Local and National Presenters Including:

THURSDAY & FRIDAY CONFERENCE:

November 8-9, 2018

It's time that we treat suicide like a public health crisis. According to a recently released data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, deaths from suicide increased by a whopping 24 percent between 1999 and 2014 among Americans age five and older. While the CDC did not point to definitive reasons for the spike, suicide is now the tenth-leading overall cause of death in the United States.

Speakers will discuss how the increase in suicide represents a real and threatening public health disaster. Understanding the reasons for suicide and interpreting the data can help to develop effective ways to prevent suicide. Attendees will hear about offering suicidal individuals the help they need by targeting risk factors that may be both causal and remediable. Sessions will cover prevention efforts targeting the population at large, and screening methodologies to identify high-risk individuals. Leaders in the field of suicidology will urge that we can better educate doctors, patients, and families alike,

challenging misguided beliefs and offering better and more efficient care alternatives. Speakers and breakout sessions will also address the impact of suicide in schools and in the workplace and will provide innovative and evidence-based models that can assist with the assessment of suicide risk and to provide access to mental health services.

Kevin's Song believes that we have no choice but to take on the formidable challenges presented by the lack of resources and tools for behavioral health professionals. By offering a forum for the sharing of information and education, Kevin's Song will get closer to its mission of encouraging collaboration between experts in the field, behavioral health professionals, educators, first responders and community leaders –who together with loss and attempt survivors can devise new ways to make practical, meaningful and positive change in order to prevent suicide and save lives.

THURSDAY SPEAKERS:



Thomas Joiner is an American academic psychologist and leading expert on suicide. His theory on suicide established a new theoretical framework for diagnosis and risk-assessment. Joiner is an advocate for the creation of preventive and public-health campaigns aimed at suicide prevention.

Jill Harkavy-Friedman, PhD is the Vice President of Research for AFSP and is a pioneer in suicide research who currently works with nearly 200 scientific advisors to map out new and promising strategies for suicide prevention. She will speak to the current suicide trends in the country today and how research is contributing to a turning point in suicide prevention.



Robert Sheehan is the chief executive officer of the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan. He will speak about the government's role in community mental health and how budget priorities reflect and representation the needs of the people of the State of Michigan.

Michael Anestis PhD is a clinical psychologist and associate professor of psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi. His research focuses primarily on what makes an individual vulnerable to thinking about and engaging in suicidal behavior. In his recent book, *Guns and Suicide*, Michael Anestis reframes our perspective on gun violence by shifting the focus to suicide.



Michele Reid MD is a clinical psychiatrist Chief Medical Officer of Community Network Services. She also serves on the board of the Northeast Guidance Center. Dr. Reid will discuss suicide in Michigan and how community partners can collaborate to reduce suicide in Oakland County.

James Craig, Detroit Police Chief has witnessed the effects of suicide on first responders. Craig has pioneered peer support groups for officers in response to his observation that his officers were under a lot of stress. He will discuss the need for peer groups and other mental health tools to assist first responders in dealing with the emotional impact of suicide.



Will Heininger is a former Michigan defensive lineman who struggled with depression during his time at the school. He is working to raise awareness for student-athletes struggling with mental illness with the hope that as a culture and as a society, communities will realize the importance of mental health services.



THURSDAY CHANGEMAKERS PANEL:



David Lloyd,
Kennedy Forum
Illinois



Colleen Creighton,
CEO American
Association of
Suicidology



Steve Windom,
American Found-
ation of Suicide
Prevention,
MI Area Director



Nance Roy, EdD,
Chief Clinical
Officer, The JED
Foundation

**Registration Begins Soon! For More Information,
and Sponsorship Opportunities Visit: KevinsSong.org**

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FRIDAY SPEAKERS:



Bart Andrews is vice president of clinical practice and evaluation at Behavioral Health Response. Dr. Andrews has dedicated the last 17 years of his life to suicide and crisis intervention. Dr. Andrews believes that suicide and its prevention is a community health problem, which everyone can and must help to address.

Sally Spencer Thomas sees issues of suicide prevention and mental health promotion from a host of perspectives - clinical psychologist, mental health advocate, faculty member, patient and survivor. She works with employers to implement a comprehensive, public health approach to suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention in the workplace.



Larry Burns President and CEO of the Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation will address the collaborative efforts of the Foundation and other local corporate and business partners in the area of suicide prevention and advocacy of accessible mental health care.



Brian Ahmedani PhD is Director of Psychiatry Research and a Research Scientist at Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, MI. Dr. Ahmedani leads several large research projects and has authored numerous articles on suicide prevention and other mental health and substance use conditions. He will address the need for community based suicide risk assessment and prevention.

J. Lyndon Good, MD is Vice President, Central Regional Medical Director of New Directions Behavioral Health. Dr. Good will discuss Medical Necessity of Mental Health Treatment and related issues of health Insurance Coverage.



SATURDAY CONFERENCE:

November 10, 2018

SURVIVING SUICIDE - A JOURNEY OF HEALING AND HOPE

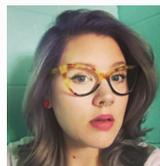
The focus of the Saturday program is for survivors of suicide loss and attempt survivors, support group facilitators, mental health professionals, and others interested in sharing and understanding the lived experience of surviving a suicide attempt/suicidal thoughts, the loss and grief following a suicide. The goal is to provide loss and attempt survivors with information and resources to help with their individual journeys through healing, loss and grief and to assist mental health professionals and other caregivers in understanding the needs of survivors.

SATURDAY SPEAKERS:

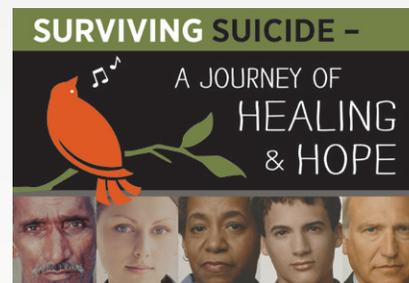


Craig Miller is an author, speaker, and suicide attempt survivor. For years he struggled with OCD, extreme anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts. After a suicide attempt at age 20, Craig became dedicated to understanding what led him to such a decision, and more importantly how he could

gain control of himself and his life to ensure it would never happen again. He published his first book in 2012 titled, *This is How it Feels: a memoir of attempting suicide and finding life*. Craig and his story have been featured in dozens of media outlets including the documentary, A Voice At The Table and the full-length film 'The S Word.'



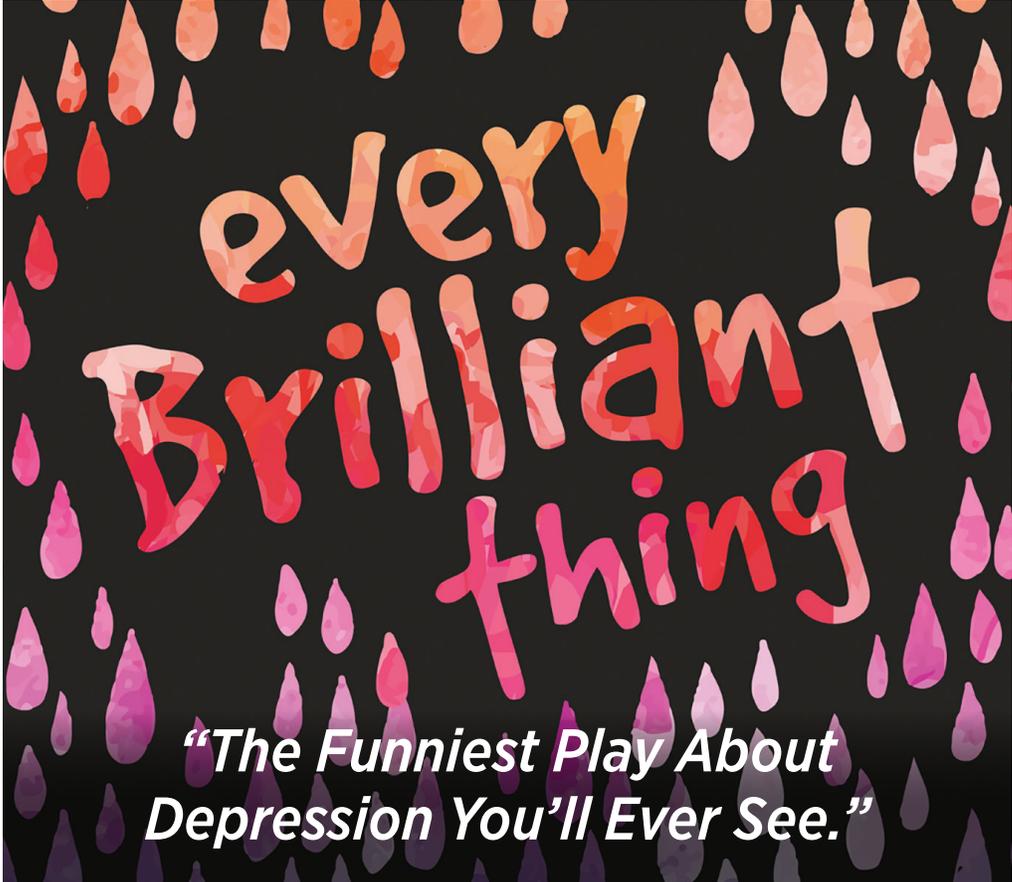
Kate Hardy is a survivor having lost her mother by suicide when she was 20 years old. Katie is a frequent speaker and the CEO and founder of SUCKITSUICIDE and Sick Feet Over. Both organizations work to prevent suicide through education, advocacy, and support; with a special interest in suicide survivors support and fundraising for families suffering from the loss of a loved one from suicide.



JOIN US AND BE PART
OF THIS IMPORTANT WORK

**Registration Begins Soon! For More Information,
and Sponsorship Opportunities Visit: KevinsSong.org**

Join Us Friday Evening, Nov. 9, 2018,
at the Inn at St. John's for:



every
Brilliant
thing

*"The Funniest Play About
Depression You'll Ever See."*

by
Duncan Macmillan

with

Jonny Donahoe

a

Tipping Point Theater
production

in association with

Kevin's Song,

featuring

James R. Kuhl

The list began after his mother's first attempt. A list of everything brilliant about the world that's worth living for. Using humor, the narrator explains how the list continues to grow throughout his life and becomes a reassuring mechanism for working through his best and worst times. This honest and heartwarming play engages the audience in a one-of-a-kind theatrical experience, which is sure to be simultaneously funny and poignant.

**Admission Included as Part of a 3-Day,
2-Day or Friday Only Conference Ticket**

Individual tickets available at www.kevinssong.org

\$15 - Regular Admission | \$10 - Student Admission



James R. Kuhl

*It's a story that's as heartwarming as it is
discussion-worthy, and it'll leave theatre-goers
better off for having experienced it.*

TippingPointTheatre.com/every-brilliant-thing

REGISTER... at kevinssong.org/conference/

Early Bird pricing good through October 12, 2018

Pay by Check or Credit Card options available.

TICKET DESCRIPTION	INCLUDED IN THE TICKET	EARLY BIRD PRICE	REGULAR PRICE
3 Day All Inclusive BEST VALUE	All plenary and breakout sessions (THURSDAY, FRIDAY and SATURDAY SURVIVOR Conference), breakfast and lunch each day, Thursday evening VIP Reception, Friday evening dinner and performance of <i>Every Brilliant Thing</i> .	\$200	\$250
2 Day All Inclusive	All plenary and breakout sessions (THURSDAY and FRIDAY), breakfast and lunch each day, Thursday evening VIP Reception and Friday evening dinner and performance of <i>Every Brilliant Thing</i> .	\$160	\$200
Thursday Only	All plenary and breakout sessions on THURSDAY ONLY, breakfast and lunch and Thursday evening VIP Reception.	\$85	\$100
Friday Only	All plenary and breakout sessions on FRIDAY ONLY, breakfast and lunch and Friday evening dinner and performance of <i>Every Brilliant Thing</i> .	\$85	\$100
Saturday Survivor Conference	All plenary and breakout sessions on SATURDAY ONLY, breakfast and lunch and closing.	\$50	\$50

Continuing Education Credits for Kevin's Song 2018 Conference on Suicide will be Available for:

Social Workers, Physicians, Nurses and Nurse Practitioners, Educators, Psychologists, Human Resources Professionals, and First Responders.