



KEVIN'S SONG



www.KevinsSong.org

9TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON SUICIDE

CREATING & SUPPORTING LIVES WORTH LIVING

ACTION, EDUCATION, INTERVENTION, & PREVENTION

January 23-25, 2025 | St. John's Resort in Plymouth, MI

2024 Annual Conference Attendees Said:

98% YES!

When asked if the **information** and **training** helped them achieve the following learning objectives:

- Increased knowledge on suicide risk factors, prevention strategies, treatment alternatives
- Knowledge of cultural influences that impact diverse communities and treatment strategies that address factors that are unique to these communities.



"It has been my honor to attend each and every one of these annual events, and moreover, my attendance has enabled me to witness firsthand the growth and the energy generated by this meeting. The good that they are accomplishing on behalf of those bereaved by suicide and others is considerable and occurs year-round; their footprint is in Michigan, where they have risen to prominence as an influential suicide prevention organization, and it is growing beyond Michigan regionally and nationally."

Thomas E. Joiner, Ph.D.,

The Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of Psychology



"I have been involved with the Kevin's Song conference for quite a few years and have watched it grow from a small, tightly knit local effort to a large, tightly knit national effort. Each year this conference gets bigger and each year more amazing things happen because of this conference."

Bart Andrews, Ph.D.,
Chief Clinical Officer, BHR

The Kevin's Song State-wide, three-day conference will bring together educators, mental health professionals, professional trainees and students, business, and community leaders as well as members of the public, survivors of suicide loss, and attempt survivors.

The 9th annual Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide is designed to raise awareness about suicide and its impact, as well as highlight the importance of suicide prevention and risk mitigation as a collective responsibility to support the safety and well-being of our communities. Suicide prevention is very focused on those who have died, those we have lost. This is an important focus, and we need to acknowledge these losses. But we also need suicide prevention to focus on the living as a poignant reminder of the importance of fostering a compassionate and supportive society.

From January 23-25, 2024, numerous organizations, health professionals and communities will come together to shed light on signs, symptoms, and strategies to prevent suicide and to support and foster lives worth living.

The 2025 Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide Will Ask:

- Are we purposely creating cultures that promote living?
- Are we actively trying to create lives filled with hope, connection, purpose, and possibility?
- In essence, are we helping all of our community members to have lives worth living?

The speakers and presentations will address all aspects of this public health crisis in an effort to better understand and prevent suicide. The mission of the 9th annual Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide is to break down the barriers; to build pathways to better models of prevention and treatment; and to create and support lives worth living.

**Register Now:
KevinsSong.org
or Scan this QR Code**



Conference Days - Keynote and Breakout Sessions

Thursday, January 23, 2025

DAY
1

The first day of this bold and comprehensive conference will focus on integrating schools, youth-serving organizations, and clinicians to promote Suicide Prevention and mental well-being. Presentations will appeal to educators, mental health professionals and suicide prevention advocates who work with young people to build awareness and to share prevention strategies that are tailored to this diverse population.



Thursday Keynote Presentations:



Building Resilience—Changing our Culture One Person at a Time

Charisse Nixon, PhD

Pennsylvania State University, The Behrend College, Director of PA Aggression Reduction Center (PARC)



Supporting the Mental Wellbeing of LGBTQIA2S+ Youth: Strategies and Resources for Creating Safe and Affirming Schools and Communities

Brett Harris PhD

Senior research scientist in the Public Health department at NORC - University of Chicago



EVERYBODY-VS-STIGMA: Pain into POWER

Kevin Fischer

Executive Director, NAMI Michigan and CEO of EVERYBODY -VS- STIGMA



Free To Fly: The Secret To Fostering Independence In The Next Generation

Nicole Runyon, LMSW

Psychotherapist, Parent Coach and Mental Health Advocate

Thursday Breakout Sessions:

- **Wellness Nuggets: Easy, Intentional, and Effective Calming and Coping Skills**

Trish Brown, LPC

Therapist, Ellie Mental Health - Clarkston

- **Teen Girls are Facing Record Levels of Sadness, Here's Why**

Kristyn Gregory, DO

Medical Director of Behavioral Health, BCBSM

- **Build a Positive Culture and Connections in School to Strengthen Youth Suicide Protective Factors**

Catherine Livingston, MA, LPC

District Wellness Consultant - Utica Schools

Kimberly Twarowski

Counselor - Utica Schools

- **Building Confident and Resilient Kids With Bright Futures**

Sarah Emmerson, MA, LLP

Nicole Runyon, LMSW

- **Peer-to-Peer Mental Health Programs: A Panel Discussion**

Christine Kuhl, LLP

School Psychologist, Grosse Pointe North High School

Lyn Adolfo

SEL Specialist, Redford Union High School

Christina Harvey

Health Curriculum Consultant, Oakland County Schools

- **Suffering in Silence - Instilling Confidence in Youth**

Dominque Anderson, LLP, MA

- **Breaking the Silence: A Journey of Resilience and Mental Health Advocacy**

Erik Kramer - *Former NFL Quarterback, Detroit Lions, Mental Health Touchdown and EK Pass, Founder*

- **Coping with Loss - Postvention for Youth Protective Factors**

Danielle Sackrider, LMSW (Clinical & Macro)

ACSW, Suicide Prevention Coordinator and Trainer at Integrated Services of Kalamazoo

Conference Days - Keynote and Breakout Sessions

Friday, January 24, 2025

DAY

2

The second day of the Conference will include an array of powerful presentations that engage clinicians and suicide prevention advocates to enhance their knowledge and skills to engage people to live their best lives and prevent suicide. Attendees will hear the latest in research about suicide and risk assessment as well as evidenced-based treatments and prevention strategies to better serve individuals and communities at risk.



Friday Keynote Presentations:



Lives Worth Living: A New Approach To Suicide Prevention

Bart Andrews, PhD

Behavioral Health Response (BHR) -

Chief Clinical Officer



Changing the Culture of Suicide Prevention to Support Our Diverse Communities

Joyce Chu, PhD

Director of Community Connections and Professor, Palo Alto University

Let's Talk: Evidenced-Based Suicide Risk Assessment



Building Lives Worth Living by Increasing Access to Dialectical Behavior Therapy

Shireen Rizvi, PhD, ABPP

Professor and Chair of the Department of Clinical Psychology in the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology (GSAPP), Rutgers University



Thomas Joiner, PhD

The Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of Psychology, Florida State University



Nancy Buyle, MA, LPC, ACTP

School Safety/Student Assistance Consultant, Macomb Intermediate School District, Co-Chair, Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission

Friday Breakout Sessions:

- **Promoting Community Conversations About Research to End Suicide (PC CARES) is a community health intervention designed, supported, and implemented by the remote communities of northwestern Alaska**
Lisa Wexler, PhD, MSW
Elizabeth Evans, PhD, MSW - *University of Michigan*
- **L.E.T.S. Save Lives: An Introduction to Suicide Prevention for Black and African American Communities**
Jennifer Johnson, DEI - *Chair/Board Member AFSP Michigan*
- **Supporting Lives Worth Living in the First Responder Community**
Gregory Flynn - *West Bloomfield Fire Department, Chief*
- **Gratitude and Attitude. Thanks for All That You Do, and I Have a Favor...**
Dennis Gillian - *Mental Health Advocate, Speaker, and Author*
- **Suicide in the Construction Industry Let's Talk: Better Yet Let's Listen**
MaryAnn Duchene, RN, MSN - *Director Behavioral Health Services, Trinity Health*
- **Reframing Recovery: Finding Hope and Growth in the Process**
Kiersten Gutherman, LMSW - *CNS Healthcare*
Sara Kadish Beckett, LLMSW - *CNS Healthcare*
- **Demystifying Inpatient Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment**
Dustin Ames, CEO - *Beaumont Behavioral Health, Dearborn*
- **Shared Struggles, Unique Paths: Understanding and Preventing Suicide Among Adolescents, White Males, Military Personnel, and Indigenous Communities to Inform Clinical Treatment of Suicide**
Gigi Colombini, LMSW - *Owner, Psychotherapist and Suicidologist, Institute of Health and Human Flourishing*

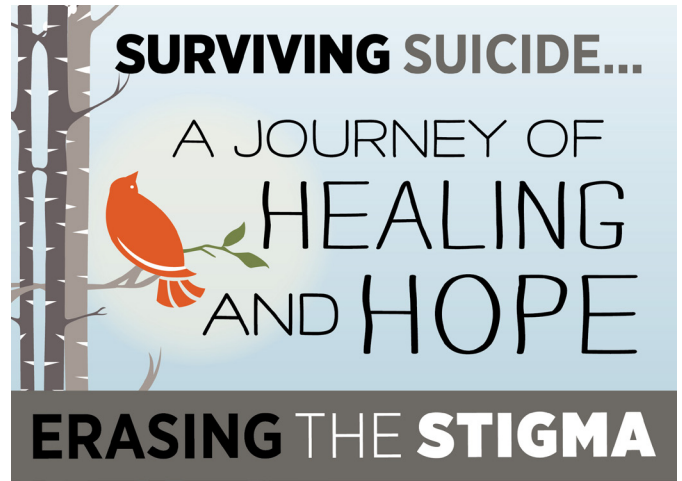
Conference Days - Keynote and Breakout Sessions

Saturday, January 25, 2025

DAY
3

As part of the annual Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide, the Saturday program focuses on survivors of suicide. The stories of loss and attempt survivors will help to ease the pain for those who often suffer alone and in silence. The day will also address how to manage the grief and loss following a death by suicide. The program will offer hope to those who have suffered a loss and to those who love and support them.

Following the survivor presentations, attendees will have an opportunity to meet privately in group support sessions facilitated by mental health professionals.



Saturday Keynote Presentations:



Journey Towards Recovery...
Dennis Gillian
*Executive Director,
Half a Sorrow Foundation*



Finding Hope and Healing from Suicide Loss
Gwen Kapcia, LBSW, CT
Owner, Your Grief Guide



Suicide Prevention, Postvention and Lived Experience: A Panel Discussion with Lived Experience Participants
Moderated By
Susanna Rickman - *Suicide Prevention Manager, Gryphon Place and Support Group Facilitator, Kevin's Song*



Coping with Grief Through Expressive Art
Dennis Liegghio
Founder/Executive Director, Know Resolve

Facilitated Breakout Sessions:



Loss Survivor Support Group
Facilitated By
Gigi Colombini, LMSW
Institute for Hope & Human Flourishing; Founder - Psychotherapist



Attempt Survivor Support Group
Facilitated By
Scott Teichmer



Grief is a Verb Workshop
Jane Reiter, BFA, MFA

REGISTRATION TICKETS:

| EARLY BIRD Prior to 1/1/25 | REGULAR on or After 1/1/25 | STUDENT Student ID card required at check in |
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| 3-Day Ticket (Thursday, Friday & Saturday) BEST VALUE! | \$350 | \$450 | \$75 |
| 2-Day Ticket (Thursday & Friday) | \$325 | \$425 | \$60 |
| Thursday ONLY Ticket <i>Youth Mental Health and School Summit</i> | \$175 | \$225 | \$40 |
| Friday ONLY Ticket <i>Creating and Supporting Lives Worth Living</i> | \$175 | \$225 | \$40 |
| Saturday ONLY Ticket <i>A Journey of Healing and Hope</i> | \$40 | \$40 | \$25 |

WEDNESDAY TRAINING JANUARY 22, 2025:

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| safeTALK 1:00-4:30pm - American Indian Health and Family Services | \$25 |
| QPR 10:00-11:30am - Hope Network | \$5 |
| AMSR 9am to 4pm - Hope Network | \$40 |
| YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID 9am to 4pm - Hope Network | \$20 |
| CAMS 9:00am-4:30pm - MDHHS - TYSPP | \$50 |

FRIDAY TRAINING JANUARY 24, 2025:

A Light in the Darkness: Equipping Faith Leaders for Suicide Prevention and Post-Suicide Care 8:30am-5:00pm - MDHHS - PRISMM. \$50
This training program runs concurrently with the Conference but requires a separate ticket and is limited to faith leaders and faith advocates.