



KEVIN'S
SONG

THE POWER OF TEN:
A LEGACY OF HOPE

A **FUTURE OF
POSSIBILITY**



10th ANNUAL
**SUICIDE PREVENTION
EDUCATION SUMMIT**

MISSION:

Saving lives through suicide prevention education and offering hope and healing to survivors.

VISION:

A world without suicide.

JANUARY 22 & 23, 2026

SAINT JOHN'S RESORT | PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN

www.KevinsSong.org



JOSEPH J. LAURENCELLE

MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



JJLMF

WORKING TO ERASE THE STIGMA OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND HELP PREVENT SUICIDE

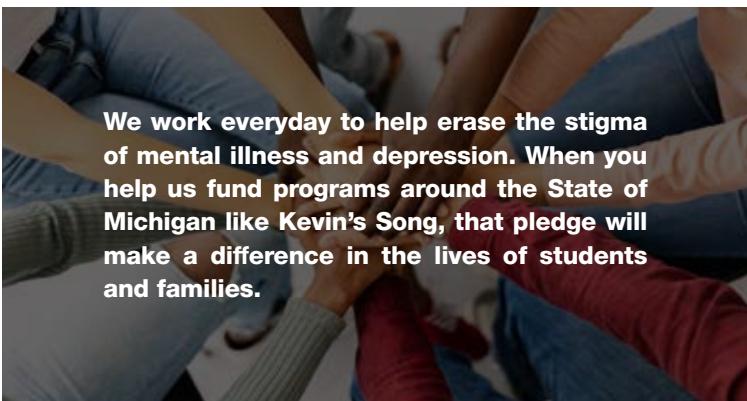
**Our mission is ongoing.
Suicide is NOT an answer we recognize.**



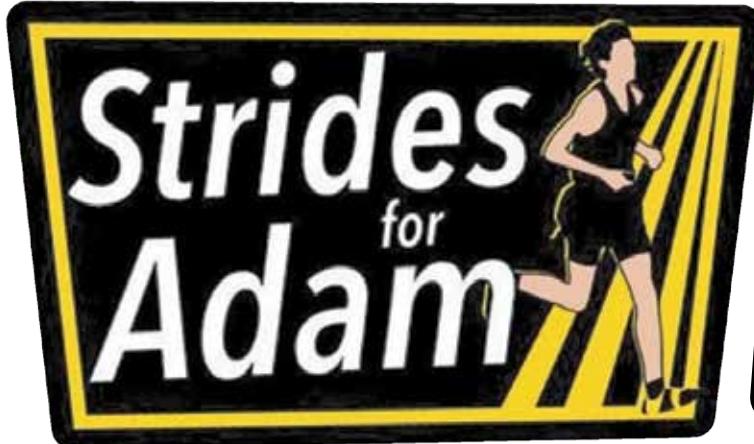
The JJLMF Mission

**To educate young men and women and their families about Mental Illness;
To increase awareness in the community;
and advocate for compassionate acceptance of all young people who are impacted by it and help prevent suicide.**

JJMLF.org



We work everyday to help erase the stigma of mental illness and depression. When you help us fund programs around the State of Michigan like Kevin's Song, that pledge will make a difference in the lives of students and families.



- **5K RUN/WALK**
- **1 MILE REFLECTION WALK**

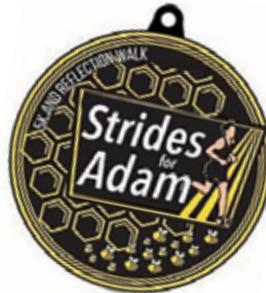
SUNDAY, MAR. 29, 2026
YOUNG PATRIOTS PARK
14300 Library Dr., Riverview, MI 48193



Finisher Medal and T-Shirt

Register early to be guaranteed a medal & shirt!

Join us on Sunday, March 29th, 2026 for the 7th annual Strides for Adam 5k run, walk and 1 mile reflection walk. We are also offering a virtual event for those that are unable to participate in-person.



www.RunSignUp.com/Race/MI/Riverview/StridesforAdam

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Breakfast, Lunch and Refreshments

Breakfast and lunch will be served in the Monarch Ballroom on both days of the conference. Menus will feature a variety of thoughtfully prepared selections designed to accommodate a range of dietary preferences and restrictions. The chef will clearly identify food contents and allergens for each item, including vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and other special dietary considerations, to ensure attendees can make informed choices. Our goal is to provide nutritious, high-quality meals that are inclusive, accessible, and enjoyable for all participants.



Wireless Internet

at the Conference Center

**Connect to
"ST JOHN'S EVENTS"**
No access code required

Providing **EDUCATION, HOPE and HEALING** to Individuals and Communities



The first day is the Youth Mental Health and School Summit, which will focus on integrating schools, together with 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. The Day will also include the stories of loss survivors and their journey through grief to hope.



The program for the second day will include an array of powerful presentations that engage clinicians and suicide prevention advocates to enhance their knowledge and skills to 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. The program will also include the stories of loss and attempt survivors and their journeys through grief to hope.



Survivor Support Groups

If you or someone you know has been impacted by suicide, consider joining our Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group. Peer-based, non-clinical support to help

those impacted by suicide loss cope with their complex grief. The group meets virtually on the 2nd Wednesday of each month - 7:00-8:30 PM ET. For information about the support group and to receive the meeting link, please email SupportGroup@KevinsSong.org.

1 WITH **one** VOICE

In order to create a more amplified voice, Kevin's Song has launched a collaborative initiative of local, statewide and national groups, regional coalitions, mental health providers and community mental health organizations to explore how, together, we can promote meaningful change in policy and improve the quality and quantity of mental health resources in our state. If you'd like to lend your voice, please reach out. www.wovmichigan.org



Resources on our Website: **KevinsSong.org**

Our comprehensive website contains a list of Board and Advisory Committee members, a calendar of upcoming events, and, most importantly, a comprehensive directory of local, state and national resources for suicide prevention.



Monthly Newsletter

Published and emailed monthly to our growing list of sponsors, supporters and friends. If you'd like to be added to our email list, contact Jennifer@KevinsSong.org. If we hope to achieve our vision of "a world without suicide" we need you with us.



Library of Books and Articles

The Kevin's Song library of books, articles, podcasts and videos is updated monthly, including a Book-of-the-Month, with discounts on popular books through our website.



2025 Attendees Who Returned Evaluations Said:

100%
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



Michigan's largest and widely respected symposium directly focusing on suicide — the **Kevin's Song 10th Annual Suicide Prevention Education Summit, The Power of 10: A Legacy of Hope • A Future of Possibility**, returns January 22 – 23, 2026 to the St. John's Resort located at 44045 Five Mile Rd. in Plymouth, Michigan.

This year, the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHA) is proud to join Kevin's Song as a partner in the 2026 Kevin's Song Education Summit.



Kevin's Song and representatives from community mental health organizations around the state have worked together to offer a variety of sessions that will enable clinicians and mental health advocates to better serve communities and individuals in crisis and at risk for suicidal ideation. This is your chance to obtain valuable, evidence based strategies to address the increasing incidents of suicide and self-harm among African American youth, working aged men, veterans, seniors and the LGBTQ+ communities.

Drawing on its rich history of education about suicide and prevention, this 10th annual summit will offer a variety of keynote and breakout sessions providing many options to learn about evidenced-based prevention programs as well as practical and effective tools and treatments aimed at assisting at-risk individuals and communities. The summit will also provide support for survivors of suicide loss and those with a lived experience of suicide.

As we know, suicide is a leading cause of death in many age groups and within our own state, but we have not been making great strides in decreasing rates. The desire to provide more education to clinicians, suicide prevention advocates, teachers, and school counselors and to people directly impacted by suicide loss is why Kevin's Song has taken a lead in Michigan for the past 10 years, with its annual educational summit to

SAVE LIVES.



2026 Conference Goals:

- To assist mental health professionals and educators to implement strategies to prevent youth suicide with a special focus on high-risk and underserved youth. Knowing how to identify a young person at risk and understanding the role of the school and therapist in preventing suicide is vital if we are going to have an impact on reducing the incidence of suicide attempts and deaths.
- To share information that will help attendees to identify and address risk factors and promote protective factors, including the safe storage of firearms, within and beyond their own communities.
- 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.





KEVIN FRANCIS URSO

was loved and respected for his quick wit, his intelligence, his sense of humor and his caring nature. For ten years he was a child care worker at the Children's Home of Detroit where he won the praise of the staff, board members and, most importantly, the children. Numerous young adult men would return to the Children's Home to thank Kevin for his kindness, firmness and humor in their interactions with him.

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.

His sense of humor was legendary. Many thought he could have had a career in stand-up comedy. Kevin also loved music. He 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 is working to educate and comfort other survivors whose lives have been affected by similar tragedy. Hopefully, with the founding of Kevin's Song in memory and honor of Kevin, more open discussion about mental health issues and suicide will occur and lives will be saved.



WELCOME TO KEVIN'S SONG'S 10TH ANNUAL SUICIDE PREVENTION EDUCATION SUMMIT!

It is remarkable that what was a concept to “educate the community about suicide” has become this highly anticipated annual event, attended by hundreds of mental health professionals, medical professionals, educators, clergy, suicide loss survivors and countless others from all over Michigan and, in fact, from across the country over the last ten years.

Soon after losing our oldest son Kevin to suicide in March of 2013, Newsweek Magazine, published an article on May 22, 2013, entitled

“Why Suicide Has Become an Epidemic – and What We can Do to Help” by Tony Dokoupil.” The article was featured on the cover of the magazine. That article did two important things: it helped us understand the scope of the tragedy of suicide in our country and around the world and, and it introduced us to Dr. Thomas Joiner who was featured in the article.



Gathering our dearest friends and family members who had supported us with love, kindness and their own special areas of expertise in 2013, we formed Kevin's Song. Our mission was simple: to educate others about suicide so that, hopefully, fewer people would have to experience the tragic loss that we were enduring. Our first Kevin's Song Board of Directors determined to accomplish this by speaking out publicly about suicide in ways that had not been done before. Holding a conference on suicide became one of our most important goals and we did just that in 2016.

There was only one person we hoped would be our keynote speaker: Dr. Thomas Joiner. Amazingly, when asked, he accepted our invitation. We have been honored with not only his presence as a speaker at each of our conferences, but he has been a tremendous resource and friend to Kevin's Song.

So many wonderful people have been involved in the effort to sponsor a conference each year, from our many professional speakers and presenters, to the members of our Board of Directors and Advisors, to our sponsors, to every volunteer who has helped in any way, to the remarkable staff at Saint John's Resort, and, of course, to our Executive Director Jennifer Margraf and our Kevin's Song staff.

Thank you to all!

Thank you for being here! Thank you for your support of Kevin's Song and of our Suicide Prevention Education Summit!

With gratitude,

Gail and John Urso
Cofounders, Kevin's Song

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Jennifer Fair Margraf, MBA, MA, CFRE
Executive Director

Gail Urso, *Co-Founder, KS*

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*Administrative Assistant, Sponsor and
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BS in Educ., MA in Counseling

Kevin's Song Would Like to THANK the Following Individuals and Organizations for their Assistance in Making this Conference a Success

Robert Sheehan, CEO and his team at Community Mental Health Association of Michigan

Michael Layne, Michael Odom, David Stoyka, and Nadia Marinova of Marx Layne & Company, Public Relations Consultant

Alison Chekosky, Christine Sullivan and the Management Team and Staff at St. John's Resort

Kevin Zielinski and Paul Friedmann and Staff, Mercury Sound & Lighting

Maurice Hogan, Maurice Hogan Productions

Self Esteem Bookstore

Jim Izzi, JT Graphics

James Hassett and Students of U of D Jesuit

Fritz Klingler and his team at FK Engineering Associates

Students of the University of Michigan Musical Theatre Department, under the direction of Cynthia Kortman Westphal

Allegra Printing – Highland, Michigan

Kevin's Song would like to thank the numerous volunteers who have so generously given their time and talents to the many Kevin's Song events and activities throughout the past year.

WELCOME TO THE 10TH ANNUAL KEVIN'S SONG SUICIDE PREVENTION EDUCATION SUMMIT: **The Power of Ten - A Legacy of Hope, A Future of Possibility**

It is an honor to gather with you for our Annual Suicide Prevention Education Summit, as we mark a decade of learning, collaboration, and shared commitment to saving lives. Reaching this ten year milestone invites us to reflect on the legacy we have built together—and to look ahead with renewed purpose at the possibilities before us.

Every day in Michigan and across the nation, families face the unimaginable pain of losing a loved one to suicide. Despite being one of the leading causes of death across multiple age groups, we have yet to make the meaningful progress our communities deserve. Suicide is not inevitable; it is preventable—but only when we commit to research, education, and evidence based strategies that save lives. This is the heart of Kevin's Song's mission: saving lives through suicide prevention education and offering hope and healing to survivors, and practical tools that empower communities to act.

In Michigan alone, suicide claims more than 1,400 lives each year. While national rates have begun to stabilize after years of increase, the numbers here at home remain sobering. Yet there are signs of progress. When Michigan school districts, health systems, and community organizations invest in prevention training, early intervention programs, and culturally responsive supports, we see measurable improvements, fewer crisis interventions, more early referrals, and stronger safety nets for youth and adults alike. These outcomes underscore a simple truth: when communities are equipped with knowledge and tools, lives are saved.

For ten years, this summit has been a place where science, lived experience, and compassion come together. The Power of Ten reminds us that each year, each conversation, and each connection strengthens our collective ability to prevent suicide. As Michigan continues to strengthen its laws, education systems, and crisis response efforts, our focus remains clear: turning knowledge into lifesaving action. I am deeply grateful to each of you—clinicians, educators, first responders, policymakers, advocates, community leaders, and those with lived experience—for the work you do every day to support those at risk and those affected by suicide loss.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Kevin's Song Board of Directors, Board Advisors, Advisory Committee, School Summit and Summit Planning Committees and coordinator, many devoted volunteers, and, most of all, to our co founders, John and Gail Urso, for their guidance, dedication, and unwavering support. Their vision is the foundation of this legacy of hope.

This year, we are pleased to present the summit in partnership with the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan, expanding



**Jennifer Fair Margraf,
MBA, MA, CFRE**

Executive Director

our reach and strengthening the connection between clinical and community based systems. We are proud to welcome participants from 21 states—a testament to the growing national impact of this gathering and the future of possibility we are building together.

Over the next two days, you will engage with leading experts on topics that reflect the evolving landscape of suicide prevention: Michigan's Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO), rural suicide prevention, older adults and dementia, adolescent mental health and THC use, postvention and grief, and the ethical use of artificial intelligence in behavioral risk assessment.

Thursday, January 22 is dedicated to youth suicide prevention through our Youth Mental Health and School Summit, focusing on the vital roles of schools, families, and youth serving organizations. Our keynote speakers—Cheryl King, PhD; Roddie Hill, PsyD; Jaime Taylor, DO, MS, FAAFP; and Larry Berkowitz, EdD—will offer critical insights on adolescent development, culturally responsive care, and school based postvention. Breakout sessions will explore social media, adolescent substance use, sexual orientation and gender identity, nutrition and mental health, and effective school interventions. We will close the evening with a Concert of Hope and Healing featuring the University of Michigan Musical Theatre Department.

Friday, January 23 shifts our focus to Clinical Advancements and Community Strategies, highlighting research, treatment innovations, and implementation practices. Keynotes from April Zeoli, PhD, MPH; Craig Bryan, PsyD, ABPP; DeQuincey Lezine, PhD; and Thomas Joiner, PhD will deepen our understanding of policy, clinical care, recovery, and the future of suicide prevention. Breakout sessions will address suicide prevention among older adults, rural outreach, grief and postvention, the Zero Suicide framework, and ethical considerations in AI supported behavioral risk assessment.

The path forward requires collective action. Suicide prevention must be grounded in current science, expanded across all sectors, and strengthened through community engagement. Awareness alone is not enough; knowledge must translate into measurable change—training school personnel, improving crisis response, supporting survivors, and sustaining what works. As we celebrate the Power of Ten, we honor a legacy of hope while embracing a future of possibility. For Kevin, and for every family still fighting, it is time to choose action together.

Thank you for being here, for your dedication, and for the compassion you bring to this work. Together, we continue to build a community of hope, healing, and action.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Fair Margraf, MBA, MA, CFRE

*Executive Director & Chief Program Officer
Kevin's Song*



Kevin's Song Executive Director

Jennifer Fair Margraf, MBA, MA, CFRE

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Consultant, Macomb Intermediate
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Co-Author, "Dying to Be Free"

Dennis Liegglio,
Founder/President, KnowResolve

Thomas Joiner, PhD,
The Robert O. Lawton Professor of
Psychology, Florida State University

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MISSION:

Saving lives through suicide prevention
education and offering hope
and healing to survivors.

VISION:

A world without suicide.

Starry, Starry Night is the annual fundraiser for Kevin's Song featuring sponsorship opportunities and a dinner with entertainment, followed by a silent and live auction. Your financial support enables Kevin's Song to empower communities to prevent suicide and offer hope and healing to survivors. In the short years since Kevin's Song was founded, we have grown to become a leader in the suicide education and prevention effort in Michigan and beyond.

We have accomplished so much to fight this tragic epidemic thanks to your support and the success of Starry, Starry Night.

THANK YOU!

2025 Starry, Starry Night Committee

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Event Co-Chair

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*Thank you to the staff at Kevin's Song and the many volunteers and businesses who have
donated time and energy to bringing this special event.*

Save The Date

2026
KEVIN'S SONG presents  STARRY, STARRY NIGHT
Please Join Us for an Evening of
DINNER, MUSIC, SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS
Thursday, September 24, 2026
The Roostertail | 100 Marquette Drive | Detroit, MI
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not being able to list all of our generous donors. We apologize for any omissions or errors in the above list.*





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Mental Health & Behavioral Health

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A healthier community.

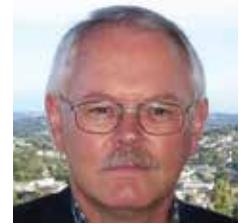
Henry Ford Health is honored to champion the **Kevin's Song 10th annual Suicide Prevention and Education Summit**. We stand by your unwavering mission to save lives and uplift survivors through powerful educational programs and vital resources dedicated to addressing mental health and suicide awareness.

Together, we look forward to building stronger, healthier communities—and celebrating Kevin's Song as you continue your important work to prevent suicide and provide support for survivors of suicide.

**HENRY
FORD
HEALTH**[®]

Suicide - The Most Misunderstood of all Deaths

Death is always painful, but its pains are compounded considerably if its cause is suicide.



Father Ron Rolheiser

When a suicide occurs, we aren't just left with the loss of a person, we're also left with a legacy of anger, second-guessing and fearful anxiety.

So each year I write a column on suicide, hoping that it might help produce more understanding around the issue and, in a small way perhaps, offer some consolation to those who have lost a loved one to this dreadful disease. Essentially, I say the same things each year because they need to be said. As Margaret Atwood once put it, some things need to be said and said and said again, until they don't need to be said any more. That's true of suicide.

What needs to be said, and said again, about it?

First of all that it's a disease and perhaps the most misunderstood of all diseases.

We tend to think that if a death is self-inflicted it is voluntary in a way that death through physical illness or accident is not. For most suicides, this isn't true. A person who falls victim to suicide dies, as does the victim of a terminal illness or fatal accident, not by his or her own choice. When people die from heart attacks, strokes, cancer, AIDS, and accidents, they die against their will. The same is true of suicide, except that in the case of suicide the breakdown is emotional rather than physical - an emotional stroke, an emotional cancer, a breakdown of the emotional immune system, an emotional fatality.

This is not an analogy. The two kinds of heart attacks, strokes, cancers, break-downs of the immune-system, and fatal accidents, are identical in that, in neither case, is the person leaving this world on the basis of a voluntary decision of his or her own will. In both cases, he or she is taken out of life against his or her own will. That's why we speak of someone as a "victim" of suicide.

Given this fact, we should not worry unduly about the eternal salvation of a suicide victim, believing (as we used to) that suicide is always an act of ultimate despair. God is infinitely more understanding than we are and God's hands are infinitely safer and more gentle than our own. Imagine a loving mother having just given birth, welcoming her child onto her breast for the first time. That, I believe is the best image we have available to understand how a suicide victim (most often an overly sensitive soul) is received into the next life.

Again, this isn't an analogy. God is infinitely more understanding, loving and motherly than any mother on earth.

We need not worry about the fate of anyone, no matter the cause of death, who exits this world honest, over-sensitive, gentle, over-wrought, and emotionally-crushed. God's understanding and compassion exceed our own.

Knowing all of this, however, doesn't necessarily take away our pain (and anger) at losing someone to suicide. Faith and understanding aren't meant to take our pain away but to give us hope, vision, and support as we walk within it.

Finally, we should not unduly second-guess when we lose a loved one to suicide: "What might I have done? If only I had been there? What if...?" It can be too easy to be haunted with the thought: "If only I'd been there at the right time." Rarely would this have made a difference. Indeed, most of the time, we weren't there for the exact reason that the person who fell victim to this disease did not want us to be there. He or she picked the moment, the spot, and the means precisely so that we wouldn't be there. Perhaps it's more accurate to say that suicide is a disease that picks its victim precisely in such a way so as to exclude others and their attentiveness. This should not be an excuse for insensitivity; especially towards those suffering from dangerous depression, but it should be a healthy check against false guilt and fruitless second-guessing.

We're human beings, not God. People die of illness and accidents all the time and all the love and attentiveness in the world often cannot prevent a loved one from dying. Suicide is a sickness. There are some sicknesses that all the care and love in the world cannot cure.

A proper human and faith response to suicide should not be horror, fear for the victim's eternal salvation, or guilty second-guessing about how we failed this person. Suicide is indeed a horrible way to die, but we must understand it (at least in most cases) as a sickness, a disease, an illness, a tragic breakdown within the emotional immune-system. And then we must trust, in God's goodness, God's understanding, God's power to descend into hell and God's power to redeem all things, even death, even death by suicide.

Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Currently, Father Rolheiser is serving as President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. He can be contacted through his website, www.ronrolheiser.com. Facebook www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser

A Look Back at the Past Ten Years of the Kevin's Song Education Summit/Conference

For the past ten years, Kevin's Song has proudly presented a highly respected suicide prevention conference dedicated to educating mental health professionals, school counselors and teachers, physicians, employers, business leaders, and first responders on how to assess risk and prevent suicide through evidence-based strategies. Throughout this decade, Kevin's Song has brought together national and local experts in research, prevention, postvention, and treatment to address the suicide epidemic and advance best practices in the field. These conferences have united leading experts, practitioners, and advocates to deepen understanding, build practical skills, and strengthen prevention efforts in schools and communities. Beyond professional education, Kevin's Song has intentionally created a safe and compassionate space for loss survivors and attempt survivors to share their stories, fostering connection, hope, and healing. Together, these conferences reflect a decade-long commitment to saving lives, honoring lived experience, and empowering those on the front lines of suicide prevention.



2026

For ten years, Kevin's Song has brought people together in shared commitment, compassion, and resolve—to better understand suicide, to prevent it, and to support those whose lives have been touched by it. Building on this decade of learning, collaboration, and hope, Michigan's largest and most respected suicide-focused symposium returns as the **Kevin's Song 10th Annual Suicide Prevention Education Summit, The Power of 10: A Legacy of Hope • A Future of Possibility**, on January 22–23, 2026, at St. John's Resort in Plymouth, Michigan.

Developed in partnership with community mental health organizations from across the state, this year's summit reflects the collective wisdom gained over ten years of listening to lived experience, advancing research, and strengthening prevention efforts. Clinicians, educators, advocates, and community leaders will engage in thoughtfully designed sessions that support their work with individuals and communities facing suicide risk and crisis.

The summit offers evidence-based strategies to address the rising rates of suicide and self-harm among African American youth, working-age men, veterans, older adults, and LGBTQ+ communities. Through keynote presentations and diverse breakout sessions, participants will explore proven prevention programs alongside practical, compassionate tools for intervention, treatment, and healing.

Honoring its roots, the summit also creates space for survivors of suicide loss and those with lived experience, recognizing that prevention is strengthened when education, empathy, and connection move forward together.

2026 Featured Speakers



Cheryl A. King, PhD



Roddia Hill, PsyD



Jaime Taylor, DO, MS, FAAFP



Larry Berkowitz, Ed.D



April M. Zeoli, PhD



Craig Bryan, PsyD



DeQuincy Lezine, PhD



Thomas Joiner, PhD

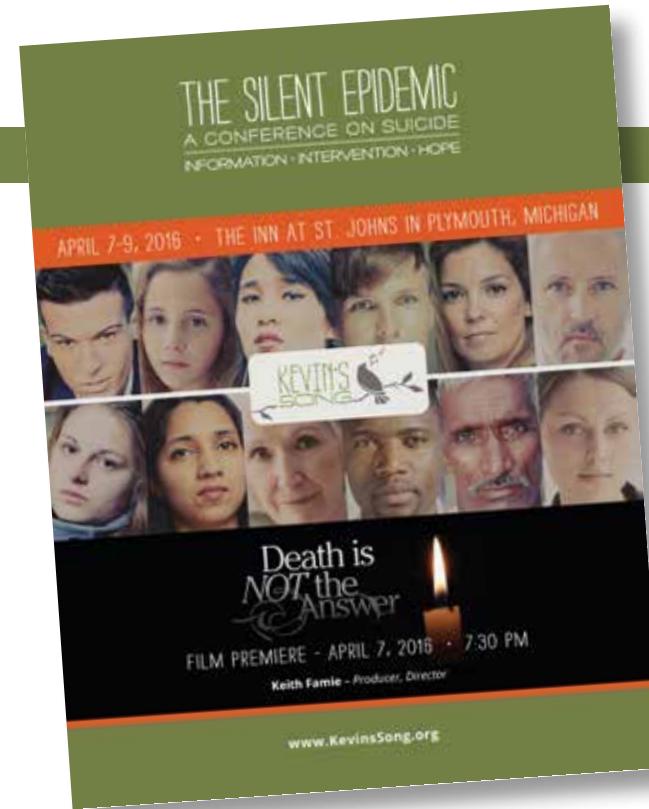
THE POWER OF TEN:

A LEGACY OF HOPE A FUTURE OF POSSIBILITY

Annual Education Summit/Conference

A Look Back at

2016



The 2016 Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide: ***The Silent Epidemic: Information, Intervention, Hope***, focused on advancing a system-wide, evidence-based approach to suicide prevention while addressing the emotional impact of suicide on both individuals at risk and the professionals who serve them. Presented in partnership with the Behavioral Health Department of Henry Ford Health System (HFHS), the conference emphasized that effective suicide prevention must be comprehensive, collaborative, and grounded in science and compassion.

A primary goal of the first Kevin's Song conference was to educate healthcare providers, first responders, and mental health professionals about the scope of the suicide epidemic and effective strategies to intervene before crises result in loss of life. Through in-depth examination of the Henry Ford Health's Perfect Depression Care and Zero Suicide Initiative, participants learned how coordinated, system-level practices can reduce suicide deaths across hospital, emergency department, and primary care settings. The conference reinforced the responsibility of care systems to consistently strive toward preventing suicide.

Day One featured a panel of HFH mental health professionals who discussed identifying and treating individuals at risk through standardized assessment, interdisciplinary collaboration, and continuous follow-up. Attention was also given to the impact of suicide on medical professionals, highlighting the importance of addressing grief, trauma, and resilience among caregivers.

Day Two expanded on intervention strategies, collaboration across disciplines, and managing suicide-related grief. Sessions were tailored for emergency department staff, physicians, mental health clinicians, medical trainees, and first responders. A pre-conference workshop addressed suicide risk assessment in the field, death notification, and occupational risk factors within law enforcement.

Throughout the conference, the themes of information, intervention, and hope were reinforced by expert research, practical tools, and lived experience, underscoring the power of informed action and compassionate care to save lives and promote healing.

Thomas Joiner, PhD, the country's leading expert on why people die from suicide, accepted an invitation to speak at Kevin's Song and he has been a featured speaker at every Kevin's Song conference over the past ten years.

Directed by Michigan Emmy Award winning director/producer **Keith Famie**, *Death is NOT the Answer* premiered on the first night of The Silent Epidemic: A Conference on Suicide. This documentary film presented a clear view of the suicide epidemic from many points of view with the hope that:

- a more open discussion of mental illness and suicide would take place in our society.
- that those with suicidal tendencies and their loved ones will know that help is available.
- that we will learn to recognize signs and symptoms of suicide; and
- that those who have lost a loved one to suicide will find support.

2016 Featured Speakers



Thomas Joiner, PhD



Brian Ahmedani, PhD



Doree Ann Espiritu, MD



Michelle Cornette, PhD



Deena Baxter

KEVIN'S SONG: CELEBRATING 10 YEARS



The 2017 Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide: *The Silent Epidemic: What Do We Know? What Can We Do?*, was designed to increase awareness, understanding, and action around suicide prevention through education, collaboration, and shared experience. The conference's primary goal was to provide a local, inclusive forum for professionals, community members, and individuals personally affected by suicide to examine its causes, consequences, and evidence-based strategies for prevention.

The conference brought together a diverse audience that included healthcare and mental health professionals, educators, clergy, policymakers, crisis workers, students, veterans, and survivors of suicide loss or attempts. Participants had opportunities to share information, deepen their understanding of suicide risk factors, and learn how to identify, assess, and support individuals at risk, while also exploring the broader impact of suicide on families and communities.

Annual Education Summit/Conference

A Look Back at

2017

Thursday's program focused on the latest research, prevention strategies, and treatment approaches, with particular emphasis on youth suicide. Presenters highlighted suicide as the second leading cause of death among young people and stressed the importance of early intervention, preparedness, and prevention efforts within schools and youth-serving systems.

Friday's sessions addressed suicide among three high-risk populations: military and veterans, working-aged adults, and first responders. Topics included the scope of suicide in these communities, workplace-based prevention initiatives, and the unique challenges faced by first responders, including trauma exposure and occupational risk.

Saturday's program centered on survivors of suicide loss and caregivers, focusing on grief, healing, and resilience through education, shared experiences, and supportive resources.



Renowned singer/songwriter **Judy Collins** graciously accepted an invitation from Kevin's Song to be a keynote speaker at its 2017 Conference on Suicide and to perform at a benefit concert, Songs of the Heart. She courageously and very publicly shared her experience with depression, alcoholism, and the struggles she faced following her son's suicide, thus helping dispel the stigma of psychiatric disorders and explain how she found a path to hope and clarity.

2017 Featured Speakers



Major General (ret.) Mark Graham & Carol Graham



Wes O'Donnell



Judith Burdick



Sally Spencer Thomas

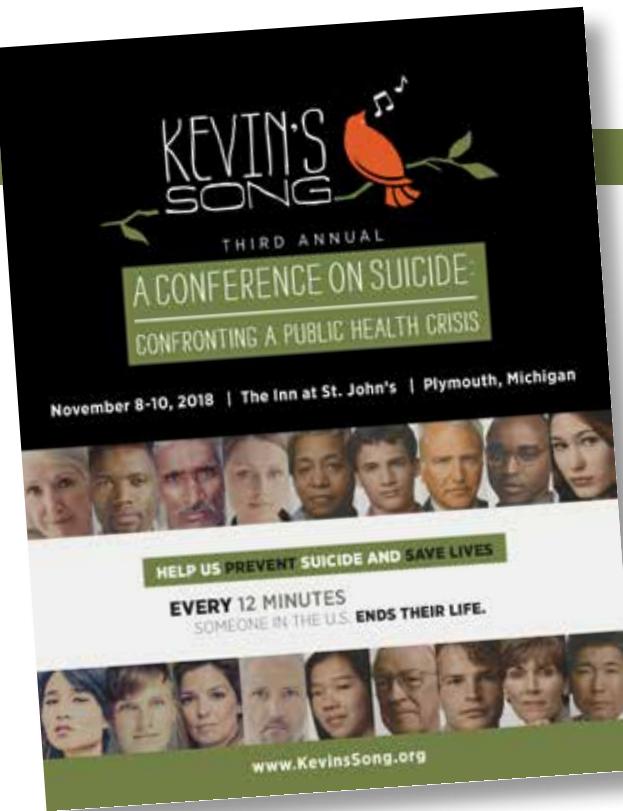
Annual Education Summit/Conference

A Look Back at

2018

Speakers highlighted the rising rates of suicide as a serious public health emergency and stressed the importance of using data to guide prevention strategies. Attendees explored approaches that target modifiable risk factors, population-level prevention initiatives, and evidence-based screening tools to identify individuals at elevated risk. The conference also emphasized improving education for healthcare providers, patients, and families by challenging misconceptions and promoting more compassionate and effective models of care.

Another key goal was fostering collaboration across disciplines and communities, including schools, workplaces, healthcare systems, and emergency services. Ultimately, Kevin's Song aims to address gaps in behavioral health resources by creating a forum for shared learning and collaboration that inspires meaningful action to prevent suicide and save lives.



The **2018 Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide: Confronting a Public Health Crisis**, focused on reframing suicide as a critical public health issue with profound human, social, and economic consequences. The conference brought together policymakers, researchers, clinicians, educators, advocates, and individuals with lived experience to promote a comprehensive, population-based approach to suicide prevention.

A central objective of the conference was to advance prevention strategies that extend beyond individual treatment to address entire populations and communities. Emphasis was placed on primary prevention—intervening before suicidal behavior occurs—by identifying and reducing risk factors while strengthening protective factors across the lifespan. Grounded in science and data-driven research, the conference sought to deepen understanding of suicide trends, underlying causes, and effective interventions in order to inform more innovative and impactful prevention efforts.



2018 Featured Speakers



Jill Harkavy-Friedman, PhD



Michael Anestis, PhD



Will Heininger, BA

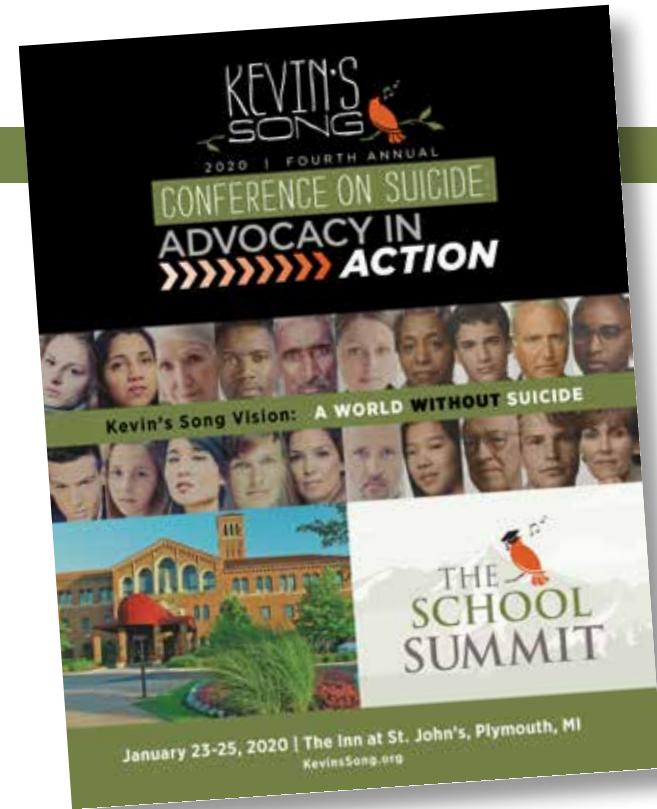


Bart Andrews PhD



Craig Miller

KEVIN'S SONG: CELEBRATING 10 YEARS



The 2020 Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide: **Advocacy in Action**, focused on mobilizing individuals, organizations, and communities to address suicide as a complex and indiscriminating public health issue. The conference emphasized that effective suicide prevention requires a unified, collaborative coalition of community resources, including schools, workplaces, healthcare systems, military units, and families. A central goal of the conference was to foster community engagement and advocacy to create safer schools, safer workplaces, and safer communities.

Researchers, clinicians, and suicide prevention advocates shared current information about suicide, individuals at risk, and the wide-ranging personal and community impacts of suicide. The conference aimed to equip attendees with practical strategies grounded in the best available research and evidence-based practices. Participants learned how to

Annual Education Summit/Conference

A Look Back at

2020

advocate for targeted prevention efforts with the greatest potential to save lives and reduce suicide risk across diverse settings.

Key objectives included empowering attendees to take meaningful action within their own communities—raising awareness, encouraging prevention, and responding effectively to risk. The conference addressed real-world scenarios such as supporting a friend or coworker, responding to a family crisis, assisting military or National Guard peers, and recognizing when one may be experiencing suicidal thoughts. By addressing prevention at both individual and systemic levels, the conference reinforced the importance of proactive, informed responses.

The first Kevin's Song School Summit, held in conjunction with the conference, focused specifically on suicide prevention in educational settings. The summit aimed to assist educators, administrators, and school mental health professionals in designing and implementing strategies to promote behavioral health, identify students at risk, and protect student well-being. By providing up-to-date education, resources, and opportunities for collaboration, the School Summit strengthened schools' capacity to prevent suicide and support student mental health.

Together, the conference and School Summit advanced advocacy-driven, community-based suicide prevention action.



2020 Featured Speakers



Cheryl King, PhD



John Della Volpe



Karen Marshall



Jodi Jacobson Frey, PhD

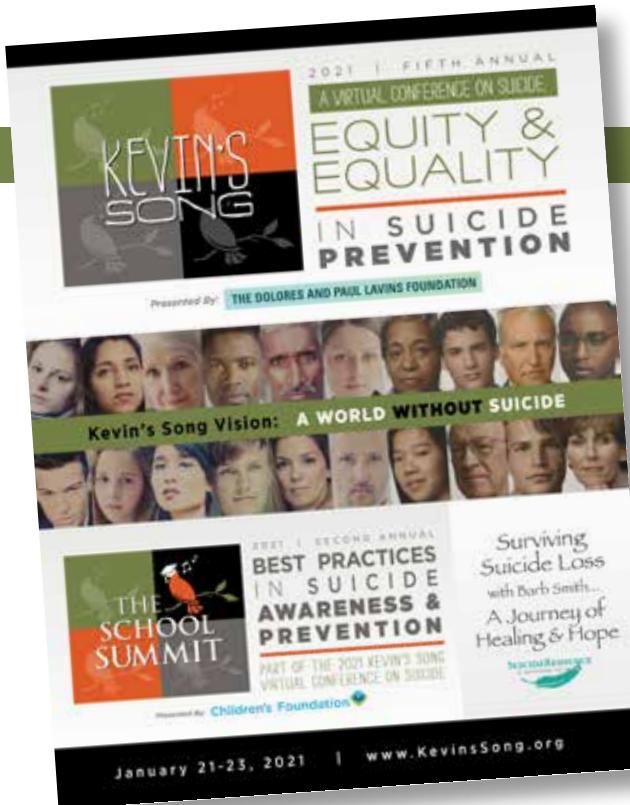


Dennis Leigghio



Thomas Dionne

Annual Education Summit/Conference



The **2021 Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide: Equity & Equality in Suicide Prevention**, was a virtual summit dedicated to advancing inclusive, evidence-based approaches to suicide prevention across all populations, with particular focus on high-risk and underserved communities and the heightened challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference examined suicide risk and protective factors through a social justice lens, using a socioecological framework that considers influences at the individual, relationship, community, and societal levels.

Local and national experts shared research, lived experience, and practical strategies illustrating how suicide impacts individuals differently based on race, ethnicity, gender, ability, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation. A central goal of the conference was to equip participants with information and tools to identify and address risk factors while promoting

A Look Back at

2021

protective factors within and beyond their own communities. Emphasis was placed on preventative, evidence-based practices shown to have measurable impact in saving lives.

Participants learned how to recognize and assist individuals at risk of suicide, identify and mitigate community-level factors that increase vulnerability among specific groups, and tailor prevention strategies to be socially and culturally responsive. The conference encouraged attendees to move beyond one-size-fits-all approaches toward interventions grounded in equity and inclusion.

As part of the conference, the Second Annual School Summit focused specifically on youth suicide prevention in educational settings. The summit brought together public, independent, parochial, and charter school educators to explore strategies for identifying at-risk students and addressing the needs of youth who feel marginalized or disconnected from their school communities. By strengthening schools' roles in prevention and early intervention, the summit aimed to reduce suicide attempts and deaths among young people.

Together, the conference and School Summit reinforced a shared commitment to equity-driven prevention, ensuring that all individuals—especially those historically underserved—are seen, supported, and protected.



2021 Featured Speakers



Rheeda Walker, PhD



Shelby Rowe, MBA



April C. Foreman, PhD

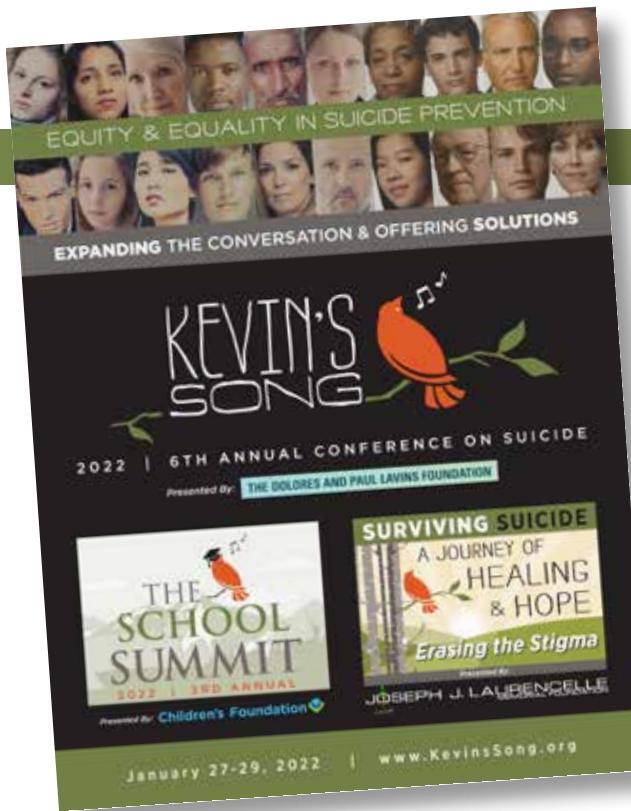


Achmat Salie, PhD



Brandon Johnson, MHS

KEVIN'S SONG: CELEBRATING 10 YEARS



The 2022 Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide: *Expanding the Conversation and Offering Solutions*, was a virtual conference dedicated to advancing equity, inclusion, and effectiveness in suicide prevention across educational and community settings. Hosted as part of the Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide, the event included the Third Annual School Summit, which brought together public, independent, parochial, and charter school educators, along with college and university staff, to focus on practical solutions for youth suicide prevention.

The School Summit and broader conference addressed prevention themes designed to reach youth who have traditionally been unrecognized or underserved, including those who feel marginalized or disconnected from their school communities. Participants explored strategies to improve social-emotional skills, promote positive mental health, and foster environments where all students feel seen, supported, and heard. Emphasis was placed on the importance of

Annual Education Summit/Conference

A Look Back at

2022

identifying students at risk and understanding the critical role schools play in prevention, early intervention, and connection to supports. By strengthening these competencies, the conference aimed to reduce suicide attempts and deaths among young people.

The conference expanded the conversation around equity and equality in suicide prevention, examining how suicide risk intersects with race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation. Attendees learned how to identify and address risk factors at both individual and community levels, manage crises, support survivors, and share resources effectively.

Overall, the conference sought to equip participants with inclusive, culturally responsive tools to identify suicide risk, mitigate contributing factors, and promote protective factors within and beyond their communities—moving the field from awareness toward meaningful, solution-driven action.



2022 Featured Speakers



Ellen Kahn, MSS, LSW



Jordan Burnham



Craig Bryan, PsyD

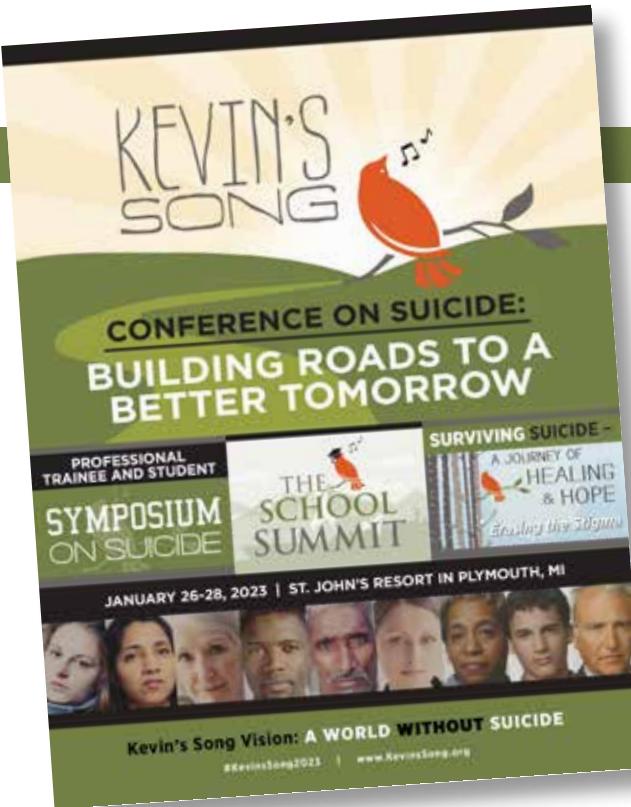


Kevin Fischer

Annual Education Summit/Conference

A Look Back at

2023



The 2023 Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide: *Building Roads to a Better Tomorrow*, was designed to advance understanding, collaboration, and action in the prevention of suicide and self-harm, with a particular emphasis on youth and underserved populations. The conference sought to equip attendees with practical, evidence-informed knowledge to identify and address risk factors while strengthening protective factors within schools, families, organizations, and communities at large.

A central objective of the conference and School Summit was to support educators, school district personnel, and college and university staff in implementing effective, sustainable strategies for youth suicide prevention. By focusing on high-risk and historically underserved youth, the conference highlighted equity-driven approaches that recognize the diverse social, cultural, and systemic influences affecting mental health and well-being. Participants obtained tools to

translate prevention theory into real-world practice across educational settings.

The conference also challenged conventional frameworks of suicide prevention, assessment, and treatment. Through innovative perspectives and multidisciplinary dialogue, attendees were encouraged to critically examine existing practices and rethink how risk of self-harm is identified, prevented, and treated. This forward-looking approach promoted more responsive, compassionate, and effective interventions.

Equally important, the conference was committed to honoring and supporting loss survivors and attempt survivors. It provides resources, information, and space to address healing, grief, and recovery, while actively working to reduce stigma. By fostering greater understanding of survivor experiences, the conference helped mental health professionals, caregivers, and community members to better meet the needs of those impacted by suicide.

Together, these goals reflect a shared commitment to building informed, resilient, and compassionate pathways toward a safer and more hopeful future.



2023 Featured Speakers



Scott Zeller, MD



Travis Atkinson, MS, LPC



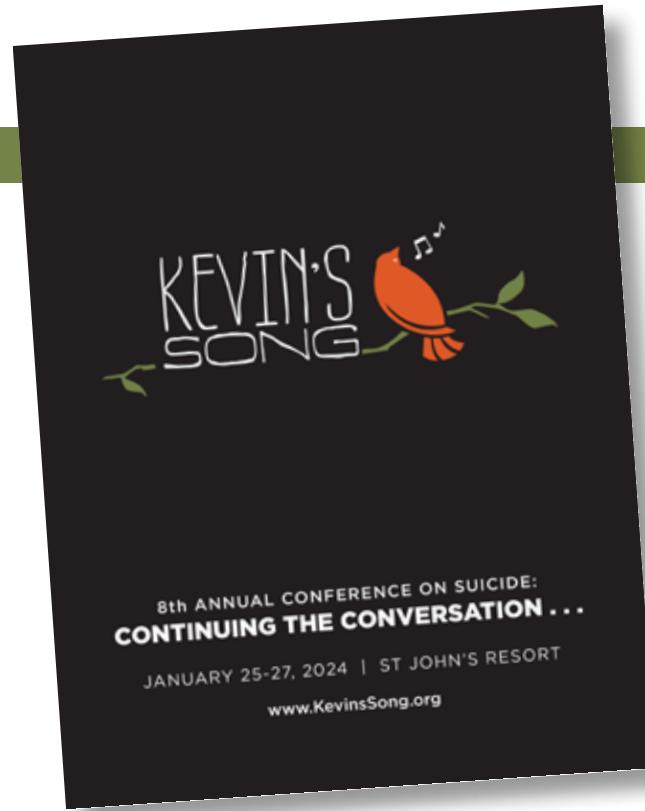
Gabby Doyle, MA



Kevin Briggs



Kevin Berthia



The 2024 Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide: *Continuing the Conversation*, was an action-oriented conference dedicated to strengthening suicide prevention efforts for children, adolescents, and young adults. Building on prior dialogue and progress, the conference emphasized the critical role of mental health professionals, educators, and caregivers in reducing youth suicide, with particular attention to high-risk and underserved populations. By reinforcing shared responsibility across systems, the conference translated knowledge into meaningful prevention practices.

A primary goal of the conference was to assist mental health professionals and educators in implementing effective, evidence-informed strategies to prevent youth suicide. Participants would deepen their understanding of how to identify warning signs and risk indicators in young people, as well as the distinct and collaborative roles that schools and therapists play in intervention and prevention. Strengthening

Annual Education Summit/Conference

A Look Back at **2024**

these competencies is essential to reducing suicide attempts and fatalities among youth.

The conference also shared current, practical information to help attendees identify and address both individual and environmental risk factors while actively promoting protective factors within families, schools, and communities. Particular emphasis was placed on means safety, including the safe storage of firearms, as a critical component of comprehensive suicide prevention. Attendees were encouraged to consider how community-level actions can significantly reduce access to lethal means and increase overall safety.

In addition, the conference provided resources and information to aid individuals in navigating healing, grief, and recovery, while also enhancing the capacity of mental health professionals and caregivers to understand and respond to survivor needs with sensitivity and compassion. Through education, collaboration, and continued dialogue, the conference reinforces a collective commitment to saving lives and fostering hope.



2024 Featured Speakers



Kathryn Goetzke, MBA



Hayley Watson, PhD



Tony Thrasher, DO



Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

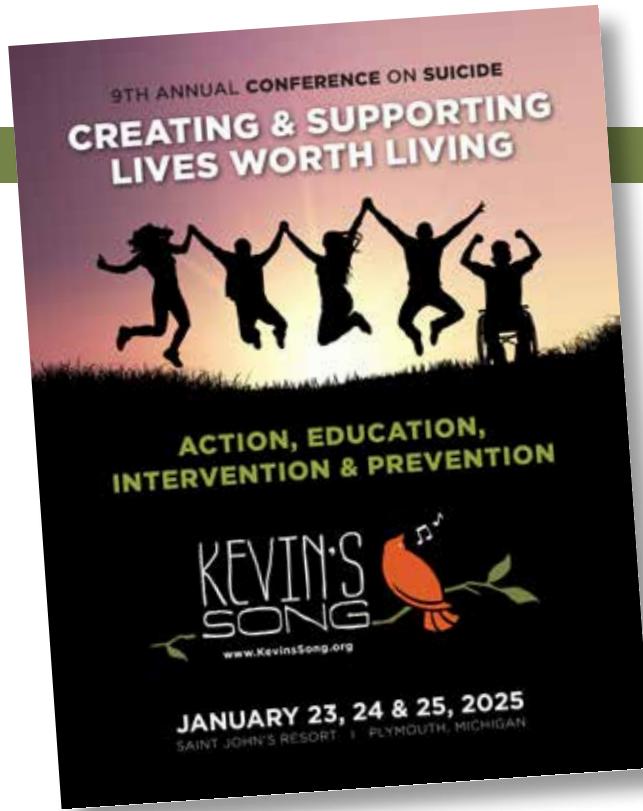


Gigi Colombini, LMSW

Annual Education Summit/Conference

A Look Back at

2025



The 2025 Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide: *Creating and Supporting Lives Worth Living*, focused on advancing effective, compassionate, and equitable approaches to youth suicide prevention. The conference brings together mental health professionals, educators, and community stakeholders to strengthen collective capacity to reduce suicide attempts and deaths among young people, with a particular emphasis on high-risk and underserved populations. Central to the conference's mission is the belief that prevention is most effective when systems work collaboratively to support the whole child and the broader community.

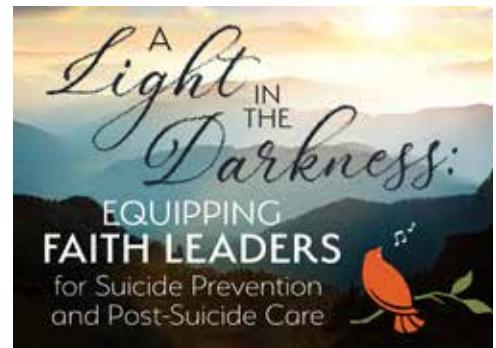
A primary objective of the conference is to assist mental health professionals and educators in implementing practical, evidence-based strategies for youth suicide prevention. Participants will deepen their ability to identify young people at risk, recognize warning signs, and understand the distinct yet complementary roles that schools and therapists

play in prevention and intervention. By strengthening early identification and coordinated response, the conference seeks to meaningfully impact suicide outcomes among youth.

The conference also aims to share critical information that helps attendees identify and address both individual and environmental risk factors while actively promoting protective factors. Emphasis is placed on community-wide prevention strategies, including the safe storage of firearms, as a proven and essential component of reducing suicide risk. Attendees are encouraged to consider how policies, education, and family engagement can create safer environments within and beyond their own communities.

The conference also provided resources and guidance to assist individuals in navigating healing, grief, and recovery, while also enhancing the ability of mental health professionals and caregivers to understand and respond to survivor needs. Through education, collaboration, and compassion, the conference promotes hope, resilience, and lives worth living.

In 2025, Kevin's Song presented its first program for faith leaders. Glen Bloomstrom, MDiv, MS, Melina Moore, PhD, Rabbi Daniel Roberts, together with Barb Smith led a group of ministers, priests and pastors through a day-long session that discussed the religious stigmas around suicide and offered these faith leaders informed and evidenced based strategies to work with people at risk for suicide and to better console those who lost a loved one to suicide.



2025 Featured Speakers



Charisse Nixon, PhD



Brett Harris, PhD



Bart Andrews, PhD



Nancy Buyle, MA, LPC



Dennis Gillan



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*Please Use This Hashtag when Posting to Social Media
Throughout and After the Education Summit.*

What is T.A.S.K.S. You Ask?

Training and Awareness on Suicide from Kevin's Song

As a community of health care professionals and educators, we all have T.A.S.K.S. to do in order to help save lives and prevent suicide whenever possible.

While the field of suicidology is not an exact science, and it is difficult to predict who will end their lives, we are amassing more and more scientific, evidence-based information that can help put a stop to such tragic losses in our communities.

This Recognition is something extra we are providing to qualifying attendees at our annual Kevin's Song Conference on Suicide. The Conference on Suicide and School Summit offer a comprehensive program of educational sessions that focus on suicide.

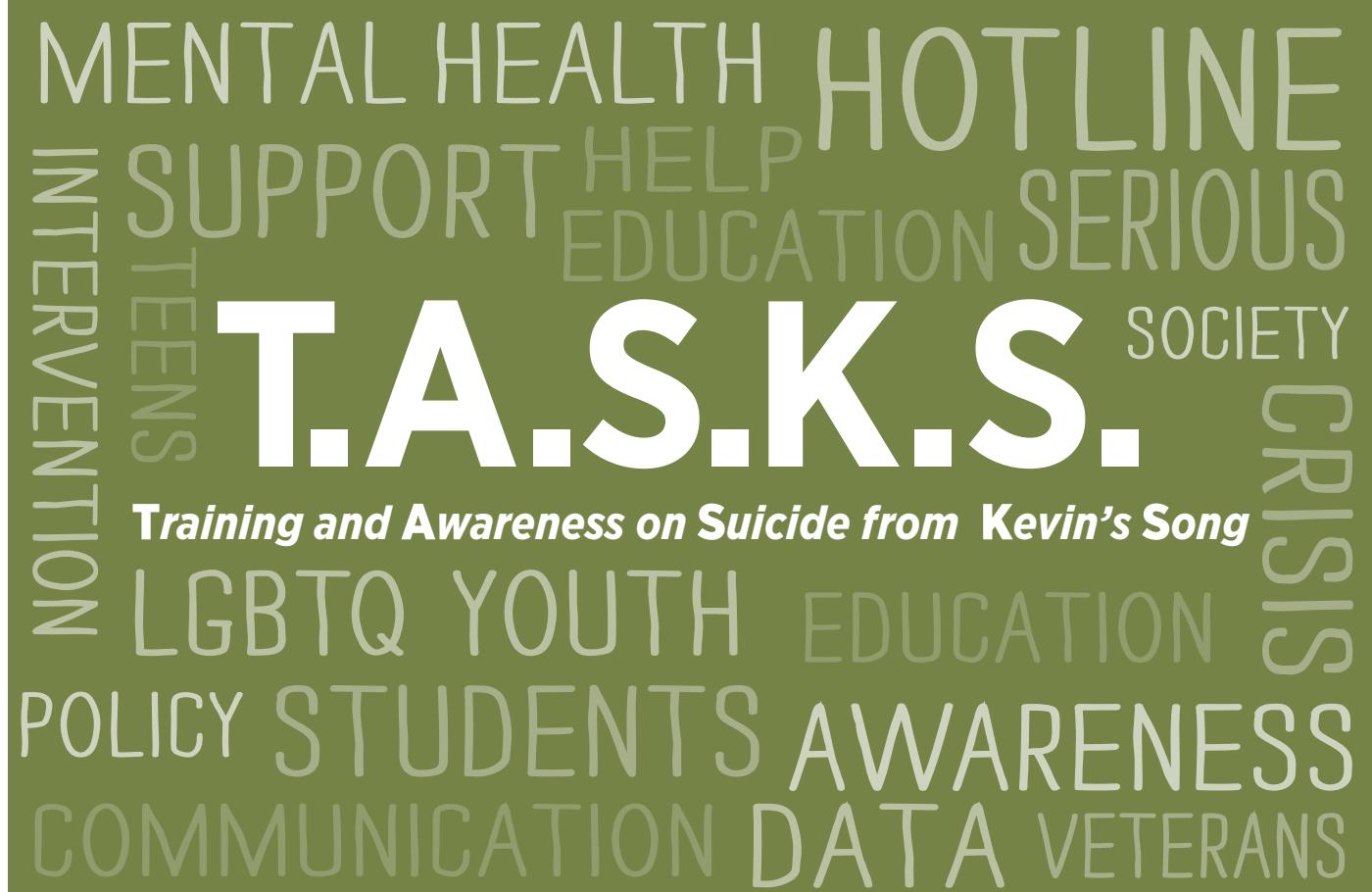
Kevin's Song will send the certificate to you after the conference.

To Become Qualified for T.A.S.K.S. Recognition:

- You must be a licensed health care professional or educator.
- You will be required to attend every KEYNOTE SESSION.
- At least two (2) Breakout sessions each day of the 2-Day Conference.
- You must complete and submit session evaluations for each session and the post event feedback form you will receive by email after the conference.
- You must also complete and submit the TASKS form which will be emailed to you following the Conference.

Processing of the T.A.S.K.S. certificate will be part of the post conference evaluation and will be delivered by email.

Not only will you earn continuing education credits, you will receive a Certificate for your office, certifying to your colleagues and to the community that you have attended this comprehensive 2-Day conference with its focus on suicide - awareness, research, prevention and treatment.





“ Ten years ago, Kevin’s Song set out to create a space where learning, lived experience and compassion could come together. This year, through our partnership with the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan, we’re expanding that vision to reach even more professionals and communities. As Michigan continues to advance through laws, education and crisis response, this summit remains a place to turn knowledge into **”** lifesaving action.

- Jennifer Margraf
Executive Director, Kevin’s Song



PROUD SUPPORTER OF KEVIN'S SONG



School Presentations
Expressive Art Workshops
Survivors of Suicide Loss Support



“ Community partners like Kevin’s Song are essential in the collective mission to save lives. Our association is honored to join this milestone 10th annual summit to help bring evidence-based suicide prevention tools directly to those working on the front lines. Together, we can ensure that the lessons learned at this conference become lifesaving actions in every Michigan community. **”**

- Robert Sheehan
Chief Executive Officer of the Community Mental Health Association of Michigan

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Continuing Education Credits

2026 KEVIN'S SONG CONFERENCE ON SUICIDE

Continuing Education opportunities for this activity have been jointly provided by Kevin's Song and CMHA.

AVAILABLE CONTINUING EDUCATION:

Social Workers (SW)

The Kevin's Song (1/22/26-1/23/26) qualifies for a maximum of

12 Continuing Education Hours

The Community Mental Health Association is an approved provider with the Michigan Social Work Continuing Education Collaborative. Approved Provider Number: MICEC 060818.

Qualifies as "face-to-face (in-person) education."

Substance Use Disorder Professionals

CMHA is approved by Michigan Certification Board for Addiction Professionals (MCBAP). CMHA maintains the responsibility for the program and content. Substance Use Disorder professionals participating in the Kevin's Song (1/22/26-1/23/26) may receive a maximum of

12 Contact Hours

It is important that attendees keep a copy of the conference program brochure containing the workshop descriptions along with their attendance record form.

Continuing Education Requirement

National Accreditation Rules: National Accreditation rules indicate that if you are over five (5) minutes late or depart early, you forfeit your continuing education hours for that session. Please note that this is a National rule that CMHA must enforce or we could lose our provider status to provide continuing education hours in the future.

This rule will be strictly followed.

Certificate Awarded

You will be provided with a Session Start Code and Session End Code for each presentation. These codes must be entered on your Certificate of Attendance Form for the sessions you attend. At the conclusion of this conference, turn in your Certificate of Attendance form to CMHA Staff to be approved. Turn in the top sheet and retain the bottom sheet which serves as your certificate. No other certificate will be given.

You Can Find Complete Information About Continuing Education At The Registration Desk.



Psychologists

This course qualifies for

12 Psychology CE credits

The Community Mental Health Association of Michigan (CMHA) is approved by the Bureau of Professional Licensing within the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. CMHA maintains responsibility for this program and its content.

State of Michigan Teachers (SCECH)

A maximum of

12 State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs)

have been awarded by Michigan Education Association. Please include your name, email, PIC number if you are requesting these hours on your continuing education form.

Certificate Issued by

Sarah Botruff, Director of Education and Training
sbotruff@cmham.org; 517-374-6848

Grievance

If you have any issues with the way in which this conference was conducted or other problems, you may note that on your evaluation or you may contact CMHA 517-374-6848 or CMHA for resolution.



RESOURCE GALLERY

All Conference Attendees are Encouraged to Visit the Many Resource Exhibitors Located in the Monarch B Room on the Main Level.

- Adolescent Health Initiative
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention - MII
- Barb Smith Suicide Resource & Response Network
- Be Nice - The Mental Health Foundation
- Behavioral Health Connections
- Bethany Ann Galdes Foundation
- Centers For Family Development
- Clark Construction
- CNS Healthcare
- DBT Institute
- Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network
- Foxhole
- Gryphon Place
- H3-Hope, Healing & Health, Inc.
- Harbor Oaks Hospital
- Henry Ford Behavioral Health Hospital
- Henry Ford Health
- Institute for Hope and Human Flourishing
- Jane Reiter
- Know Resolve
- Macomb County Community Mental Health
- Michigan Medicine
- Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency
- Mind Health Group
- NAMI - Metro
- Oakland Community Health Network
- Pasadena Villa
- River's Bend
- Rose Hill Center
- Six Feet Over
- Skywood Recovery
- Stone Crest Center
- Stop Soldier Suicide/Black Box Project
- Therapy Today Counseling & Consulting, LLC (Mindful ISTDP)
- Trinity Health
- Ulliance, Inc.
- University of Michigan Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention
- U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
- Wentworth & Associates
- Words of Hope 4 Life
- Zinzino

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KEVINSSONG26

MEMORIAL FOREST



The Memorial Forest is made possible through the many generous donations to Kevin's Song in memory of Adam Elbadawi.

Sponsored by:

Kathleen McGovern
STUDIO OF INTERIOR DESIGN
INSPIRED DESIGN

THE MEMORIAL FOREST was created for the Kevin's Song Fourth Annual Conference on Suicide to help us remember and honor some of the people who have died by suicide and to offer solace to those who were left behind. This Memorial Forest, located in the **IRIS ROOM on the Monarch 2nd Floor**, is made possible through the many generous donations to Kevin's Song in memory of Adam Elbadawi.

Please stop in and reflect, remember, meditate, pray and honor your loved ones.

- Most of all, we hope to plant seeds of compassion in the hearts of those who read the names: seeds that may develop into a commitment to understanding suicide, finding solutions and offering hope and healing.
- We all have within us a center of stillness surrounded by silence.
- This Memorial Forest, dedicated to survivors of those whose lives were prematurely ended, is a room in the middle of a busy conference center, dedicated to silence in the outward sense and stillness in the inner sense.
- We wanted to create in this small room, a quiet place where you may gather to remember, in thought and prayer, a loved one, a spouse, a child, a parent, a colleague or a friend who has died by suicide.
- There are simple things which speak to us all. We have sought for such things and we believe that we have found them in this forest of simple birch trees covered in shimmering points of light surrounding and embracing those who pass among their branches.
- So, in the middle of the room we see a symbol of how, daily, light gives life to the earth, a symbol to many of us of how the light of the spirit renews and restores.
- The trees in the room remind us of the many individual families and communities that have been affected by suicide. **Visitors to the Memorial Forest are invited to hang a bird from the trees - in memory of a loved one lost to suicide or to honor a survivor.** In this way, we remember that we are all connected in loss and fortified with hope.
- There is an ancient saying that the sense of a vessel is not in its shell but in the void. So it is with this Memorial Forest. It is for those who come here to fill the void and to unsettle their stillness with hope and resilience. (inspired by the words of Dag Hammarskjöld on the 1957 opening of the United Nations Meditation Room)

The Iris Room is located on the Monarch 2nd floor The Memorial Forest will be open throughout the 2-day Suicide Prevention and Education Summit.

SAVING A LIFE AWARD

Recipients exemplify outstanding service to the community in Suicide Prevention.

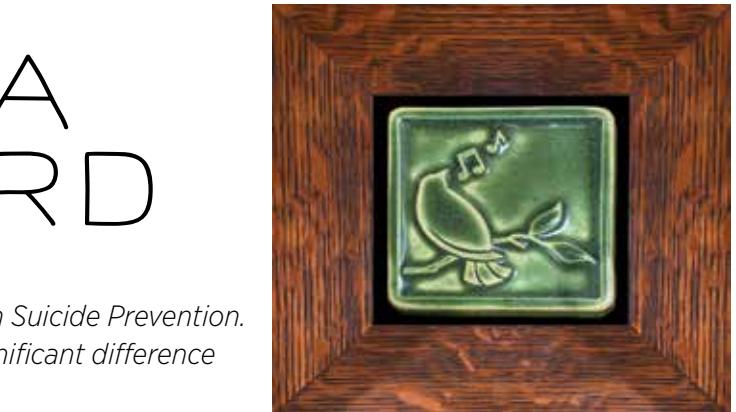
*Past recipients have been individuals who have made a significant difference
in the lives of citizens in crisis.*



2026 HONOREE: **Cheryl A. King, PhD**

*Professor Emerita,
University of Michigan*

Cheryl King, PhD, is Professor Emerita in the Department of Psychiatry and the Founding Director of the Youth Depression and Suicide Prevention Program at the University of Michigan. A clinical scientist, psychologist, and educator who develops and optimizes best practices for suicide risk screening, assessment, and intervention, Dr. King has authored more than 200 scholarly articles and books related to suicide prevention in youth and young adults. Her leadership of large-scale initiatives has resulted in, among others, the Youth-Nominated Support Team for Suicidal Adolescents, which is the only intervention for teens at risk that has been associated with reduced mortality; an effective suicide risk screening tool; and an evidence-based understanding of 24-hour risk for



adolescent suicide attempts. Her current work examines the effectiveness of a suicide prevention strategy tailored for Black youth and their families who are seeking emergency medical care.

Dr. King is the lead author of *Teen Suicide Risk: A Practitioner Guide to Screening, Assessment, and Intervention*. In addition, she has served as Director of Psychology Training and Chief Psychologist in the Department of Psychiatry, where she twice received the Teacher of the Year award in Child Psychiatry.

Dr. King's national leadership includes serving as President of the American Association of Suicidology, the Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers, and the Society for Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology. Dr. King has provided testimony in the U.S. Senate on youth suicide prevention; she has served on the National Advisory Mental Health Council; and she is a recipient of the Research Award for Outstanding Contributions to Suicide Prevention from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Congratulations to CHERYL A. KING, PhD, 2026 Honoree of the Kevin's Song Saving A Life Award, for her commitment to suicide education and prevention - saving the lives of many in crisis and for her outstanding service to the Kevin's Song community.

KEVIN'S SONG SUPPORTIVE STAFF

*The subject of suicide being discussed throughout
this conference may cause discomfort for some individuals.*

*Something seen or discussed in a presentation may trigger an emotional
reaction such as sadness, anger or other emotions. Please know that it is okay
to get up and leave during any presentation. Please also know that there are qualified
Supportive Staff members available to talk with you.*

**They can be identified by the TEAL BLUE RIBBON on their name badge
and ORANGE LANYARD**

DAY
1

The first day is the Youth Mental Health and School Summit, which will focus on integrating schools, together with 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. The Day will also include the stories of loss survivors and their journey through grief to hope.



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

8:00 - 8:15 am
Monarch A
(Main Level)



Jennifer Fair Margraf, MBA, MA, CFRE
Executive Director

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION 1

8:15 - 9:15 am
Monarch A
(Main Level)



**Youth Suicide Prevention:
Promoting Healthy Social Connections and Support**
Cheryl A. King, PhD

Professor Emerita, University of Michigan

Qualifies for 1.0
CE Hours for:
• Social Work
• Related MCBAP
Education
Contact Hours
• Psychology
CE Credits
• SCECH credits

This presentation will discuss youth suicide risk as an urgent public health and community concern. Because this risk presents in a myriad number of ways, it requires tailored and multi-faceted prevention strategies. Dr. King will provide an overview, based in scientific studies, of the importance of social connectedness and adult support to risk reduction, sharing national recommendations and promising intervention strategies in this area. These strategies focus on promoting healthy connections and building supportive adult networks for young people at risk. The presenter will discuss the implications of this knowledge for school, community, and hospital-based efforts to promote adolescent mental health and prevent self-harm and suicide.

Dr. King is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Director of the Youth Depression and Suicide Prevention Program at the University of Michigan. A clinical psychologist, educator and research mentor, Dr. King has served as Director of Psychology Training and Chief Psychologist in the Department of Psychiatry, where she has twice received a Teacher of the Year Award. Dr. King develops culturally tailored, evidence-based strategies for suicide risk screening, assessment, and intervention. She is a recent member of the National Advisory Mental Health Council.

9:15 - 9:30 am

BREAK - Be Sure to Visit the **Resource Gallery, Bookstore, and the Memorial Forest**

All Day
Each Day
Iris Room
(Monarch
2nd Floor)



MEMORIAL FOREST

The Memorial Forest was created to help us remember and honor some of the people who have died by suicide and to offer solace to those who were left behind.

Sponsored by Kathey McGovern Studio of Interior Design

For additional information about each presenter and speaker please visit www.KevinsSong.org/speakers

Keynote Presentation

Breakout Session

www.KevinsSong.org

Youth Mental Health and School Summit

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

9:30 - 10:30 am

Lily Room
(Monarch 3rd Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
CE Hours for:

- Social Work
- Related MCBAP Education
- Contact Hours
- Psychology
- CE Credits
- SCECH credits

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & SCHOOL SUMMIT - MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION A1



Affirming Lives: Suicide Prevention in LGBTQIA Youth and Communities

Carter Doyle, PMHNP-BC Nurse Practitioner, Leaf Psychiatry

Carter Doyle will review current statistics on suicide and suicide prevention in LGBTQIA communities. He will discuss current gaps in care and discuss ways to approach this population in the future. A focus will be on youths in the queer community with emphasis on strategies for parents and loved ones.

Carter Doyle, MSN, PMHNP-BC is a psychiatric nurse practitioner and founder of Leaf Psychiatry, as well as a PhD student at Wayne State University. His clinical and research work center on suicide risk, trauma, and identity-affirming care for LGBTQIA+ youth, including survivors of sexual orientation and gender identity change efforts. A former paramedic and emergency nurse, Carter brings crisis-care experience and a focus on supporting families and communities to respond to queer and trans young people in ways that reduce risk and promote connection.

9:30 - 10:30 am

Magnolia Room
(Monarch 2nd Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
CE Hours for:

- Social Work
- Related MCBAP Education
- Contact Hours
- Psychology
- CE Credits
- SCECH credits

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & SCHOOL SUMMIT - MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION A2



Social Media Addiction

Corey Hubner, BS Community Service Trooper, Michigan

The workshop will discuss how addictive social media is. We will continue to compare social media usage to other forms of addictive behavior. The workshop discusses pitfalls of over usage of social media, monetary issues associated with our cell phones and kids gaming systems, and then we will discuss strategies for reduction in usage for parents and children.

Corey Hubner is a Michigan State Police (MSP) Community Service Trooper with the Gaylord Post and a BS in Community Service. He is recognized for his extensive work in community outreach, which includes educating youth and seniors on topics like internet bullying, distracted driving, and online scams. Hubner is a 28-year veteran of the MSP and has received several awards for his dedication and leadership, including the 2023 Colonel Etue Community Service Impact Award.

9:30 - 10:30 am

Grand Ballroom
(Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
CE Hours for:

- Social Work
- Related MCBAP Education
- Contact Hours
- Psychology
- CE Credits
- SCECH credits

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & SCHOOL SUMMIT - MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION A3

When Words Aren't Enough: Supporting Families Through Adolescent Suicide Risk

This presentation shares the deeply personal journey of two parents who lost their teenage son to suicide after days of searching for answers, resources, and hope. With honesty and courage, they recount their desperate efforts to recognize the warning signs, navigate a complex and often confusing mental-health system, and advocate tirelessly for the support their son needed. Through their story, they illuminate the struggles many families face -misunderstanding symptoms, long waits for care, limited access to specialists, and the overwhelming fear of not knowing how to help a child in pain. Their presentation aims to break silence and stigma, encourage earlier conversations about emotional well-being, and offer insight into how caregivers, schools, and communities can better support vulnerable teens. It is a tribute to their son's life, a reminder of the challenges too many families encounter, and a call to create a world where every young person can find help before it is too late.



**Fritz and
Josephine Klingler**
Suicide Loss Survivors

In 2017, **Fritz and JoJo Klingler** lost their oldest son Nick to suicide at the age of 17. Since that time, both Fritz and JoJo have become active in the suicide prevention community, including serving in various roles in the Kevin's Song organization. Fritz is currently Board Chair of Kevin's Song and JoJo volunteers on several Kevin's Song committees, in addition to their day jobs as President and Chief Financial Officer of FK Engineering in Madison Heights, Michigan.

**Gigi Colombini, LMSW**Psychotherapist - Suicidologist,
Institute for Hope & Human Flourishing

Gigi Colombini is familiar to many in the suicide prevention community – having presented at many meetings and conferences and providing advice and guidance on how to work with patients who struggle with thoughts of suicide and how to help families cope with loss. She is the founder of the Institute for Hope and Human Flourishing. Her holistic, common-sense and insight-oriented therapeutic approach provides her patients a clear and simple path to understanding, better enabling them to create changes they are looking for in their lives.

For additional information about each presenter and speaker please visit www.KevinsSong.org/speakers

Keynote Presentation

Breakout Session

Youth Mental Health and School Summit

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

9:30 - 10:30 am
Garden Gallery
 (Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
 CE Hours for:

- Social Work
- Related MCBAP Education
- Contact Hours
- Psychology
- CE Credits
- SCECH credits

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & SCHOOL SUMMIT - MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION A4



Bridging the Gap: Connecting Inpatient Psychiatry and Schools to Support Youth Recovery

Abishek Bala, MD, MPH Physician, Central Michigan University

This workshop explores how educators, mental health professionals, and community partners can collaborate to support adolescents following psychiatric hospitalization. Drawing from real-world experiences in inpatient child and adolescent psychiatry, Dr. Abishek Bala will describe what inpatient care entails, including admission criteria, the therapeutic process, and discharge planning. The session will highlight common challenges during the transition back to the community and examine both the challenges and opportunities to improve communication, continuity of care, and shared responsibility between hospitals, families, and schools.

Dr. Abishek Bala MD, MPH is a Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Central Michigan University (CMU). He is the Clerkship Director for Psychiatry at CMU and Associate PD of the CAP Fellowship. He also contributes to the field as a member of various local and national professional and medical associations. Grateful for the unwavering support of his family and the guidance of his mentors, Dr. Bala is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for infants, children, and adolescents through culturally sensitive, community-based health interventions.

9:30 - 10:30 am
Provincial Ballroom
 (Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
 CE Hours for:

- Social Work
- Related MCBAP Education
- Contact Hours
- Psychology
- CE Credits
- SCECH credits

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & SCHOOL SUMMIT - MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION A5



How Employers Can Support Their Employees & Unlock the Mystery of Human Behavior

Kent Sharkey, LMSW, President and CEO, Ulliance, Inc.

The presentation explains how human behavior is shaped by the interaction between the rational mind and the emotional mind, emphasizing that emotions can often override logic and influence decision-making. It highlights the growing prevalence of stress, anxiety, and depression in the workforce, driven by overstimulation, lack of boundaries, and constant uncertainty. The session explores the biology of emotions—how neurons, memories, and neurotransmitters shape our perceptions and reactions—and why emotional regulation is often challenging. It provides strategies such as cognitive restructuring, mindfulness, diaphragmatic breathing, and reframing thoughts to help individuals reduce anxiety and prevent emotional hijacking. The presentation also discusses the strong connection between mental and physical health, noting that chronic stress contributes to many illnesses. Finally, it outlines the comprehensive support available next through robust, next generation, comprehensive Employee Assistance Program (EAP), including counseling, coaching, crisis services, and resources to help employees manage personal and work-life challenges.

As president and CEO of international mental health company, Ulliance, Inc., **Kent Sharkey**, provides HR EAP, wellness, training, organizational and leadership development, coaching, outplacement and crisis management. As founder of Ulliance, Kent has been instrumental in the company growth to serve more than one million employees and family members in more than 650 organizations, throughout world including many Fortune 500 companies. Under Kent's leadership, the Ulliance team has assisted organizations to greatly improve their employees' emotional health and overall well-being while reducing healthcare benefit costs, resulting in saving millions of dollars for the organizations while enhancing their people. Kent's driven spirit to "win" is evident by the love of his wife for 31 years and for his two adult children. Kent's motto is "CAN I" which stands for Continuous And Never-Ending Improvement. Kent is always on the quest to help people achieve their personal best.

10:30 - 10:45 am

BREAK - Be Sure to Visit the **Resource Gallery, Bookstore, and the Memorial Forest**

All Day
 Each Day
Iris Room
 (Monarch
 2nd Floor)



MEMORIAL FOREST

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Sponsored by Kathey McGovern Studio of Interior Design

For additional information about each presenter and speaker please visit www.KevinsSong.org/speakers

Keynote Presentation

Breakout Session

www.KevinsSong.org



Youth Mental Health and School Summit

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION 2

10:45 - 11:45 am
Monarch A
 (Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
 CE Hours for:
 • Social Work
 • Related MCBAP
 Education
 Contact Hours
 • Psychology
 CE Credits
 • SCECH credits



Strengthening Protective Environments: Culturally Responsive Approaches to Suicide Prevention

Roddia Hill, PsyD, *Clinical Director, Suicide Prevention and Risk Management, TRAILS*

Suicide prevention must move beyond one-size-fits-all approaches to truly meet the needs of youth disproportionately impacted by suicide risk. This session will explore how culturally responsive strategies can strengthen protective environments across schools, communities, and behavioral health settings. Participants will examine how cultural identity, trauma, and barriers to support shape suicide risk and access to care. Grounded in cultural humility, the session will highlight practical, hands-on tools to adapt prevention, intervention, and postvention practices. Attendees will leave with concrete strategies for building authentic connections, reducing stigma, and co-creating safe, responsive environments with the youth and families they serve.

Roddia Hill has a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in Forensic Psychology and a masters in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in trauma. Additionally, she is trained in CAMS, the Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality with experience in Trauma focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Motivational Interviewing, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Internal Family Systems, and Cognitive Processing Therapy. In her role, as the Clinical Director for the TRAILS Tier 3 Suicide Prevention and Risk Management team, Roddia helps bring effective programming to schools that centers the unique needs of youth and evidence based practices to support the development of safer communities. She has a decade of experience and expertise in direct mental health care, crisis intervention, curriculum development, psychological testing, risk management training and a deep commitment to supporting at-risk youth of all identities. In addition to her work at TRAILS, Roddia has a grassroots nonprofit centered on supporting Black LGBTQ+ youth and young adults who often do not have access to the care and resources they need.

11:45 am - 1:00 pm
Monarch A
 (Main Level)

LUNCH - Be Sure to Visit the **Resource Gallery, Bookstore, and the Memorial Forest**

LUNCH SPEAKERS

Sponsored by



12:30 - 1:00 pm
Monarch A
 (Main Level)

Collaborative Strategies for Suicide Prevention in Michigan

This presentation will provide an overview of two federally funded Michigan Department of Health and Human Services programs, Transforming Youth Suicide Prevention in Michigan (TYSP) and Preventing Suicide in Michigan Men (PRiSMM), and the statewide organization With One Voice (WOV). Attendees will gain insight into how these programs and WOV align with the goals and strategies outlined in the Michigan Suicide Prevention Plan 2024-2027 by supporting youth, adult men, and community coalitions through evidence-based practices, culturally responsive approaches, and cross-sector collaboration. The session will highlight how these efforts collectively strengthen Michigan's capacity to prevent suicide and promote mental wellness across the lifespan.



Lindsay DeCamp, MHA

*State Suicide Prevention Coordinator,
 Michigan Department of Health and
 Human Services*

Lindsay DeCamp, MS, is the state suicide prevention coordinator in the Injury and Violence Prevention Section of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. She oversees the day-to-day operations and implementation of the Transforming Youth Suicide Prevention in Michigan program. DeCamp has a decade of experience in the suicide prevention and mental health fields, including overseeing suicide prevention programming for the military and implementing evidence-based mental health projects in communities across Michigan. DeCamp has a background in psychology and a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration.



Kasie Kaufman, MPH, PMP

Executive Director; Board Chair

Kasie Kaufman is the Executive Director of i understand, a West Michigan based nonprofit dedicated to providing compassionate comfort, hope, and understanding to those affected by suicide or mental/brain health illness and pain. Kasie's leadership is shaped by lived experience and a deep, unwavering commitment to making sure no one has to suffer in silence. She also serves as With One Voice Board Chair, and championed efforts to change the conversation around mental health - one story and one life at a time.

For additional information about each presenter and speaker please visit www.KevinsSong.org/speakers

Keynote Presentation

Breakout Session

Youth Mental Health and School Summit

1:00 - 1:15 pm

BREAK - Be Sure to Visit the **Resource Gallery, Bookstore, and the Memorial Forest**

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION 3

1:15 - 2:15 pm

Monarch A
(Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
CE Hours for:

- Social Work
- Related MCBAP Education Contact Hours
- Psychology CE Credits
- SCECH credits



Wired to Feel: Understanding Adolescent Brain Development and Suicidal Risk

Jaime Taylor, DO, MS, FAAFP Founder and Medical Director

Adolescence represents a critical window of neurobiological, psychological, and social transformation. During this period, the brain is “wired to feel”, with emotional centers developing faster than the regions responsible for regulation and judgment. This imbalance contributes to impulsivity, emotional reactivity, and vulnerability to stress, particularly within a culture that promotes instant gratification and constant comparison. This lecture explores how developmental changes intersect with the rising prevalence of non-suicidal self-injury (NSSI) and suicidal ideation (SI), highlights the impact of social media and environmental factors, and provides practical tools for promoting resilience, emotional regulation, and healthy brain development in youth.

Dr. Jaime Taylor received her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Michigan State University in 2010, and then completed her residency in Family Medicine at Corewell Health (formerly Beaumont) Hospital, Troy in 2013. She completed a fellowship in Adolescent Medicine at Indiana University School of Medicine and Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, Indiana. During her fellowship, she received a Master of Science degree in Clinical Research from Indiana University. Dr. Taylor is dedicated to the health and well-being of adolescents. Her areas of expertise include chronic disease management, specifically related to eating disorders as well as female reproductive health. Dr. Taylor has a great passion for teaching. As part of her dedication to teaching, she completed a Certificate of Education for Physicians and Healthcare Providers from the University of Cincinnati in May 2016. In 2023, she received the distinguished Golden Apple Award for Teaching for Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine. Her research focuses on eating disorders and includes improving physician education related to eating disorders. Dr. Taylor is now the owner and founder of rethink., an interdisciplinary center for eating disorder treatment in Bloomfield Hills Michigan.

2:15 - 2:30 pm

BREAK - Be Sure to Visit the **Resource Gallery, Bookstore, and the Memorial Forest**

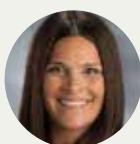
AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2:30 - 3:30 pm

Lily Room
(Monarch 3rd Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
CE Hours for:

- Social Work
- Related MCBAP Education Contact Hours
- Psychology CE Credits
- SCECH credits



YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & SCHOOL SUMMIT - AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION B1

Hungry Minds: The Overlooked Link Between Food, Feelings, and Healing

This workshop explores how nutrition directly influences brain function, mood regulation, and the effectiveness of mental health treatment. This session challenges diet culture by embracing the “all foods fit” philosophy, emphasizing that flexibility and balance, not restriction, support both physical and emotional well-being. Participants will learn how consistent nourishment fuels the brain and body, helping to stabilize energy, improve focus, and enhance resilience. We’ll discuss how nutritional adequacy plays a vital role in managing anxiety, depression, and recovery from eating disorders. Attendees will leave with practical strategies to support mental health through compassionate, sustainable eating habits that honor both body and mind.

Jaime Taylor, DO, MS

FAAFP, Founder and Medical Director

Dr. Jaime Taylor’s research focuses on eating disorders and includes improving physician education related to eating disorders. Dr. Taylor is now the owner and founder of rethink., an interdisciplinary center for eating disorder treatment in Bloomfield Hills Michigan.



Devyn Goodman, MS, RDN

Director of Nutrition, rethink

Devyn Goodman, MS, RDN, is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist specializing in eating disorders. She works with adolescents at rethink., an eating disorder treatment space located in Bloomfield Hills, MI. Devyn is dedicated to helping individuals cultivate a positive and balanced relationship with food. She earned both her bachelor’s degree in Dietetics and her master’s degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from Michigan State University. Devyn has a strong passion for supporting adolescents as they navigate the complexities of developing a healthy relationship with food in today’s diet-focused culture.

For additional information about each presenter and speaker please visit www.KevinsSong.org/speakers

Keynote Presentation

Breakout Session

www.KevinsSong.org

Youth Mental Health and School Summit

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS – CONTINUED

2:30 - 3:30 pm

Magnolia Room
(Monarch 2nd Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
CE Hours for:
 • Social Work
 • Related MCBAP
 Education
 Contact Hours
 • Psychology
 CE Credits
 • SCECH credits

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & SCHOOL SUMMIT - AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION B2

Holding Onto Life Toolkit Tips for Professionals and Parents on How to Support an Adolescent after a Suicide Attempt

Supporting a youth struggling with suicide can feel overwhelming for both families and professionals. The Holding Onto Life Toolkit was developed to provide practical guidance, compassionate strategies, and reliable information to help parents, caregivers, and school staff navigate this critical time. In this session, participants will be introduced to the updated toolkit and learn how to use it as a resource for promoting safety, healing, and hope. Presenters will share real-world applications, communication strategies, and collaboration tips that strengthen the circle of support around a young person experiencing a suicidal crisis. Attendees will leave with actionable tools and insights to foster connection, reduce stigma, and build resilience in both youth and their support systems.



Nancy Buyle, MA, LPC, ACTP

*School Safety/Student Assistance,
Consultant/Psychotherapist, Macomb
Intermediate School District*

Nancy Buyle has her master's degree from Oakland University in Counseling and Post Master's Education in Mental Health. Nancy is the Chair of the Macomb County Suicide Prevention Coalition and was appointed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to the Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission, where she serves as co-chair. She is a certified instructor for: Mental Health First Aid-Youth, Question, Persuade and Refer (QPR), and LivingWork's SafeTALK. She is trained in Critical Incident Stress Management and is a Certified Trauma Consultant and trainer through the National Institute of Trauma and Loss in Children (TLC).



Alejandra Arango, PhD

*Clinical Assistant Professor,
University of Michigan*

Alejandra Arango, Ph.D., is a clinical child psychologist and clinical assistant professor in the department of Psychiatry at Michigan Medicine. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Science from the University of Michigan, completed her pre-doctoral internship in Integrated Behavioral Health at Nemours/A.I. duPont Hospital for Children, and her postdoctoral fellowship in Child Clinical Psychology at Michigan Medicine. Clinically, she provides bilingual services and specializes in the care of youth presenting with depression, anxiety, psychosis, and trauma, for whom suicide prevention-specific interventions are a core component of treatment.



Gigi Colombini, LMSW

*Psychotherapist – Suicidologist,
Institute for Hope & Human Flourishing*

Gigi Colombini is familiar to many in the suicide prevention community – having presented at many meetings and conferences and providing advice and guidance on how to work with patients who struggle with thoughts of suicide and how to help families cope with loss. She is the founder of the Institute for Hope and Human Flourishing. Her holistic, common-sense and insight-oriented therapeutic approach provides her patients a clear and simple path to understanding, better enabling them to create changes they are looking for in their lives.



Syma Khan, MSW, MPH

*Clinical Social Worker,
University of Michigan*

Syma Khan is a clinical social worker at Michigan Medicine. She completed her Masters in Social Work through the University of Michigan, School of Social Work, with a focus on interpersonal practice. She also holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Michigan, School of Public Health. Her experience spans a breath of child psychiatric services, including inpatient emergency services and consultation liaison services. She has a passion for diversity, equity, and inclusion work, including activities that promote belonging, connection to others, and understanding the impact of systemic racism on mental and physical health. She has given numerous talks focusing on mental health disorders, safety planning, and COVID-19 health disparities.

All Day
Each Day
Iris Room
(Monarch
2nd Floor)



MEMORIAL FOREST

The Memorial Forest was created to help us remember and honor some of the people who have died by suicide and to offer solace to those who were left behind.

Sponsored by Kathey McGovern Studio of Interior Design

For additional information about each presenter and speaker please visit www.KevinsSong.org/speakers

Keynote Presentation

Breakout Session

Youth Mental Health and School Summit

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2:30 - 3:30 pm

**Grand Ballroom
(Main Level)**

Qualifies for 1.0
CE Hours for:

- Social Work
- Related MCBAP Education
- Contact Hours
- Psychology
- CE Credits
- SCECH credits

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & SCHOOL SUMMIT - AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION B3

Practicing Cultural Responsivity: Tools to Support Youth in Crisis

Building on the foundation of the main session, Practicing Cultural Responsivity: Tools to Support Youth in Crisis, this session offers participants an interactive space to apply culturally responsive strategies in real-world contexts. Through scenario-based activities, small, and large group discussions, and guided reflection, attendees will explore how culture, identity, and barriers to support shape youth experiences during moments of crisis. This session emphasizes using a culturally responsive lens to assess suicide risk, respond with sensitivity and equity, and adapt existing prevention and intervention practices to meet the unique needs of diverse youth.

**Roddia Hill, PsyD***Clinical Director, Suicide Prevention and Risk Management, TRAILS*

Roddia Hill, as the Clinical Director for the TRAILS Tier 3 Suicide Prevention and Risk Management team, helps bring effective programming to schools that centers the unique needs of youth and evidence based practices to support the development of safer communities. She has a decade of experience and expertise in direct mental health care, crisis intervention, curriculum development, psychological testing, risk management training and a deep commitment to supporting at-risk youth of all identities. In addition to her work at TRAILS, Roddia has a grassroots nonprofit centered on supporting Black LGBTQ+ youth and young adults who often do not have access to the care and resources they need.

**Ben Karle, LMSW***Behavioral Health Program Coordinator, St. Joseph County ISD*

Ben Karle serves as the Behavioral Health Program Coordinator program at St. Joseph County ISD, providing support and direct therapy through 31n programming. Additionally, Ben is a member of the MTSS team, where he leads efforts related to Social-Emotional Learning. He is the director of the LOSS (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors) Team for his county, holds a leadership role on the county Suicide Prevention Taskforce, and is a certified QPR trainer. He is a leader in social justice activism in his community. Ben has delivered numerous presentations on the subject of suicide and behavioral health throughout the state of Michigan.

2:30 - 3:30 pm

**Garden Gallery
(Main Level)**

Qualifies for 1.0
CE Hours for:

- Social Work
- Specific MCBAP Education
- Contact Hours
- Psychology
- CE Credit
- SCECH credits

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & SCHOOL SUMMIT - AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION B4



The Effect of Adolescent Drug Use on Mental Health and Suicidology, as well as Consequences of Consuming Substances with High THC Content

Bruce Goldberg, LMSW, ACSW, CAADC, SAP*President, River's Bend PC*

Adolescent drug use has a profound impact on mental health, often increasing the risk of depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts or behaviors. During adolescence, the brain is still developing—particularly areas responsible for decision-making and emotional regulation—making teens more vulnerable to the harmful effects of substances. High-THC cannabis products, now more potent than in previous decades, can significantly disrupt brain chemistry, leading to cognitive impairment, paranoia, and psychotic symptoms in some individuals. Regular use of high-THC substances is linked to increased rates of mood disorders and suicidal ideation. Substance use can also worsen existing mental health conditions and reduce the effectiveness of treatment interventions. Over time, these combined effects can contribute to social isolation, academic decline, and a higher likelihood of self-harm or suicide attempts among adolescents.

Bruce Goldberg, LMSW, ACSW, CAADC, SAP, is co-owner and President of River's Bend PC. He has been practicing and advocating for those with mental health and substance use disorders for over 30 years. Bruce has facilitated and directed the Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) for Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder, and Adolescents as well as providing individual therapy. Bruce is a strong advocate for recovery and addiction services and serves on the local sobriety courts to support those that have entered the legal system due to their substance use disorder. His support and expertise provide extra support for those seeking long-term recovery. Bruce has been a Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) Provider for 21 years and provides recommendations concerning education, treatment, follow-up testing, and after care to those employees who have violated a DOT drug and alcohol program regulation.

#KS2026

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For additional information about each presenter and speaker please visit www.KevinsSong.org/speakers

Keynote Presentation

Breakout Session

www.KevinsSong.org

Youth Mental Health and School Summit

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS – CONTINUED

2:30 - 3:30 pm

Provincial Ballroom
(Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0

CE Hours for:

- Social Work
- Related MCBAP Education Contact Hours
- Psychology CE Credits
- SCECH credits

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & SCHOOL SUMMIT - AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION B5

Bridging Campus and Community: Advancing Mental Health Access through Michigan Community Colleges

This session will spotlight the pivotal role that community colleges play in connecting students to evidence based mental health care and supporting the well-being of the broader community. Tim Rhodes, MSW, MPH, and Shawna Smith, PhD, will share their work from the Mental Health Improvement through Community Colleges (MHICC) initiative to highlight current trends in community college student mental health needs and the landscape of mental health services available across Michigan's 31 community and tribal colleges. The presenters will underscore innovative strategies for expanding community college students' access to mental health care, while discussing the role that community organizations and K-12 institutions play in supporting the mental health needs of this population.



Tim Rhodes, LLMSW, MPH

Research Staff, Mental Health Improvement through Community College (MHICC) Initiative

Tim Rhodes is a mental health advocate, clinician, and researcher whose academic and professional journey has been driven by a profound passion for enhancing the mental health and wellbeing of college students. Tim brings a unique perspective to collegiate mental health informed by both his interpersonal training and experience as a mental health therapist and his public health background in systems thinking and collective impact. Through his role with the Mental Health Improvement through Community Colleges (MHICC) initiative, Tim partners with community college mental health professionals and administrators to develop a variety of training and technical assistance resources to support colleges in expanding student access to mental health care, including leading a statewide mental health learning collaborative launching in January 2026.



Shawna N. Smith, PhD

Co-Director & Principal Investigator, Mental Health Improvement through Community Colleges (MHICC) Initiative

Shawna Smith is an Associate Professor of Health Management and Policy at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Michigan Medical School. Much of her work has been focused on improving access to behavioral and mental health care interventions, particularly in school settings. In addition to co-founding and co-directing the MHICC initiative, which focuses on improving access to evidence-based mental health care for community college students, in partnership with the TRAILS to Wellness program, she has also helped lead and evaluate efforts to implement school professional-delivered Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in more than 200 Michigan schools, including all DPS school districts.

For additional information about each presenter and speaker please visit www.KevinsSong.org/speakers

Keynote Presentation

Breakout Session



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PROUD TO SUPPORT KEVIN'S SONG
& SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS

BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES
STARTS WITH TAKING CARE OF OUR PEOPLE



Youth Mental Health and School Summit

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2:30 - 3:30 pm
Monarch A
 (Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
 CE Hours for:
 • Social Work
 • Related MCBAP
 Education
 Contact Hours
 • Psychology
 CE Credits
 • SCECH credits

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & SCHOOL SUMMIT - AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION B6

EAPs as Lifelines: Reducing Trauma and Suicide Risk for Healthcare Employees

This presentation offered in a panel discussion will review wellbeing strategy and initiative of a large health organization (Henry Ford Health). The evidenced based programs in place support the emotional well-being of employees, mitigate the effects of trauma, and reduce suicide risk. Henry Ford Health believes in supporting their employees with a Real Time Helpline available 24/7, short term counseling with employees trained in crisis response, post crisis response team to provide critical incident stress debriefing of departments in need, TRUST program, Stronger Together Buddy Program, Spiritual Care support, and Mental Health First Aid trainings. Additionally, this health care system has higher levels of behavioral health and substance use disorder care available (such as inpatient, Intensive Outpatient, and Partial Hospitalization Program) for employees who may need something more intensive than outpatient care. This is yet another way to decrease risk for suicide. As we enter 2026 the goal is to continue to grow these programs.



Christine Hilton, LMSW

*Integrated Mental Health Project Manager/
 EAP Therapist, Henry Ford Health Enhance
 Employee Assistance Program*

Christine Hilton earned her BA from Michigan State University and Masters in Social Work from Wayne State University and has been working in behavioral health for over 25 years. She is experienced in all levels of adult mental health care including assessment, intake, and inpatient treatment. She recently took on the role of Integrated Mental Health Project Manager for Henry Ford Health Employee Assistance Program where she coordinates the system's Post Crisis Response Team, teaches Mental Health First Aid classes to leaders, and supports employees with evidenced based short term treatment. Outside of Henry Ford Health, Christine has a part time private practice in the Metro Detroit area.



Kent Sharkey, LMSW

President and CEO, Ulliance, Inc.

As president and CEO of international mental health company, Ulliance, Inc., **Kent Sharkey**, provides HR EAP, wellness, training, organizational and leadership development, coaching, outplacement and crisis management. As founder of Ulliance, Kent has been instrumental in the company growth to serve more than one million employees and family members in more than 650 organizations, throughout world including many Fortune 500 companies. Under Kent's leadership, the Ulliance team has assisted organizations to greatly improve their employees' emotional health and overall well-being while reducing healthcare benefit costs, resulting in saving millions of dollars for the organizations while enhancing their people. Kent's driven spirit to "win" is evident by the love of his wife for 31 years and for his two adult children. Kent's motto is "CAN I" which stands for Continuous And Never-Ending Improvement. Kent is always on the quest to help people achieve their personal best.

3:30 - 3:45 pm

BREAK - Be Sure to Visit the **Resource Gallery, Bookstore, and the Memorial Forest**

All Day
 Each Day
Iris Room
 (Monarch
 2nd Floor)



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Youth Mental Health and School Summit

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION 4

3:45 - 4:45 pm
Monarch A
 (Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
 CE Hours for:

- Social Work
- Related MCBAP Education Contact Hours
- Psychology CE Credits
- SCECH credits



Best Practices for Suicide Postvention in Schools: Managing Dilemmas and Changing the Narrative

Larry Berkowitz, Ed.D.

Co-Founder, Senior Clinical Consultant, Riverside Trauma Center, a Service of Riverside Community Care

Sadly, it is increasingly likely that schools will be impacted by the suicide death of a student. This presentation will provide information for school-based teams to respond to the tragedy of suicide loss by learning effective, best practice strategies to support students, faculty, staff and families after a suicide death. Content includes tasks for conducting postvention activities, use of screening tools in a postvention setting, and strategies for responding to typical dilemmas such as handling memorials, responding to denial that the death was a suicide and reacting to information spread on social media. The presentation shares qualitative data from interviews with young adults who were students in schools where they experienced the suicide death of a student in their middle or high school.

Larry Berkowitz, Ed.D. is Co-Founder and directed Riverside Trauma Center for 19 years, where he currently is a Senior Clinical Consultant. He provides disaster response services and post-suicide intervention for individuals, schools, workplaces, and communities, and conducts trainings on suicide prevention and postvention. Dr. Berkowitz holds a doctoral degree from Harvard University and is a licensed Psychologist in Massachusetts. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide Prevention and an Adjunct Instructor in the Clinical Psychology Program at William James College. He presents on issues related to suicide prevention and postvention and responses to traumatic events at state, national and international conferences. Dr. Berkowitz has led 3 FEMA-funded Crisis Counseling Programs for the state of Massachusetts.

COMPLIMENTARY NETWORKING RECEPTION

5:00 - 6:30 pm
Monarch B
 (Main Level)

Kevin's Song is hosting a Resource Gallery Reception in the Garden Gallery at the conclusion of the final Keynote Presentation from 5:00pm to 6:30pm.



**The greater good
 is our greatest goal.**

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855-99-MCCMH
(855-996-2264)

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Youth Mental Health and School Summit

KEVIN'S SONG CELEBRATION DINNER HONORING THOMAS JOINER

(Separate Ticket Event)

6:00 - 8:00 pm
Monarch A
(Main Level)

Sponsored by



THOMAS JOINER, PhD EXCELLENCE IN SUICIDE PREVENTION LEGACY AWARD

Thomas Joiner, PhD will be the First Recipient of this Award, Named in His Honor.

The evening will open with a welcome from Kevin's Song Executive Director, **Jennifer Fair Margraf, MBA, MA, CFRE**, followed by the introduction of the inaugural *Thomas Joiner, PhD, Excellence in Suicide Prevention Legacy Award* by Kevin Song Founders, **Gail and John Urso**.

The award will honor Dr. Thomas Joiner, with tributes offered by **Nancy Buyle, MA, LPC, ACTP; Barb Smith; Cheryl King, PhD, Bart Andrews, PhD; and Michael Anestis, PhD**. The program will continue with the presentation of the award and remarks by Dr. Joiner.

Following the award presentation and dinner, guests will enjoy a performance by students of the **University of Michigan Musical Theatre Department**, under the direction of **Cynthia Kortman Westphal**, with an introduction by **Justin Urso**.

CONCERT OF HOPE AND HEALING



Thomas Joiner, PhD

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

The *Thomas Joiner, PhD, Excellence in Suicide Prevention Legacy Award* was established by Kevin's Song to honor the extraordinary and lasting contributions of Dr. Thomas Joiner to the field of suicide research and prevention. Dr. Joiner's work has fundamentally shaped how clinicians, researchers, and policymakers understand suicidal behavior, and it continues to influence prevention efforts worldwide.

An academic psychologist and internationally recognized leader in suicide science, Dr. Joiner is best known for developing the Interpersonal Theory of Suicide, a groundbreaking model that explains suicidal desire through the interaction of thwarted belongingness, perceived burdensomeness, and acquired capability. This theory, articulated in his seminal books *Why People Die by Suicide* and *Myths About Suicide*, has become one of the most widely cited and empirically tested frameworks in the field.

As Professor of Psychology and Director of the Laboratory for the Study and Prevention of Suicide-Related Conditions and Behaviors at Florida State University, Dr. Joiner has dedicated his career to advancing rigorous, evidence-based research while mentoring generations of scholars and clinicians committed to suicide prevention. His work bridges science and practice, translating complex research into practical insights that save lives.

Kevin's Song created this award to recognize Dr. Joiner's enduring legacy—one defined not only by intellectual leadership and innovation, but by a deep commitment to reducing suicide through research, education, and compassionate prevention efforts. He has been a presenter at the Kevin's Song conference on suicide since its inception and we are appreciative of his ongoing and steadfast support. The award honors individuals whose work reflects the same excellence, integrity, and impact that Dr. Joiner has brought to the field.



DAY
2

The program for the second day will include an array of powerful presentations that engage clinicians and suicide prevention advocates to enhance their knowledge and skills to 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. The program will also include the stories of loss and attempt survivors and their journeys through grief to hope.



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

8:00 - 8:15 am
Monarch A
(Main Level)



Jennifer Fair Margraf, MBA, MA, CFRE
Executive Director

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION 1

8:15 - 9:15 am
Monarch A
(Main Level)



Overview of Extreme Risk Protection Orders in Michigan and the Relevant Research
April Zeoli, PhD, MPH

Associate Professor, University of Michigan

Qualifies for 1.0
CE Hours for:
• Social Work
• Related MCBAP
Education
Contact Hours
• Psychology
CE Credits
• SCECH credits

Zeoli will provide a brief overview of Michigan's extreme risk protection order (ERPO) law, often called a red flag law, and its use in Michigan, specifying who can file a petition and how it is filed. She will also share research findings on ERPO, including how it's used in other states, who the respondents to the order are, and outcomes of the orders.

Dr. April Zeoli is an Associate Professor in Health Management & Policy in the School of Public Health and the Director of the Policy Core in the Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention. She conducts interdisciplinary research, with a goal of bringing together the fields of public health and criminology and criminal justice. Her main fields of investigation are the prevention of firearm violence, intimate partner violence, and homicide through the use of policy and law. She is one of the nation's leading experts on policy interventions for firearm use in intimate partner violence. Broadly, Dr. Zeoli studies the role of firearms in intimate partner violence and homicide, as well as the civil and criminal justice systems responses to intimate partner violence. Her research focuses on legal firearm restrictions for domestic violence abusers and their impact on intimate partner homicide and the implementation of those firearm restrictions. Dr. Zeoli is also a leading expert on the use and implementation of extreme risk protection orders. She is the primary investigator of the largest study of extreme risk protection orders to date, involving six states and over 6,600 cases.

9:15 - 9:30 am

BREAK - Be Sure to Visit the **Resource Gallery, Bookstore, and the Memorial Forest**

All Day
Each Day
Iris Room
(Monarch
2nd Floor)



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Keynote Presentation

Breakout Session

Suicide Prevention and Education Summit

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

9:30 - 10:30 am

Lily Room
 (Monarch 3rd Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
CE Hours for:

- Social Work
- Related MCBAP Education Contact Hours
- Psychology CE Credits
- SCECH credits

SUICIDE PREVENTION & EDUCATION SUMMIT - MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION A1



Building Safety Through Empathy: The Counselor's Role in Safety Planning Through a Rogerian Lense

Maggie Sweeney, LPC
Private Practice Counselor and Suicide Prevention Consultant, Mind Body Solutions LLC and Hope Network

This presentation will explore how the six core factors of Rogerian therapy—congruence, unconditional positive regard, empathetic understanding, openness, genuineness, and acceptance—can be integrated into the process of safety planning with clients who are struggling with suicidal thoughts and desires. Emphasizing the counselor's active participation, we will discuss how these factors create a collaborative, supportive environment that fosters trust and promotes meaningful engagement. Rather than seeing safety planning as a mere checklist or liability reducing paperwork, we will highlight how it can be a dynamic, client-centered process that prioritizes emotional connection and the client's unique needs. Attendees will gain insight into how the counselor's authentic presence and empathetic understanding can empower clients to participate in their own safety planning, ultimately increasing the likelihood of long-term success. The session will also address practical strategies for counselors to apply these principles in real-time during safety planning conversations, with an emphasis on enhancing client autonomy and ensuring the plan is both realistic and empowering.

Maggie Sweeney is a Licensed Professional Counselor with extensive experience in suicide prevention, a field she began exploring as a 21-year-old volunteer answering the midnight shift at a crisis hotline. What started as a curious decision quickly turned into a lifelong passion. Over the years, Maggie has gained diverse experience across various settings, including local crisis centers, inpatient psychiatric hospitals, the 988 crisis helpline, and outpatient counseling. She actively supports Hope Network's Zero Suicide Initiatives and is a certified AMSR and QPR instructor. In addition to her counseling work, she works at Mind Body Soulutions LLC, where she provides individual therapy. Outside of her professional life, Maggie is an avid backgammon player, having placed in both national and international tournaments.

9:30 - 10:30 am

Magnolia Room
 (Monarch 2nd Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
CE Hours for:

- Social Work
- Related MCBAP Education Contact Hours
- Psychology CE Credits
- SCECH credits

SUICIDE PREVENTION & EDUCATION SUMMIT - MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION A2



Beyond "Denies SI/HI:" Conducting and Utilizing Risk Assessments to Improve Patient Care

Layla Soliman, MD
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Atrium Health/Wake Forest University School of Medicine - Charlotte Region

This session will focus on the purpose of risk assessments, approaches to conducting risk assessments, and approaches to documentation. We will also discuss some clinical strategies for navigating high risk situations. These include managing countertransference, sensitive gathering of collateral data, and working within the limits of local resources.

Dr. Layla Soliman earned her medical degree in 2005, from the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo, OH. She went on to complete her general adult psychiatric residency and her forensic fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center – Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic. Dr. Soliman remained on faculty at UPMC until 2017, when she moved to Charlotte. She now serves as an assistant professor of psychiatry for Wake Forest University School of Medicine. Throughout her career, Dr. Soliman has focused much of her attention on utilizing her forensic background to optimize patient care.

9:30 - 10:30 am

Grand Ballroom
 (Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
CE Hours for:

- Social Work
- Related MCBAP Education Contact Hours
- Psychology CE Credits
- SCECH credits

SUICIDE PREVENTION & EDUCATION SUMMIT - MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION A3



Aging, Dementia, and Suicide Risk: Protecting Senior Mental Health & Wellness

Doree Ann Espiritu, MD *Director, Behavioral Health Integration with Primary Care, Henry Ford Health*

The presentation will address how aging and dementia increase the risk for suicide especially with psychiatric comorbidities. Furthermore, it will also go over the protective factors and the interventions needed in order to prevent suicide and promote wellness in the older adult population.

Doree Ann Espiritu, M.D. did her residency training at Henry Ford Hospital and then went on to pursue a fellowship in Geriatric Psychiatry at Wayne State University. Dr. Espiritu serves as a supervisor for the Geriatric Psychiatry rotation. She is also a long term supervisor and a mentor for those residents who are interested in Geriatric psychiatry. Dr. Espiritu's special interests are in Geriatric Psychiatry, Successful Aging, Wellness, Spirituality & Psychiatry, and Women's Health. Her philosophy about teaching residents comes from the phrase "You have to teach to learn". She goes on to say, "Working with residents makes me want to learn more and keep updated with what's new in the field. It allows me to look at medicine in a different perspective and it is very inspiring to think that I could help make a difference in the trainee's career path."

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 Keynote Presentation

Breakout Session

www.KevinsSong.org

Suicide Prevention and Education Summit

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS – CONTINUED

9:30 - 10:30 am
Garden Gallery
 (Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
 CE Hours for:
 • Social Work
 • Related MCBAP
 Education
 Contact Hours
 • Psychology
 CE Credits
 • SCECH credits

SUICIDE PREVENTION & EDUCATION SUMMIT - MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION A4

Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO)

This session will examine the implementation of Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO) in Michigan. Participants will explore the challenges, successes, and lessons learned from Michigan's experience with ERPOs to date. The session will also feature diverse perspectives from law enforcement, attorneys, and community advocates on the ERPO process, examining areas for improvement and how the implementation of this important law can continue to evolve for greater effectiveness in preventing gun violence.



Richard C. Fuller III, BS

*Sheriff, Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office,
 Danielle Hagaman-Clark*

Sheriff Richard Fuller got his Associates Degree in Law Enforcement from Kellogg Community College and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Organizational Management from Spring Arbor University. After college he began work as an EMT at the Marshall Fire Department in 1986, became a firefighter in 1987 and then finally a police officer the next year. He started working at the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office in 1989 and worked his way up the ranks, finally getting elected to Sheriff in 2008 and then re-elected again for a second term in 2012. Sheriff Fuller is an Advisory Board Member of the Learning Network of Kalamazoo, Vice Chair of the Office of Community Corrections and a Board Member of the Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative.



Danielle Hagaman-Clark

Criminal Bureau Chief of the Michigan Department of Attorney General

Danielle Hagaman-Clark has over 20 years of prosecution experience, she previously served as the project director of the Violence Against Women Project, a program of the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (PAAM). She has a wide variety of experience in training, prosecution, advocacy, and criminal law. Before joining PAAM, Ms. Hagaman-Clark spent 15 years with the Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney's Office in Detroit. She was a founding member of the office's Sexual Assault Team and served as the managing director of that unit. She also served as the lead attorney for the Homicide Unit, as a member of the Child Abuse Unit, and as a member of the Special Investigations Unit.



Jessica Roche

Managing Director of the University of Michigan Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention

Ms. Roche is the Managing Director of the University of Michigan Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention. Prior to that, Ms. Roche was a part of the CDC-funded U-M Injury Prevention Center since 2010, working in the field of injury prevention science since 2009. Ms. Roche has over seven years of experience managing hospital injury data, and managing hospital-based youth violence prevention interventions. Ms. Roche has expertise in developing, evaluating, and translating evidence-based programs into practice. She also helped coordinate the development of training and educational tools and resources of the U-M Injury Prevention Center such as the U-M Opioid Solutions micro-site, the U-M Injury Prevention Center MOOC, "Injury Prevention for Children & Teens", and the MOOC focused on opioid overdose, "Impacting the Opioid Crisis: Prevention, Education, and Practice for Non-Prescribing Providers."

9:30 - 10:30 am
Provincial Ballroom
 (Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
 CE Hours for:
 • Social Work
 • Related MCBAP
 Education
 Contact Hours
 • Psychology
 CE Credits
 • SCECH credits

SUICIDE PREVENTION & EDUCATION SUMMIT - MORNING BREAKOUT SESSION A5



Grieving Out Loud

Heather Williams, MA, LPC *Founder, Southern Wellness Co.*

In this powerful presentation, a suicide loss survivor shares her personal journey of navigating profound grief and loss. Through storytelling, she will reflect on the early challenges of bereavement and illustrate how "grieving out loud" became a meaningful coping strategy and pathway toward healing. The session will explore how open expressions of grief fostered connection, community, and a continuing bond with her loved one. Attendees – including clinicians, caregivers, and community members – will gain deeper insight into the lived experience of suicide loss and learn ways to offer compassionate, informed support to survivors.

Heather Williams, MS, LPC, is a nationally recognized mental health, suicide prevention, and postvention advocate whose professional expertise and lived experience inform her work. She serves as the Program Manager for Integrated Treatment for Co-Occurring Disorders, leading innovative approaches to support individuals facing both mental health and substance use challenges. Heather earned her Bachelor's in Psychology and Master's in Mental Health Counseling from Southeast Missouri State University. As a TEDx speaker, she shared The Power of Connection, emphasizing how authentic relationships can save lives. Her leadership, clinical expertise, and lived experience allow her to inspire hope and meaningful change in communities nationwide.

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Keynote Presentation

Breakout Session

Suicide Prevention and Education Summit

10:30 - 10:45 am

BREAK - Be Sure to Visit the **Resource Gallery, Bookstore, and the Memorial Forest**

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION 2

10:45 - 11:45 am

Monarch A
(Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
CE Hours for:
 • Social Work
 • Related MCBAP
 Education
 Contact Hours
 • Psychology
 CE Credits
 • SCECH credits



New Generation Treatments to Prevent Suicide

Craig Bryan, PsyD, ABPP

Professor & Director of the Suicide Care Clinic, University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine

The United States' suicide rate has increased steadily since 1999, despite expanded efforts to identify at-risk individuals and connect them with mental health treatments and interventions, prompting researchers to develop, test, and refine new treatment methods. In contrast to traditional approaches that view suicide risk as a symptom or outcome of psychiatric disorders, newer generation treatments view suicidal behavior as a transdiagnostic behavior that results from distinct mechanisms and processes. This approach has significantly improved the effectiveness of newer generation treatments relative to typical mental health treatments. Two interventions in particular, brief cognitive behavioral therapy for suicide prevention (BCBT) and crisis response planning (CRP), have been shown to reliably reduce suicidal behaviors in multiple randomized clinical trials. This presentation provides an overview of these interventions.

Dr. Craig J. Bryan, PsyD, ABPP, is a board-certified clinical psychologist in cognitive behavioral psychology, and is the Director of the Suicide Care Clinic at the University of Vermont Health and Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Vermont Robert Larner, MD, College of Medicine. He received his PsyD in clinical psychology from Baylor University and completed his residency at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base, TX. Dr Bryan deployed to Iraq and was the Director of the Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic. He has overseen federally funded treatment studies, provides training on managing suicidal patients, has hundreds of publications on suicide, trauma, and military mental health, has written multiple books and treatment manuals, and has received numerous awards for his work. He is considered one of the world's leading experts in treating suicidal patients.

11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Monarch A
(Main Level)

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Suicide Prevention and Education Summit

LUNCH SPEAKERS

12:30 - 1:00 pm
Monarch A
 (Main Level)

Sponsored by



State of Community Mental Health in Michigan

Three leaders from Michigan's largest community mental health organizations will share their perspectives on the current landscape of mental health service delivery, highlighting challenges, innovations, and opportunities to strengthen access, quality, and outcomes for individuals and families across the state to better meet the needs of diverse communities.

At the Helm: How Michigan's CMH Leaders Are Redefining Mental Health Care



Dana Lasenby

Chief Executive Director, Oakland Community Health Network

Dana Lasenby is a behavioral health care executive and limited licensed psychologist with more than 25 years of experience across the public and private behavioral health sectors. She brings a strong blend of clinical, administrative, and operational expertise to her role as Executive Director and CEO of Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN). Under her leadership, OCHN delivers services to more than 27,000 Oakland County residents, including individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, serious mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, and substance use disorders.

Dana holds degrees from Michigan State University, Western Michigan University, and the University of Phoenix, and is completing a doctorate in Industrial-Organizational Psychology at Walden University. She serves on the Michigan Autism Council and was named a Top 20 Dynamic CEO of 2023 by The CEO Publication.



Traci Smith

Chief Executive Director, Oakland Community Health Network

Traci Smith currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of Macomb County Community Mental Health (MCCMH). Traci is an accomplished human services leader with more than twenty-five years of experience managing and developing professionals across workforce development and community-based services. Her background includes overseeing large regional workforce programs, operational management, and providing career and academic counseling, driven by a passion for helping organizations and individuals maximize their strengths. Prior to joining MCCMH, Traci served as a Regional Director for a national workforce development company, where she led senior leadership teams across the eastern United States. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Michigan-Dearborn and a Master of Arts in Counseling from Oakland University. She is also a certified Mental Health First Aid Trainer.



James E. White

President and CEO, Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network

James E. White is a dedicated servant leader committed to expanding access to high-quality behavioral health services for residents of Detroit and Wayne County. As President and CEO of the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN), he leads efforts to strengthen the provider network, expand crisis services, and improve the customer experience for more than 123,000 individuals facing mental health, substance use, and disability challenges. Under his leadership, DWIHN has advanced initiatives such as the 707 Crisis Care Center, Mobile Crisis Services, and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics.

White spent much of his career in public service, beginning with the Detroit Police Department in 1996 and later serving four years as Police Chief, where he guided the department through federal oversight, expanded community partnerships, and supported innovative crisis response programs. He also served as Executive Director of the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. A state-licensed mental health counselor, White holds multiple degrees and an honorary doctorate, bringing a unique blend of public safety, civil rights, and behavioral health leadership.

1:00 - 1:15 pm

BREAK - Be Sure to Visit the **Resource Gallery, Bookstore, and the Memorial Forest**

All Day
 Each Day
Iris Room
 (Monarch
 2nd Floor)



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Keynote Presentation

Breakout Session

www.KevinsSong.org



Suicide Prevention and Education Summit

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION 3

1:15 - 2:15 pm
Monarch A
 (Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
 CE Hours for:
 • Social Work
 • Related MCBAP
 Education
 Contact Hours
 • Psychology
 CE Credits
 • SCECH credits



The Path Beyond the Crisis: Finding Possibilities for Growth

DeQuincy Lezine, PhD Director, Lived Experience Academy

How do we build on crisis stabilization to create futures with positive potential? This session explores what can come after successful prevention of suicidal behavior: a path to recovery, resilience, and growth. The presentation introduces the concept of Post-Suicidal Growth (PSG), a path for achieving it, and the lessons from the decades of research on Post-Traumatic Growth (PTG). Drawing on lived experience, research, and clinical insight, this session examines how individuals with lived experience (from their own experiences or from friends and family) can pursue meaningful life changes after crisis resolution.

DeQuincy Lezine is an internationally recognized scholar with more than 25 years of experience in suicide prevention and a suicide attempt survivor. He earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from UCLA, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship in public health approaches to suicide prevention at the University of Rochester. While serving as the principal author of The Way Forward for the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, he was the inaugural Chair of the Attempt Survivor and Lived Experience Division of AAS and served as a Co-Chair of the Consumer Survivor Committee for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Dr. Lezine is the founder and Director of the Lived Experience Academy, the world's foremost resource for Post-Suicidal Growth.

2:15 - 2:30 pm

BREAK - Be Sure to Visit the **Resource Gallery, Bookstore, and the Memorial Forest**

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2:30 - 3:30 pm
Lily Room
 (Monarch 3rd Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
 CE Hours for:
 • Social Work
 • Related MCBAP
 Education
 Contact Hours
 • Psychology
 CE Credits
 • SCECH credits



SUICIDE PREVENTION & EDUCATION SUMMIT - AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION B1

AI and Suicide Prevention: Opportunity and Challenges

Rajiv Tandon, MD

Professor of Psychiatry, Western Michigan University Homer Stryker School of Medicine

In the context of the enormous public health problem of suicide, current clinical approaches are proving inadequate. There are limitations in our ability to both identify individuals at times of high risk and provide timely and specific interventions to mitigate that risk. With the increasing power of various tools of artificial intelligence (AI) and their application to a range of health and social problems, there is great interest in its potential to meet these challenges. To address the need for better identification of individuals at times of heightened suicide risk, a number of AI methods have been developed- these include several machine learning algorithms, timely contemporaneous analysis of individual social media posts and wearable devices, and efficient review of electronic health records. To provide specific intervention in a timely manner, real-time clinical alerts and provision of personalized supports along with virtual therapists (chatbots and virtual reality therapy) have been developed. In this presentation, the nature and current status of each of these methods will be reviewed and their potential for clinical use will be discussed. Ethical challenges and limitations of current AI approaches to suicide prevention will be summarized.

Rajiv Tandon, MD, is an internationally reputed psychiatrist, educator, and researcher. Dr. Tandon has authored more than 400 scientific publications and given over 1500 national and international scientific presentations. He has received over 20 national and international awards for research and teaching. He has received the Exemplary Psychiatrist Award from the National Alliance for Mental Illness on three occasions (2009, 2012, and 2015). He has been the Editor-in-Chief of the Asian Journal of Psychiatry since 2016, over which time its impact has progressively increased. He has won the Schizophrenia Research highest impact author of the year award on three occasions (2008, 2013, 2024) for authoring the highest impact article (citations and downloads) on schizophrenia that year.

All Day
 Each Day
Iris Room
 (Monarch
 2nd Floor)



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Keynote Presentation

Breakout Session

Suicide Prevention and Education Summit

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2:30 - 3:30 pm

Magnolia Room
(Monarch 2nd Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
CE Hours for:
 • Social Work
 • Related MCBAP
 Education
 Contact Hours
 • Psychology
 CE Credits
 • SCECH credits

SUICIDE PREVENTION & EDUCATION SUMMIT - AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION B2

Culturally Tailored Approaches to Suicide Prevention in Rural Communities

Across the US, age-adjusted suicide rates in rural counties are more than two times higher than those in urban counties, with these disparities driven by firearm-related suicides. This session will explore unique considerations for the prevention of suicide in rural areas, including the critical role of community partnerships to ensure that messages are culturally tailored, acceptable to the community, and reflect the strengths and protective factors in rural areas. The session will share lessons learned from the implementation of a comprehensive public health approach to suicide in Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP). The importance of credible messengers in promoting firearm safety and lethal means counseling will be discussed, along with cultural factors that influence firearm ownership and storage practices in rural communities. Attendees will be introduced to Store Safely, a new multi-component online primary prevention strategy currently being implemented and evaluated in Michigan's UP.



Cynthia Ewell-Foster, PhD
Clinical Professor, The University of Michigan

Dr. Cynthia Ewell Foster, PhD is a licensed child clinical psychologist and a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan. She directs the Suicide Prevention Research in the Community Lab (SPRCL), affiliated with the Youth Depression and Suicide Prevention Program. Dr. Ewell Foster leads the Community Engagement Core of UM's Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention and a statewide SAMHSA-funded Youth Suicide Prevention Emergency Department Network. Dr. Ewell Foster's research program is focused on youth suicide prevention, with a focus on optimizing family, community and systems-based protective factors. She has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and has been engaged in program evaluation and research efforts funded by federal agencies as well as local and national foundations. Dr. Ewell Foster is a clinical educator, AMSR trainer, and the co-author of *Teen Suicide Risk: a practitioner guide to screening, assessment, and management*.



Sarah Derwin, BA

Health Educator, Marquette County Health Department

Sarah Derwin is a public health educator with the Marquette County Health Department, where she has worked since 2009 on interventions related to injury prevention, substance abuse, and firearm safety. She serves as the project director for multiple grants focused on suicide prevention and leads the Marquette County Suicide Prevention Alliance, fostering community and tribal partnerships across Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Sarah was appointed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer to a state commission on suicide prevention and brought expertise in firearm safety in rural areas. Her approach emphasizes safety as a gateway to reducing firearm-related injuries and deaths. As a rural resident and parent of two children from a local tribe, she advocates for interventions reflecting cultural and rural values.

2:30 - 3:30 pm

Grand Ballroom
(Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
CE Hours for:
 • Social Work
 • Related MCBAP
 Education
 Contact Hours
 • Psychology
 CE Credits
 • SCECH credits

SUICIDE PREVENTION & EDUCATION SUMMIT - AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION B3



Preparing the Pathway to Healing for the Bereaved and the Professional
Gwen Karpia, CT, LBSW *Owner, Your Grief Guide*

With the pain and suffering surrounding suicide loss, we want to be sure we are preparing a pathway for healing. Many times, we feel uncertain on what to say or do when being present to the hurting survivors. It is critical that our responses are helpful and not hurtful. This workshop will look closer into what the bereaved person needs, provide techniques for the worker to assure we are not revictimizing the hurting, and that we remain healthy in this process..

Gwen Karpia is a Certified Thanatologist (CT®) and a Co-Author of Mourning Star, a Christ-centered Grief Curriculum for children, teens and adults, along with the creator of Your Grief Guide, the wound, the work, and the wonder. For more than 30 years, Gwen has been a professional grief counselor assisting individuals, families, and groups who are grieving. She has not only worked at Hospice to assist patients facing death and guide their surviving families through grief, but has also directed grief support at large funeral homes, churches, community support groups, and within a dedicated center for bereaved children and adults.

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Suicide Prevention and Education Summit

AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS – CONTINUED

2:30 - 3:30 pm
Garden Gallery
 (Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
 CE Hours for:
 • Social Work
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 Education
 Contact Hours
 • Psychology
 CE Credits
 • SCECH credits

SUICIDE PREVENTION & EDUCATION SUMMIT - AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION B4



Integrating Zero Suicide in Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs)

Laurin Jozlin, LMSW Senior Project Associate, EDC

This presentation explores practical strategies for implementing the Zero Suicide framework within Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) to create a comprehensive, system-wide approach to improving suicide care. Participants will learn how CCBHCs can embed evidence-based practices, strengthen leadership commitment, and develop coordinated suicide care pathways that ensure no one falls through the cracks. Through examples and implementation lessons, the session highlights tools, training, and metrics that drive sustainable change—empowering outpatient settings to move from crisis response to proactive prevention and continuous improvement.

Laurin Jozlin is a licensed clinical social worker with 10 years of experience in suicide prevention, suicide intervention, community mental health, and child and adolescent mental health. She brings expertise in evidence-based practices, cognitive behavioral therapy, motivational interviewing, and strengths-based treatment. She is dedicated to using training and evidence-based interventions to improve people's lives. Jozlin is a project director and provides technical assistance for Zero Suicide Institute at EDC. Previously, she was a clinical administrator at a community mental health agency outside Detroit, Michigan. She also has experience as a therapist working with children and families. For over two years, Jozlin served as a member of the Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission.

2:30 - 3:30 pm
Provincial Ballroom
 (Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
 CE Hours for:
 • Social Work
 • Related MCBAP
 Education
 Contact Hours
 • Psychology
 CE Credits
 • SCECH credits

SUICIDE PREVENTION & EDUCATION SUMMIT - AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION B5



Lethal Means Safety Counseling for Community Members

Jeremy Suttles, LMSW, MSE

Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator, Veterans Administration Ann Arbor Healthcare System

This workshop will introduce Lethal Means Safety as an intervention to help reduce overdose and suicide deaths. Participants will learn what lethal means are, the connection between lethal means and risk of harm, and tips for engaging in conversations around lethal means safety. Specific attention is given to the importance of understanding culture and values as part of the counseling and planning process. Additional resources will be shared as well.

Jeremy Suttles is a Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System. His work focuses on collaborating with communities and partners to enhance suicide prevention efforts from a public health perspective. His prior clinical experiences including psychiatric emergency care, crisis & suicide prevention response, adult inpatient psychiatry, and outpatient mental health care for individuals and groups. He feels privileged to work with Service Members, Veterans, and their Families, along with a tireless and dedicated group of colleagues working to prevent suicide.

2:30 - 3:30 pm
Monarch A
 (Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
 CE Hours for:
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 Contact Hours
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 CE Credits
 • SCECH credits

SUICIDE PREVENTION & EDUCATION SUMMIT - AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSION B6



Applying Dynamical Systems Approaches to Identify Short-Term Risk for Suicidal Behavior

Melanie Bozzay, PhD

*Suicide Prevention Director, Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University Department of Psychiatry,
 Affiliated Assistant Professor (Research), Brown University*

Suicide is a significant public health problem. Currently, there are no clinical strategies available to identify who will engage in suicidal behavior and when, hindering efforts to deliver targeted, timely interventions to prevent suicides. In recent decades, computationally intensive models have been developed to forecast which patients are at risk of suicidal behavior, months to years in advance. Despite these advances, existing risk monitoring systems do not reduce suicidal behavior or identify clinically actionable time periods of risk. This talk will describe the current state of suicide risk prediction science and ethical considerations of prediction approaches. It will then describe a novel strategy towards predicting suicidal behavior days in advance informed by dynamical systems theory, currently in development in the Analysis to Reveal Trajectories and Early Markers of Imminent Shifts in Suicidal States (ARTEMIS) Study.

Dr. Bozzay is a licensed clinical psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. Her program of research focuses on identifying which patients are at risk for suicide, and when that risk is most heightened, using intensive longitudinal assessment strategies and advanced computational approaches. She has published more than 60 articles in peer-reviewed journals and her research has been funded by multiple awards from the National Institute of Mental Health.

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Keynote Presentation

Breakout Session

Suicide Prevention and Education Summit

3:30 - 3:45 pm

BREAK - Be Sure to Visit the **Resource Gallery, Bookstore, and the Memorial Forest**

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION 4

3:45 - 4:45 pm

Monarch A
(Main Level)

Qualifies for 1.0
CE Hours for:
 • Social Work
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 Contact Hours
 • Psychology
 CE Credits
 • SCECH credits



Discussion of the Progress in Suicide Research and Prevention: What's on the Horizon

Thomas Joiner, PhD Professor, Florida State University

This session aims to provide an in-depth exploration of the evolving landscape of suicide research, focusing on three critical areas: the future directions of research in suicide risk prediction, the progression from suicidal ideation to action, and the psychological pain associated with suicidal crises. By connecting these three vital areas, this session will not only highlight the critical gaps in current research but also inspire collaborative efforts towards developing effective prevention strategies. Participants will leave with a renewed understanding of the complexities of suicide risk and actionable insights to inform their work in this essential field. This presentation promises to be a thought-provoking and informative session, encouraging active engagement and dialogue among researchers, clinicians, and advocates committed to reducing suicide rates and improving mental health outcomes.

Education: University of Texas, Austin, 1993

Research Interests: The Laboratory for the Study and Prevention of Suicide-Related Conditions and Behaviors at Florida State University focuses primarily on the study of the nature, causes, and management of suicidal behavior and related disorders (e.g., eating disorders, mood disorders, personality disorders). The goal of our research is to further refine and empirically test the interpersonal theory of suicide, as well as understand and prevent suicidal behavior in military and other settings.

Current Research: Further refinement and empirical tests of the interpersonal theory of suicidal behavior; understanding and preventing suicidal behavior across multiple setting, including military and first-responders. Thomas Joiner and lab members have projects examining lethal means and means of safety/restriction, acute suicidal affective disturbance (ASAD) and suicide rates across occupations. Interested students are encouraged to read lab member research interests on the lab website for an idea of current lab research directions.

Lab Description: Interpersonal, cognitive, and neurobiological causes, correlates, and consequences of depression and related disorders; additional focus on the nature and treatment of suicidal ideation and behavior.

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IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Our Board Members: A Legacy of Leadership, Compassion, and Hope

Kevin's Song was shaped at its very beginning by the wisdom, compassion, and commitment of four extraordinary founding Board members whose lives and leadership continue to guide the organization's work:

Lynn E. Maitland, Annette Urso Rickel, Michael MacDonald, and Paul Lavins. Each served on the Board of Directors at Kevin's Song's inception in 2013, offering vision and steadfast support for its mission — *saving lives through suicide prevention education and offering hope and healing to survivors.*

Lynn E. Maitland, Ph.D.



A respected leader in healthcare and medical ethics, was experienced in planning conferences across the country. Her guidance in planning our first and subsequent conferences, was invaluable. Additionally, Lynn's work with hospital

systems, as a social worker and as an administrator, guided Kevin's Song in making critical choices for speakers and presenters in our formative years. Lynn, with her Doctorate in Medical Ethics, guided Kevin's Song in making constructive, creative and significant choices in our conference planning. Lynn was also Kevin's aunt and was very committed to perpetuating his memory through the work of Kevin's Song.

Annette Urso Rickel, Ph.D.



Was a psychotherapist and faculty member at Cornell Medical College. Throughout her career she worked with children and families, and directed research on early interventions. Annette provided Kevin's Song with insight and vision that helped

shape Kevin's Song's educational conference model, with a strong emphasis on preventing youth suicide through evidence-based education. As Kevin's aunt, Annette cared deeply about the mission of Kevin's Song and shared her extensive experience and knowledge with the organization for many years.

Michael MacDonald



A life-long friend of the Ursos, brought a career in transportation and logistics marked by strong partnerships and a deep love of community. His passion for family and connection helped Kevin's Song foster collaboration between mental health organizations and communities, while ensuring that loss survivors were met with compassion, support, and hope. Mike's charismatic personality was a gift to our Board and to the many supporters with whom he interacted.

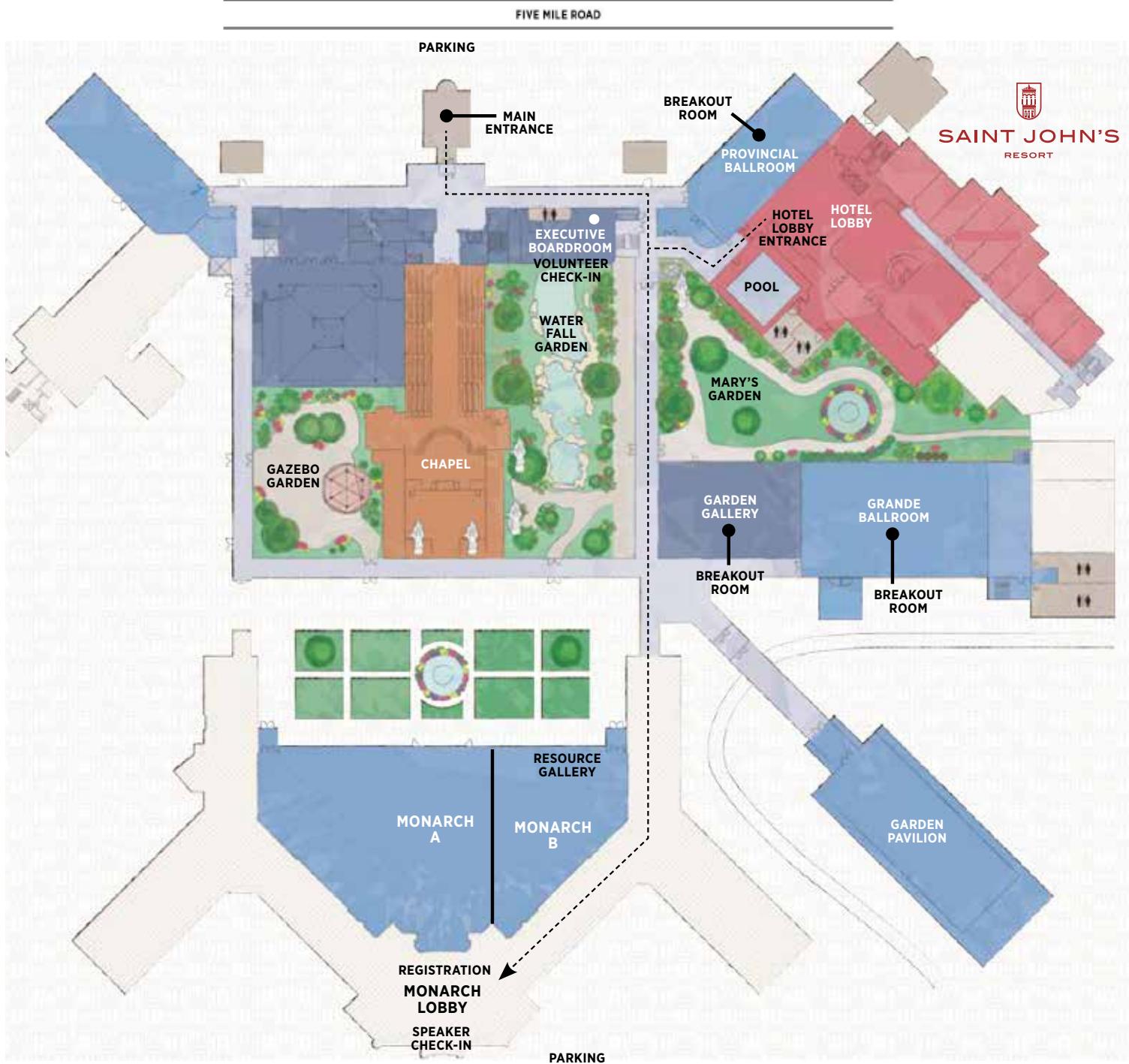
Paul Lavins



An international entrepreneur and philanthropist, he supported Kevin's Song through the Dolores and Paul Lavins Foundation. His generosity and belief in the mission helped position Kevin's Song as a highly respected suicide prevention organization locally and nationally. Paul was ever-present at Board meetings, our conferences and our fundraisers, always encouraging, critiquing and supporting Kevin's Song's efforts.

Lynn, Annette, Mike, and Paul, contributed greatly to Kevin's Song's growth from a small, tightly knit local effort to a connected national movement. We honor their legacies with gratitude and recommit to forging bold paths forward in their memory—saving lives, strengthening communities, and carrying hope into the future

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MONARCH 3RD FLOOR



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