



YELLOW RIBBON

Suicide Awareness and Prevention Chapter

History of Our Group

- In July of 2017 a student approached two teachers with the idea of starting a Suicide Awareness Group due to the deaths by suicide of Chris Cornell and Chester Bennington. Her statement was “Kids talk to other Kids about this stuff—not adults. Kids are just more in tune with each other”.
- In August the administration of the school was approached by the student with the idea. They were resistant and voiced several concerns. Eventually deciding against the proposed program.
- In September the school experienced a loss when a student died by suicide.
- The afore mentioned students resolve then doubled. She approached two other Seniors, and they began to seek other ways of starting a community program, all took an investment of some type.
- Then after a very long conversation the administration agreed to establish a student program biased on the program the school used for it’s “Jason Flatt Act” Compliance.
- The student group that had grown to nine members they approached the schoolboard and received approval.
- The Administration purchased the curriculum and the chapter membership and the Rock Creek Yellow Ribbon Program began working on fundraising as they were not given any official funding or traditional fundraising means.

Program Structure

- Adult Sponsors trained with Yellow Ribbon Protocol
- Nine to Eleven Student Gatekeepers
 - Mandatory Specialized Training
- Large Group Members
 - All Inclusive at any time
 - No requirements
 - As much or as little participation as student feels comfortable
 - Ranged from 42-23 students involved

What hurdles have you experienced

- Administration Reluctance to allow group due to fear.
 - Glorify Suicide
 - Copy Cat/Contagion Effect
 - Liability Issues
 - Inundate Counselors with attention seeking students
- No Financial Support
 - “Limited” Start-Up funding
 - No recognized fund raising
 - All appropriate training
 - Sponsors are volunteers
- Cost of Outside Speakers from 3-6K
- Training Costs 500-1K

Lessons learned through your efforts:

STUDENT LED MAKES IT HAPPEN!

Building the Group

- Proper Training is essential
- Open Communication
 - Prevent Burn Out
 - Seeking Proper Resources
- Communities/people are open
- Time commitment
- Large Funding and Grants difficult
- Importance of Self-care highlighted in the program
- Need for proper decompression

- **Hard to get people to realize that you cannot put a price tag on saving a life.

About Prevention

- Isolation
- Bullying
- Educating
- Self-Care
- Warning Signs
- Need for Education of Students/Peers
 - Age Specific

What efforts have proven to be successful in your purpose to address youth suicide?

Personal Level

- Students talk to students
- Student “GateKeepers” become trusted
- Teacher’s Know where to go “L.I.N.K.” training
- Students voice concerns to each other and to trusted adults
- Build Relationships
- See People Really Care
- Helped Student Survivors Heal
- Efforts helped prevent one known attempt
- Attend all major school “nites” with educational material about both group and suicide prevention
- Heightened Awareness
 - Signs
 - Who people can turn to

Community Level

- GateKeepers
 - Student
- Links-Training
 - Teachers
- “FundRaisers”—Educational time
- Yellow Ribbon Week during Suicide Awareness Month
- Partnerships with Private Psychiatric Collective
- Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Cards
- “Fun” Activities that promote Awareness/Self-Care and Prevent Isolation
 - Pool Party, 3X3 Basketball Tourney

Recommendations or suggestions for the task force to consider:

- Ear Mark Money for Suicide Awareness
- Developing these programs need to be proactive versus postvention time.
- Comprehensive Resource for all available Suicide Education Programs
- Jason Flatt Act good Start—go farther (an hour isn't enough for emphasize the importance of the issue)
 - 2x a year training definite time spread
 - Mandatory part of some curriculum FOR STUDENTS
 - Training for these individuals

Miscellaneous

- Community Out Reach and Response
- Random Donations
- Calls for Education

Yellow Ribbon Speakers

- Natalie Lindsey-History
- Hannah Buernheide-Program Structure
- Kalea Nippert-Hurdles
- Nate Williams-Lessons
- Karter Carlson-Successes
- Kayla Malborough- Recommendations
- Sadie Beidenbender-Community Out Reach
- CherrieAnn Lindsey & Shana Schmidt-HS Sponsors
- Bridgette Rankin-JHS Sponsor
- **Do you have any questions for our group?**