



Centre County Suicide Prevention Task Force

July 1, 2024

David Veneziano, II
Boggs Township
1270 Runville Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Dear David Veneziano, II,

One life lost to suicide is too many. In Pennsylvania, on average, one person dies by suicide every five hours. Nearly six times as many people died by suicide in Pennsylvania than in alcohol related motor vehicle accidents in 2021; the total deaths to suicide reflect a total of 36,254 years of potential life lost before age 65 (AFSP Facts & Figures). These aren't just statistics. These are sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, siblings, and future leaders of our great community that have lost hope.

As a task force, we recognize the significance of this. However, it is important to remember that suicide can be preventable. Talking openly about stress and psychological health builds trust, reduces barriers to care, and enables early intervention. While we recognize there is no single cause or single solution to suicide, we know that access to support and treatment can and does save lives. This is why community organizations, agencies, providers, and individuals across Centre County collaborate to bring suicide prevention efforts and programs to our area. We believe that together we can demonstrate that there is help and there is hope.

September marks suicide prevention month. We are writing to ask for your continued support in our efforts. Below are three easy ways to get involved and to step up for mental wellness!

- **Adopt a Resolution!** Once again, the Centre County Commissioners will proclaim September 10th as "Centre County Suicide Awareness and Prevention Day" and the month of September as "Centre County Suicide Prevention Month." We ask that you present the enclosed resolution of proclamation to the Boggs Township Council for consideration of the same. I have attached a sample resolution for your consideration and included a return envelope so you can mail us an official copy of completed resolution, if able.
- **Attend an Event!** On Tuesday, September 3, 2024, the Centre County Suicide Prevention Task Force plans to host our 8th annual Suicide Prevention Rally. More details on time and location will be announced shortly. Please consider showing your support of this important event by attending the event.
- **Help Spread Awareness!** Please share about your commitment to Suicide Prevention Month (September) and Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day (September 10, 2024) in your newsletters and on your social media. If you need help with wording, please let us know!

Furthermore, we strongly urge the citizens of Centre County to continue this discussion everyday – not just during the month of September. Thank you for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,

Centre County Suicide Prevention Task Force

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'marisavicere'.

Marisa Vicere

Chair of the Centre County Suicide Prevention Task Force

President, Jana Marie Foundation

marisa@janamariefoundation.org

Enclosure

RESOLUTION

2024-0806-1

Suicide Awareness and Prevention

A RESOLUTION OF BOGGS TOWNSHIP, CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2024 AS “BOGGS TOWNSHIP SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH” AND DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 10, 2024, AS “BOGGS TOWNSHIP SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION DAY.”

WHEREAS, suicide is a public health concern; and

WHEREAS, in the Pennsylvania one person dies by suicide nearly every five hours, making it the 3rd leading cause of death for ages 10-34; and the 5th leading cause of death for ages 35-54 (CDC, 2021); and

WHEREAS, over 5.4 million people in the United States have lost a loved one to suicide (CDC, 2019); and

WHEREAS, each member of our community is valued and irreplaceable; and

WHEREAS, talking openly about stress and psychological health builds trust, reduces barriers to care, and enables early intervention; and


WHEREAS, though we recognize there is no single cause or single solution to suicide, we know that access to support and treatment can save lives, and

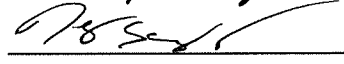
WHEREAS local and statewide suicide prevention efforts should be developed and encouraged to the maximum extent possible; and


WHEREAS, most suicides are preventable. By learning the signs and symptoms and limiting access to means, we can work together to help prevent suicide.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Boggs Township does hereby proclaim the month of September 2024 as “*Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month*” and September 10, 2024 as “*Suicide Awareness and Prevention Day*” in Centre County.

IN TESTIMONY WHERE OF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed, the great seal of Boggs Township, this 6th day of August 2024.







Attest: 
