

What Has HOPES Done for Wisconsin?

As a suicide prevention, non-profit organization, HOPES (Helping Others Prevent and Educate about Suicide) offers the State of Wisconsin assistance in many ways. We maintain an informative website (www.hopes-wi.org) containing useful resources and contacts. We also provide many informational brochures and materials to educate the public, as well as offer QPR Presentations. These presentations teach individuals how to recognize symptoms of depression and suicidal signs, then direct them in getting the help they so desperately need.

We network and support other organizations addressing suicide prevention and our Board of Directors are often called to assist survivors of the community when a suicide occurs. In spreading awareness, HOPES also collaborated with the Charles F. Kubly Foundation of Milwaukee to create advertising billboards persuading those in need to get help—the eight billboard signs targeting ***Men and Depression*** were posted throughout Wisconsin.

HOPES also joined forces with Safe Community of Madison and Dane County co-sponsoring a Summit Conference for suicide prevention engaging 300 participants. More specifically, members of HOPES have participated in the following events and activities throughout the past year.

HOPES Contributions and Participation in 2007

- Presentation about suicide prevention made to clergy in Stoughton
- Attended the annual American Association of Suicidology (AAS) Conference held in New Orleans, learning the most current research and philosophies regarding suicide
- HOPES 9th Annual Walk for Awareness, Olin Park – Madison
- Continuing to accept quilt squares for our Memory Quilts, the project entitled *The Many Faces of Suicide*
- Attended and offered resources at a Wisconsin Conference focusing on *Suicide Prevention: Beyond Crisis Intervention* – Stevens Point, Wisconsin
- Participated at a community Walk for Awareness held in Whitehall, Wisconsin
- Attended the Suicide Prevention of America Network (SPAN) Conference held in Washington, D.C. working with legislators on a national, state and local level for suicide prevention
- Attended and offered resources at the Wisconsin State Prevention Conference focusing on *Bridging Research and Practice*, Stevens Point
- Circulated our bi-annual HOPES Newsletter to over 2,000 recipients
- Held Forum at the Wisconsin State Capitol in September for Suicide Prevention Week where a media event was conducted
- Attended and offered resources at the annual event called *Beyond the Blues* sponsored by the Kubly Foundation, Milwaukee County Zoo
- Late September, co-sponsored *Suicide Prevention Summit: How to Save a Life through Awareness and Intervention*
- Gathering in Green Bay featuring *Terry Wise*, a national speaker and survivor of suicide
- QPR Presentation held at Lakeview Lutheran Church, Madison
- Materials circulated at Sennett Middle School and West High School, Madison
- Participation in the local community *Out of the Darkness* walk held at Vilas Zoo
- Attended the annual NAMI walk for mental illness
- Circulated resources at the United Methodist Church Health Fair in Stoughton
- The National Survivor's Day of Remembrance event was held in three locations in Wisconsin – Madison, Green Bay, Beloit
- United Way Youth Resource Network, QPR Training
- Attended the Wisconsin Memory Tree ceremony held in Milton, Wisconsin
- Suicide Prevention presentation given at Oak Crest High School, Wisconsin
- Inception of Brown County Work Group task force for suicide prevention
- Numerous QPR trainings in Brown County, including NAMI and various religious groups