



Suncoast Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program

"Learn from this and help each other." —PS in Timothy McClelland's suicide note

Newsletter

March 2006

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Notice of Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, March 15, 2006, 7 pm
Seminole Community Library
St. Petersburg College Campus
9200 113th St. N., Seminole, FL 99772

We have several planning items to discuss, including our upcoming July 9 Evening of Remembrance. Remember, the more people who participate with their time, ideas and input, the more effective this organization will be. We look forward to seeing you!



Attend the 4th Annual Day at the Capitol

Bonnie will be heading to Tallahassee on March 20, 2006, to attend the 4th Annual Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition Day at the Capitol, scheduled for Tuesday, March 21. A display table has been reserved in the rotunda for Suncoast Yellow Ribbon.

An important item on the agenda is garnering support for Senate Bill 1008 and House Bill 527. If you can't attend, please contact your legislators NOW!

Contact Bonnie if you need more information or wish to join her on the trek to Tallahassee.

A Note From Bonnie

I want to remind you to email me at Bonnie@SuncoastYR.org or call me at 727-394-8222 if you wish to help send the message that suicide is about individuals and families, not statistics, by participating in our creation of a West Coast Florida *Lifekeeper Memory Quilt*.

These quilts are profoundly moving and make a visual statement to help raise awareness and prevent suicide by putting a face to the number of lives lost to suicide.

Suicide Prevention Legislation...It's Important to be Heard!!!

The passage of SB1008 and HB527 will have a lasting impact on Florida. It will bring suicide to the forefront as a public health problem and will direct energy and resources to the issue, which, over time, will save thousands of lives!

SB 1008 — General Bill by Lynn; (Co-Sponsors) King; Dockery; Campbell; Rich

Suicide Prevention: Creates Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention in Executive Office of Governor; authorizes said office to seek and accept grants or funds from any source to support its operation; creates Suicide Prevention Coor-

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Suicide Prevention Legislation
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Yellow Ribbon banner hanging in the rotunda over our display table in 2005.

Our Yellow Ribbon banner was such a hit in 2005, we've been asked to bring it again this year.

inating Council within said office; creates interagency workgroup for state agencies within coordinating council in order to coordinate state agency plans for suicide prevention, etc. Creates 14.2019, 20195. Effective Date: 07/01/2006

HB 527 — General Bill by Gibson, H. (Co-Sponsors) Baxley; Bucher; Carroll; Cretul; Davis, D.; Galvano; Gottlieb; Harrell; Jennings; Kendrick; Mahon; Robaina; Ryan; Sobel; Stansel; RECOMMENDED by Future of Florida's Families Committee

Suicide Prevention: Creates the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention within the Office of Drug Control; provides the goals and objectives of the office; creates the position of coordinator for the statewide office; specifies the education and experience requirements for the position of coordinator; details the duties and responsibilities of the coordinator; authorizes the office to accept grants and funds; creates the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council within the Office of Drug Control; provides the scope of activities for the coordinating council; creates an interagency workgroup for state agencies within the council to coordinate state agency plans for suicide prevention; authorizes the council to assemble an ad hoc committee to advise the council; provides for membership on and meetings of the council; provides for per diem and travel expenses; provides an appropriation and authorizes a position. Effective Date: July 1, 2006

**Contact your Senator or Representative
and let your voice be heard!**

Go to <http://www.flsenate.gov/>
Click on "Senators" then "Find Your Legislator"
and enter your zip code.

All you need to say is...

"On behalf of over 2,000 Florida families that lose a loved one to suicide each year, we ask that you support suicide prevention efforts by co-sponsoring this important legislation."

To remove your name from our mailing list, please send an email to Bonnie@SuncoastYR.org
Questions or comments? Send us an email or call Bonnie at 727.394.8222 or Carol at 813.245.6037.