



Suncoast Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program

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

Newsletter

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Notice of Monthly Meeting

Monday, April 10, 2006, 7 pm
Seminole Community Library
St. Petersburg College Campus
9200 113th St. N., Seminole, FL 99772

"Gatekeeper Training"—This free training is designed to help anyone recognize and understand the symptoms, risk factors and warning signs of suicide and how to help in a crisis. The difference one person can make in the life of someone in need is immeasurable!

If you or someone you know hasn't had the opportunity to take this simple "mental first aid" course, please join us. With your participation, this month's attendance could be bigger than the awesome turnout in February.

i carry your heart by e.e. cummings

i carry your heart with me(i carry it in
my heart)i am never without it(anywhere
i go you go,my dear;and whatever is done
by only me is your doing,my darling)
i fear
not fate(for you are my fate,my sweet)i want
no world(for beautiful you are my world,my true)
and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant
and whatever a sun will always sing is you

here is the deepest secret nobody knows
(here is the root of the root and the bud of the bud
and the sky of the sky of a tree called life;which grows
higher than soul can hope or mind can hide)
and this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart

i carry your heart(i carry it in my heart)

Note From Bonnie

It is with a sad heart that I share with you that my friend, Sandy Martin, passed away on April 1, 2006, at the age of 52. Sandy was a powerhouse of a woman who helped create national attention for suicide prevention.

In memory of her only child, Tony, who died by suicide



at age 17, Sandy founded the Lifekeeper Foundation. Sandy was also past president and a board member of SPAN USA, a board member of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and a member of the American Association of Suicidology, in addition to being an SOS support group facilitator, chairper-

son for survivor conferences, and a trainer with the Survivors of Suicide Support Team.

In her memory, it is my intention to have a Suncoast Florida Lifekeeper Memory Quilt completed in time to be part of the annual quilt display in Washington, DC, during SPAN USA's September 2006 National Awareness Event.

Join me in honoring this exceptional woman and our own loved ones, by being a part of our quilt project. Contact me at bonnie@SuncoastYR.org or 727-394-8222 to request instructions for making your personalized quilt square or to ask for assistance in making your square.

Help make a difference in the fight to end the silence and stigma surrounding suicide by being represented on our Lifekeeper Memory Quilt!

Update on "Suicide Prevention Day at the Capitol" and Current Suicide Prevention Bills



Governor Bush and
Lt. Governor Jennings
Press Conference
March 21, 2006

The fourth annual Florida Suicide Prevention Day at the Capitol was held March 21, 2006, in Tallahassee. The event was coordinated by the Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition and the Governor's Florida Task Force on Suicide Prevention. Bonnie McClelland (mom of Tim) and Marlene Jehs (mom of Matthew) were in attendance.

Tables and Lifekeeper Quilts were set up in the rotunda and the attendees delivered Florida suicide information packets to the legislators. Also, Members of both the Senate and House were contacted to

garner their support for SB1008 and HB527.

Governor Jeb Bush and Lt. Governor Toni Jennings held a press conference, wherein Governor Bush stated he would most likely sign the bill for a full-time Suicide Prevention Coordinator position when it is presented to him. The bill has passed the Senate and is one committee away from a vote in the House.

The bill for suicide prevention in our schools is still in committee.

Parents of Suicide Retreat

Bonnie will be heading to Columbia, Tennessee, this month for the annual Parents of Suicide spring retreat. In addition to the usual activities, they will have a dedication ceremony for the new suicide memorial wall.

Bonnie will be taking pictures and will share her adventures with us in next month's newsletter.

Annual Yellow Ribbon Event

In the past, we have held our annual Yellow Ribbon event in September, to coincide with the International Yellow Ribbon event. This year, we decided to hold the event in October to avoid the worst of the hurricane season as we are hoping to have a walk on the beach this year. The weather in October should be better for this wonderful outdoor memorial event. The exact date has not yet been set.

If you are interested in helping, contact Bonnie.

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