



Westmoreland County Suicide Awareness & Prevention Task Force

Dear Community Partner,

The Ray of Hope is gearing up for our 16th Annual Walk that will be held at Twin Lakes Park in Greensburg, September 10th, 2022. This walk continues to grow in attendance each year. We dedicate this event to those who have lost loved ones to suicide and to honor the lives we have lost.

The numbers of suicide deaths are staggering in our state, country, and globally. We lose over 800,000 people throughout the world each year to suicide. Here in PA, nearly three times as many people die from suicide than homicide. In the US, a suicide death occurs every 6 minutes. That is 130 suicides every day and over 45,000 suicide deaths in the US occur each year. The Ray of Hope is challenged greatly to educate and spread awareness that suicide is a “silent epidemic” taking the lives of far too many!

The Ray of Hope Task Force is dedicated to the prevention of suicide through community outreach and education. We educate about warning signs, how to intervene, and where to turn. We recognize that suicide is a national health problem across the lifespan, and work to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and suicide. Our task force is a very active county organization made up of various human service, educational, governmental offices and community members, some of whom have lost loved ones to suicide. Our outreach and support are exceptionally important at this time. We keep very busy planning our outreach events such as our annual walk, annual conference, suicide prevention trainings, and supporting Mental Health America’s LOSS (Loved Ones Stolen by Suicide) Survivor’s Group along with a lot of other endeavors.

Everything that the Ray of Hope has been able to accomplish and continue to do is because of the generous donations we have received. We are grateful for all donations. For our walk, we are in need of baskets, gift cards, and special event tickets that will be used in a raffle to raise money to help support our future events. You can also make a fully tax-deductible contribution. This will be of great help us to spread awareness and reduce the stigma that suicide is a health problem across the globe and in our communities. For questions and coordination of donations contact Heather McLean at (724) 433-1359 or email at hmclean@mhaswpa.org

Sincerely,

Ray of Hope Task Force

For a tax deductible contribution, the tax ID# is 25-1142972. Please make all checks out to MHA - SWPA/Ray of Hope and mail to MHA-SWPA, 409 Coulter Ave., Suite 4, Greensburg, PA, 15601.

Mental Health America of Southwestern PA, fiduciary for the Ray of Hope: Westmoreland County Suicide Awareness and Prevention Task Force, is designated as a 501(c)(3) corporation by the Internal Revenue Service. All contributions to the Ray of Hope Task Force are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. The official registration and financial information of Mental Health America of Southwestern PA may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.