

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTIONS 2008

The American Association of Suicidology (AAS) was founded in 1968 to understand and prevent suicide as a means of promoting human well-being. AAS promotes research, professional and gatekeeper education, and suicide prevention programs. Since 1976, AAS has accredited crisis centers and crisis workers. AAS publishes two quarterly newsletters, one written for and by survivors; and, since 1971, the internationally respected, peer-reviewed bi-monthly journal *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*. AAS's annual conference presents state-of-the-science research, training workshops, and networking opportunities. AAS presents annual awards for outstanding contributions to the field. Contact: Dr. Lanny Berman, Executive Director (berman@suicidology.org) or visit website www.suicidology.org.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) is dedicated to understanding and preventing suicide through research and education, and to reaching out to people with mood disorders and those impacted by suicide. AFSP engages in Five Core Strategies: funds scientific research; offers educational programs for professionals; educates the public about mood disorders and suicide prevention; promotes policies and legislation that impact suicide prevention; provides programs and resources for survivors of suicide; and people with mood disorders and their families, and involves them in the work of the Foundation. AFSP has local chapters and holds Out of the Darkness Walks nationwide. Contact Robert Gebbia, Executive Director (rgebbia@afsp.org) or visit website at www.afsp.org.

The Jason Foundation, Inc. (JFI) is a nationally recognized provider of educational curriculums and training programs for students, educators/youth workers and parents. JFI's programs build an awareness of the national health problem of youth suicide, educate participants in recognizing the "warning signs or signs of concern," provide information on identifying at-risk behavior and elevated risk groups, and direct participants to local resources to deal with possible suicidal ideation. JFI's student curriculums are presented in the "third-person" perspective – how to help a friend. Teacher training is also available by CD-ROM. Contact Clark Flatt, Executive Director (clarkflatt@jasonfoundation.com) or visit website www.jasonfoundation.com.

The Jed Foundation is a national nonprofit working to prevent suicide and reduce emotional distress among college students. The organization's programs are guided by an expert board of mental health professionals and target all the audiences that can impact college mental health, including students, campuses, mental health professionals and parents. Key programs include: an Emmy-nominated awareness campaign (halfopus.com) with mtvU, MTV's college network; ULifeline (ulifeline.org), an online resource center with a screening tool and campus-specific resources for over 1,250 colleges; and the *Framework* tool that helps colleges develop protocols for dealing with at-risk students. Contact Donna Satow, Co-Founder (dsatow@jedfoundation.org) or visit website www.jedfoundation.org.

The Link's The National Resource Center for Suicide Prevention and Aftercare (The Link's NRC) is dedicated to reaching out to those affected by suicide and connecting them to resources. The NRC provides: speeches and workshops dealing with depression, warning signs of suicide, and how to respond and get help; a prevention packet of resource information; telephone counseling for individuals, family and friends seeking support and guidance; information referrals concerning other resources and organizations; referrals for support groups for survivors of suicide (SOS); telephone counseling for survivors and caregivers; and publishes *The Journey*, our semiannual survivor newsletter. Contact: Gene Bridges (jbridges@thelink.org) or visit website www.thelink.org.

The National Organization for People of Color Against Suicide (NOPCAS, Inc.)'s mission is to increase suicide awareness and education in racially and ethnically diverse populations. NOPCAS aims to develop prevention, intervention, and postvention support services to those families and communities impacted adversely by the effects of violence, depression and suicide in an effort to decrease life-threatening behavior. NOPCAS has been conducting workshops annually since 1998 in diverse communities with a scientific Advisory Board that consists of leaders in the fields of psychiatry, psychology, and social work who present their latest research on suicide at our conferences. Contact Donna Barnes, Executive Director (dbarnes@nopcas.org) or visit website www.nopcas.org.

Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE) is a national non-profit agency working to prevent suicide through public awareness and education, reduce stigma, and serve as a resource for those touched by suicide. SAVE's national multi-media campaign includes television, radio, print ads, out-door media and billboards; a best-practices school-based educational program (LEADS); training for professionals conducted in communities throughout the country; and SAVE's resources include survivor books, prevention and grief packets, handouts, teen and adult wallet cards and posters all of which reach millions of people each year. Contact Dr. Dan Reidenberg, Executive Director (dreidenberg@save.org) or visit website www.save.org.

The Suicide Prevention Action Network USA (SPAN USA) is dedicated to preventing suicide through public education and awareness, community engagement, and federal, state and local grassroots advocacy. Committed to opening minds, changing policy and saving lives, SPAN USA raises awareness and builds broad-based support on a community, statewide, regional and national level for suicide prevention. SPAN USA's grassroots community consists of survivors, community leaders, and concerned citizens across the nation, and includes community and quilt organizers, legislative action subscribers, and event participants from across the nation. Contact Dr. Jerry Reed, Executive Director (jreed@spanusa.org) or visit website www.spanusa.org.

Samaritans USA (SAMSUSA) is the coalition of the 10 community-based Samaritans suicide prevention centers in the United States whose primary mission is to provide: emotional support to those who are in crisis; public education training to lay and professional caregivers throughout our communities; solace to those who have lost a loved one to suicide through our Safe Place survivors programs. A member of the world's oldest and largest suicide prevention network, with 400 centers in 42 countries, SAMSUSA's hotlines respond collectively to 250,000 calls a year and train thousands of caregivers in Samaritans non-judgmental principles of *befriending*. Contact: Alan Ross, Executive Director (samsCouncil@aol.com) or visit website www.samaritansusa.org.

Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program (YRSPP) is a community-based non-profit organization dedicated to saving lives from suicide through awareness, education, youth empowerment, prevention and postvention work. Yellow Ribbon works within a community to develop task forces, local resources and action plans. Yellow Ribbon's BE-A-LINK[®] Gatekeeper program for adults, Ask 4 Help![®] training for youth, Ask4Help Cards, LifeSkills training, community development and Yellow Ribbon curriculums for schools, churches, work places and the public are evidenced-based components replicated throughout chapters across the US, Canada, Australia and other countries, tribal and native communities. Contact: Dar Emme, Deputy Director, (demme@yellowribbon.org) or visit website www.yellowribbon.org.