



FACES OF THE FOX CITIES

The Center for Suicide Awareness is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Kaukauna, Wisconsin, whose mission is to help prevent suicide through education and awareness. The Center has made vital inroads into preventing suicides and helping citizens with their life struggles through its many services, most specifically through its implementation of the HOPELINE (741741). This revolutionary outreach program is a free, 24-hour text service staffed by trained crisis responders. The HOPELINE is a popular resource in our community, as the anonymity allows users to be more open with their struggles. With the increase of text message usage, it has become a very beneficial service.

In addition to the amazing success achieved with the HOPELINE, The Center provides outreach to schools and civic organizations, and has connections to alcohol and substance abuse assistance. The Center hosts support groups for those who have lost someone to suicide or attempted suicide, Veteran support, and weekly AA meetings.

Each year we hold a Walk for Suicide Awareness, which is a great way for our community to join together and get involved in suicide awareness and prevention. Suicide can be prevented through education and public awareness. With this walk, we hope to distinguish the negative stigma associated with suicide and make it more acceptable to seek help and talk honestly about this distressing epidemic.

The Center won the distinguished Telly Award for their documentary they produced called "If You Only Knew What You Left Behind", which can be viewed on YouTube, and is a world-wide educational training tool in numerous schools and organizations.

We actively work with Wisconsin Veterans in need of help by distributing Challenge Coins to law enforcement, encouraging veterans to talk about their struggles and get the help they need and deserve. Bash for the Brave, is an awareness event to honor our Veterans and connect them to resources, is also held in Kaukauna each year.

The Center for Suicide Awareness provides services throughout the entire state of Wisconsin. To learn more about the work we do, please visit our website at www.centerforsuicideawareness.org, or check us out on Facebook under 'The Center for Suicide Awareness'

Barb Bigalke, Executive
Director and Founder of the
Center for Suicide Awareness
in the Fox Valley

