

# HOPEline

A Quarterly Publication of the Suicide and Crisis Center of North Texas

Volume 1 Number 1 (December 2009)

## Welcome

Welcome to the quarterly report for the Suicide and Crisis Center of North Texas. In this, the 40th year of the Center, we honor Founding Director, Dr. Cliff Jones, and the 36 dedicated community volunteers who worked with him to create a suicide prevention agency for the Dallas community. Dr. Jones and his wife, Mardi, still reside in Dallas and continue to actively support the Center.

It all began one Sunday in early 1966 after church services at Highland Park Presbyterian Church. A member of the church, Mr. Ray Montgomery, had recently lost two of his family members to suicide. He and Dr. Jones (also a member of the church and a clinical psychologist) decided that it was time to seek out experts who could bring the suicide prevention concept to Dallas.

With Mr. Montgomery's support and backing, Dr. Jones traveled to Los Angeles to visit the first major suicide prevention center in the nation. With the help of fellow mental health practitioners in Los Angeles, Dr. Jones and Mr. Montgomery opened Suicide Prevention of Dallas with daytime phone service in 1967. The 24-Hour Crisis Line began operating in 1969 and has been in continuous service since that year.

Now in 2009, the Suicide and Crisis Center of North Texas continues the work inspired by a caring and concerned Dallas community over 40 years ago.

*Thank you* for joining us as we strive to be the HOPEline for our friends, families and neighbors facing acute emotional crisis. ♦

## Providing Hope and Help

Individuals served in 2008:

- \* 18,696 calls to the Crisis Line were completed by our crisis counselors.
- \* 467 Survivors were served by our Survivors of Suicide Grief Support Groups.
- \* 3,100 Teens were served by our Teens Can Survive program.
- \* 300 Teens received Awareness Training and Education.
- \* 250 Professionals (including school personnel, hospital staff and police officers) received consultation and in-service, crisis-intervention training seminars from SCCenter staff. ♦

## Foundation Highlights

We are gratified by the generosity of many Foundations as our Teens Can Survive program continues to expand. For 30 years, The Eugene McDermott Foundation has provided financial support for the crisis intervention work of the Center.

Foundation President, Mary McDermott Cook, recently honored our work with her thoughts as well:

"In today's uncertain world, teens are especially vulnerable. Making them understand they can survive is an enormous task. Teens who are in crisis need a calming, objective person to turn to – no doubt Suicide and Crisis Center of North Texas needs more people to help in this area...."

*The McDermott Foundation is honored to help."*

## Empowering the Community

Crisis Line Director, Jenyce Gush, recently completed crisis intervention training classes for North Texas Housing Coalition employees. The Coalition has been concerned about the growing number of housing clients expressing high levels of stress to the Coalition's staff.

Executive Director, Margie Wright, presented an educational seminar entitled, "Youth Suicide Prevention" to the 2009 Child Fatality Review Teams in Fort Worth, Texas. This one-day conference was sponsored by the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Texas Suicide Prevention Coalition. Over 100 representatives of North Texas law enforcement, social services, health care and injury prevention communities were in attendance. ♦

SUICIDE & CRISIS CENTER  
of NORTH TEXAS

## Did You Know?

According to recent data collected in a 2008 survey by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA):

- \* More than 8 million adults in the United States seriously considered suicide last year, with younger adults the most likely to contemplate taking their own lives.
- \* In addition to nearly 8.3 million thinking about suicide, 2.3 million made a plan to do so, and 1.1 million actually attempted it, according to a federal government study released Thursday, September 17, 2009.

These findings are from data collected from 46,190 people aged 18 or older. It's the first national scientific survey of its size to examine this public health issue. ♦

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24hr Crisis Line 214.828.1000

## A Note from the Executive Director

The 24-Hour Crisis Line has experienced a steady and alarming increase in calls in recent months and over the past year. North Texans are in extreme personal crisis over job losses, financial debt, the rising costs of living expenses, college costs and the inability to pay their rent and mortgages.

Sadly, 97 veterans died by suicide in 11 North Texas counties in 2006 (the most current information available to us). We are addressing this alarming issue with our continuing relationship with the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL) (1-800-273-TALK). With this formal agreement, all callers to our 24-Hour Crisis Line are provided specific crisis intervention care and immediately referred to Veterans Administration professionals as required. We also provide immediate 24/7 crisis counseling and referrals to families of service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Crisis calls from all over the United States are forwarded to our Dallas Crisis Line (214) 828-1000 each year.

During these challenging times, we continue to be gratified by the support of our long-time funders, individual donors and unexpected donations from those who have been nurtured by the Center after suffering the loss of a loved one to suicide.

Plans are well underway for the 4th Annual Fresh Faces of Fashion benefiting the Center. To be held March 26, 2010, the event will again be sponsored by Modern Luxury Magazine, Stanley Korshak and Park Place Motorcars. Mrs. Yvonne Crum, Event Chair, believes this year will be the best ever. Mrs. Crum was recently named 2009 Woman of the Year by *Les Femmes du Monde* and also received an honorary doctorate from Northwood University in May. With all her accomplishments and amazing talents, we continue to be deeply honored by her compassionate efforts on behalf of the Center. ♦

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***Our Mission: "Helping those in crisis, especially suicidal crisis, find hope for the future."***

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