

- MORE THAN 1200 GEORGIANS DIE BY SUICIDE EACH YEAR AND MANY MORE MAKE ATTEMPTS.
- FOR EVERY TWO HOMICIDES IN GEORGIA, THERE ARE THREE SUICIDES.
- SUICIDE IS THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 10 – 24, AND INCLUDING COLLEGE STUDENTS.
- ONE IN FIVE PEOPLE WHO DIE BY SUICIDE ARE VETERANS.
- OLDER GEORGIANS HAVE THE HIGHEST RATE OF SUICIDE AND MOST COMPLETE ON THEIR FIRST ATTEMPT.
- MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS ACCOUNT FOR 60% OF ADOLESCENT SUICIDES AND 90% OF ADULT SUICIDES.



BUT, THERE IS HOPE...

...MOST
SUICIDES ARE
PREVENTABLE!



JOIN THE TEAM!

WE NEED YOU! THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE IN SUICIDE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND AFTERCARE IN GEORGIA. SPAN-GA IS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION MADE UP OF SURVIVORS, THEIR FAMILIES, COMMUNITY LEADERS, CONCERNED CITIZENS, AND PROFESSIONALS WITH A HEART FOR PREVENTION. AS WE WORK TO BRING THE GRASSROOTS VOICE OF COMMUNITIES TO THE POWERS THAT BE, WE WORK TO HAVE ONE LOUD AND CLEAR MESSAGE. WHEN A LARGE POPULATION SPEAKS, LEGISLATORS LISTEN. SO, WE NEED YOUR VOICE, WE NEED YOUR ACTION, AND WE NEED YOUR COMMITMENT.

COME JOIN US! BE A PART OF THE
SPAN-GA TEAM.

SUICIDE PREVENTION ACTION NETWORK, GEORGIA

SPAN-GA

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SPAN-GA[™]
Suicide Prevention Action Network – Georgia

EACH YEAR MORE THAN 1200 GEORGIANS DIE BY SUICIDE, WHILE 30,000+ MAKE SUICIDE ATTEMPTS.

SPAN-GA (Suicide Prevention Action Network, GA) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to preventing suicide through public education, awareness, community action, and local grassroots advocacy. SPAN-GA was created to raise awareness, build political will and call for action with regard to creating, advancing, implementing and evaluating a state strategy to address suicide in Georgia. Our work is guided by our underlying priorities: advancing public policy, organizing communities, supporting and engaging survivors, and breaking stigma.



Jerry and Elsie Weyrauch began SPANUSA in Georgia in 1996 after the loss of their 38 year old physician daughter Terri Ann by suicide. Their work took on a national focus from the beginning, drawing interest from leaders across the nation. In 1998, the members of SPANUSA brought stakeholders together to the Reno Conference to begin a dialogue on the crisis of suicide in our nation. Out of this conference, then Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher wrote the *Call to Action for Suicide Prevention*, declaring suicide a public health crisis in America. A National Strategy for Suicide Prevention was published in 2001; during that same period of time SPAN led the effort to write our Georgia Suicide Prevention Plan. It was a natural progression for SPANUSA to move to Washington DC, and at that time SPAN-GA was formed to focus on the needs of our state.

CALL TO ACTION:

SPAN-GA is a grassroots advocacy organization bringing the voice and the needs of our communities to the Georgia legislature. Our achievements include:

- Advocating and consistently receiving funding for the Suicide Prevention Program in Georgia.
- Creating a Community Action Team program, GA C.A.T.'s, with a goal to have team members operating in every county, while developing an action network ready to move on any item that arises with rapid response and a single strong voice.
- Participating in the advocacy efforts of our national organization, SPANUSA.

EDUCATION & AWARENESS:

Our work is dedicated to providing education and raising awareness that suicide is a preventable public health crisis and that everyone has a role to play in preventing it. We:

- Collaborate with other suicide prevention and mental health organizations to create priorities and strategies for suicide prevention.
- Work in communities to support and provide education, training and technical assistance for efforts statewide.
- Work with NAMI GA to train law enforcement statewide in prevention, intervention, aftercare and self care .
- Display the Memory Quilts at events and activities statewide creating awareness and breaking stigma.

SURVIVOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

As a grassroots survivor organization, one of our priorities is supporting the survivor community. SPAN-GA:

- Works with the State of Georgia to develop resources, services and support for survivors.
- Trained 100+ SOS Group Facilitators and are actively helping them establish and sustain groups in many areas including areas where there have been no services.
- Conduct training for professionals to arm them with skills to work specifically with survivors across the lifespan.
- Contract to develop and maintain the state's Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Aftercare Community Information Website, www.GSPIN.org.
- Serves as Georgia's Memory Quilt organizers. Building quilts for coalitions/communities to keep and display at local events and awareness activities.
- Host Camp SOS – a family camp for those that lost a loved one to suicide, among many other activities!

Go online to www.span-ga.org for a detailed look at SPAN-GA's accomplishments.