

**ASHTABULA COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH &
RECOVERY SERVICES BOARD**

Miriam E. Walton
Director

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Dear Prospective Donor,

Suicide is a massive issue for Ashtabula County. In 2017, our community has lost 22 individuals to suicide. That puts us well over both the national suicide rate and Ohio's suicide rate as a whole. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death across all demographic categories, but especially among younger and older Ashtabula County residents. We know that those friends and loved ones who are left behind after a suicide loss are placed at a greatly elevated risk of dying by suicide themselves. That is why we put such a great deal of effort into our LOSS Team, our suicide prevention efforts, and awareness events each year—to try and impact our huge suicide problem in a positive direction. Recent research by Dr. Julie Cerel, former President of the Board of Directors of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, has demonstrated that each person who takes their own life leaves behind several dozen (to more than a hundred) survivors that are seriously impacted by this loss. By that math, Ashtabula County has thousands upon thousands of suicide survivors in need of awareness, intervention, and support.

To that end, The Ashtabula County Suicide Prevention Coalition will hold its 6th annual One Life Suicide Prevention and Awareness Race/Walk on Saturday, September 8, 2018. This event will begin at the office of the Ashtabula County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHRS Board) at 4817 State Road, Ashtabula, Ohio. Registration will begin at 7:45 a.m. with the Awards/ Remembrance Ceremony starting at approximately 8:30 a.m. and the race/walk starting at 9 a.m.

We are currently seeking sponsors for this event. Sponsors will have their name placed prominently at the event and be mentioned in all press releases. Sponsorships will help cover the cost of materials for the remembrance ceremony, refreshments and other overhead expenses. Funds raised from the event in excess of the expenses will be donated to the Ashtabula County Suicide Prevention Coalition to support ongoing suicide prevention efforts and the work of the LOSS team. Proceeds from previous years have purchased LOSS Team materials and have helped fund local trainings.

Sponsorship levels are listed below. Sponsorships will be listed in the program based on contribution level. (Contributions can be made in cash or through donation of needed supplies or materials. A list of needed supplies and materials can be obtained from the MHRS Board office.)

Platinum	\$500 and above
Gold	\$200-\$499
Silver	\$26 -\$199
Bronze	\$25 or less

Please attach your business card or other form of information with the name you would like listed. The Coalition would like to thank you in advance for your contribution to this event. Remember, all of our awareness efforts might help to save a life! All contributions can be made by contacting Bridget Sherman at (440)992-3121 or via e-mail at ashtabadbhs@suite224.net.

Sincerely,

Bridget J. Hoff Sherman

Bridget Sherman
Program Director, MHRS Board