

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Howell County Suicide Prevention Network Hosts Third Annual “A Talk to Remember”

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., (9/17/2025) – Community Partnership of the Ozarks and The Howell County Suicide Prevention Network will host the third annual community awareness event, **A Talk to Remember: Light a Flame for Suicide Prevention**, on **Thursday, September 26, at 5:30 p.m.** at the **West Plains Civic Center East Lawn (110 St. Louis St., West Plains, MO).**

This community-wide gathering supports individuals who have experienced a mental health challenge or lost a loved one to suicide. It follows the **Chaz Coats Memorial Dice Run** on September 6 and the **Lady Zizzer Softball Suicide Awareness Night** on September 25.

In 2024, 1,200 Missourians died by suicide (2024 MSPN). Missouri ranks 17th in the nation for suicide rates, with Howell County among the highest in the state. This annual event brings together those impacted by suicide to raise awareness, share hope, and support the mission of Howell County Suicide Prevention Network: reducing suicide through connection, education, and community support.

“A Talk to Remember brings our community together around a difficult but vital topic—mental health and suicide prevention,” said CPO Prevention Specialist Amanda Foster. “By connecting those impacted with others who share similar experiences, we offer hope and light. This creates space for connection, remembrance, and healing and is one of the most meaningful ways we can live out CPO’s mission to build resilient children, healthy families, and strong communities.”

The evening will feature a panel of speakers, a remembrance walk with candle-lighting, and family-friendly activities, including food trucks and games.

Event Schedule

- **5:30 p.m.** – Welcome and Introductions
- **5:35 p.m.** – Panelist Discussion/Q&A (personal and professional perspectives)
- **6:00 p.m.** – Candle Lighting and Walk Preparation
- **6:15 p.m.** – Remembrance Walk
- **6:30–8:00 p.m.** – Food, Games, and Socializing

For questions about the event, please contact Community Partnership of the Ozark Prevention Specialist, Amanda Foster at (417) 204-3001 or at afoster@cpozarks.org

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ABOUT COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP OF THE OZARKS: *The mission of Community Partnership of the Ozarks is to facilitate and promote the building of resilient children, healthy families, and strong neighborhoods and communities through collaboration, programming and resource development. For more information on the Partnership’s collaborative efforts and programs, visit www.cpozarks.org.*