



## NEWS RELEASE

### ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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## Survivors of Suicide Day offers support for survivors

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention will sponsor its 10th annual National Survivors of Suicide Day on Saturday, Nov. 22, to reach out to the thousands of people who have lost a loved one to suicide. Alabama conferences in the Birmingham area and in Robertsdale are sponsored by the Alabama Suicide Prevention Task Force. In addition, two additional conferences will be held for survivors of suicide: Nov. 22 in Opelika and Dec. 2 in Florence.

The program will include a recorded 90-minute national conference presentation which will feature a panel of experienced survivors and mental health professionals. This portion of the conference will offer emotional support and information about resources for healing following the loss of a loved one to suicide. This will be followed by an optional discussion period for those who wish to share their experiences with others to help survivors heal.

“Suicide can become a tragedy for anyone it touches. It is not restricted to one age group, cultural group or to any socioeconomic status,” said Dollie Hambrick, co-chair of the Alabama Suicide Prevention Task Force, an organization formed in 2001 to address this significant public health problem.

Alabama’s suicide rate is 12.7 per 100,000, the highest rate since 2000, according to the health department’s Center for Health Statistics. The most recent available rate for the United States as a whole is the 2005 rate of 11.0.

“We hope this day of remembrance will provide survivors a unique way to connect with others who have survived the tragedy of suicide loss,” Ms. Hambrick said.

#### Alabama Events

\* Nov. 22, 1 p.m., Oak Mountain High School, 5476 Caldwell Mill Road, Birmingham.  
Preregistration not required; no fee for participants.

\* Nov. 22, 1 p.m., L.E. Rockwell Health Care Center, 23280 Gilbert Drive, Robertsdale.  
Preregistration not required; no fee for participants.

\* Nov. 22, 11:30 a.m., Health Resource Center of East Alabama Medical Center, located across the street from EAMC, 2027 Pepperell Parkway, Opelika.  
Attendees will meet for a light lunch at 11:30 a.m. Reservations may be made at

(334) 502-0216 or by emailing Nana Daronatsy at [nana.daronatsy@eamc.org](mailto:nana.daronatsy@eamc.org).

\* Dec. 2, 6 p.m., Shoals Marriott Conference Center, 800 Cox Creek Parkway, Florence  
A DVD will be played for survivors.

National Survivors of Suicide Day is part of a growing movement toward educating the public about suicide and its aftermath. Through the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's sustained efforts and awareness campaigns, Americans are increasingly focused on the crisis of suicide. The hope is that participation in the conference will further this movement, encouraging survivors throughout the country and the globe to share their experiences and join together in the healing process.

For more information please contact the Alabama Chapter of the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention, an organization of people who have lost a loved one to suicide, at (205) 323-4433. You may also call the national Suicide Prevention lifeline number at 1-800-273-TALK. This confidential toll-free line is answered 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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10/31/08