

THE OAKLAND PRESS

Common Ground hosts Survivors of Suicide Loss Day



Jessica Keesling, who lost her father, grandfather and uncle to suicide, and Brian Rankin, who lost his father to suicide, will honor their loved ones at Survivors of Suicide Loss Day.
Photo from Facebook

Common Ground is hosting Survivors of Suicide Loss Day on Saturday, Nov. 23 at Kirk in the Hills Presbyterian Church, 1340 W Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills.

On Survivors of Suicide Loss Day, people affected by suicide loss gather around the world at events in their local communities to find comfort and gain understanding as they share stories of healing and hope.

In 2017, there were 47,173 reported suicides and 1,400,000 suicide attempts, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death and one of three leading causes of death that are on the rise.

“Survivor of Suicide Loss Day is an opportunity to give those who have lost loved ones to suicide a safe place to connect with others and share their experiences,” said Melissa Bowman, suicide prevention and volunteer recruitment coordinator at Common Ground.

“We want the community to feel supported and to gain a sense of hope when they leave Survivors of Suicide Loss Day.”

Survivors of Suicide Loss Day will begin at 9 a.m. and will go until 1 p.m. The event will include food and beverages, guest speakers, an art therapy activity, break-out sessions and an opportunity to connect and heal with others. Attendees are encouraged to bring a photo or memento of their loved one.

All are welcome to attend; the event is recommended for ages 12 and over.

Visit Common Ground’s [Facebook](#) or their website at commongroundhelps.org to register. Registration prior to the event is encouraged.

-Submitted by Amanda Greco

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