JULY 27TH, 2019 CMU UNIVERSITY PLAZA

VOICES FOR AWARENESS CONFERENCE AT 11 A.M.

FIGHT FOR AWARENESS AT 7 P.M.

Voices for Awareness Foundation presents the first ever conference of its kind to be held in our area.

You are cordially invited to attend The “Voices for Awareness Conference” hosted by The Voices for Awareness Foundation and the “Fight for Awareness” hosted by Rival Boxing Gym of Grand Junction.

The conference will address the increasing issue in our community relating to drug/alcohol addiction and self-harm/suicide. The conference is open to the public free of charge. The community will have the opportunity to voice their concerns about these issues before a prestigious panel of Lawmakers, Educators, Court officials, Law Enforcement and other professionals from our area. Special guest speakers attending will be presenting their stories on issues of addiction and suicide in an effort to BRING AWARENESS TO OUR COMMUNITY.

The “Fight for Awareness” will feature professional and amateur fighters from Grand Junction and other areas in Colorado. The fighters are dedicating their matches to a loved one that they have lost to addiction or suicide. Tickets can be purchased at: https://fightforawareness.ticketspice.com/fight-for-awareness or thru your sponsor representative.

We have all been affected or know someone that has been touched by the growing problem of addiction, self-harm, and or suicide. Voices for Awareness Foundation is calling on you to attend this important conference to address the issues and the STIGMA that surrounds them. Our purpose is to bring AWARENESS and to offer an open forum to discuss the tragedies happening all around us.
related to this epidemic. The professional panel will be there not to speak BUT TO LISTEN... We need to come together as a community to address this problem.

We implore you to attend and BECOME AWARE. We can all make a difference to those in crisis who face these problems. Even a kind word can change someone’s life and give them the courage to escape the hopelessness they fear.

Please attend and MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Voices for Awareness is a 501c3 non profit

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On June 11th, 2018 my phone rang at 7:24 a.m...

The voice on the other line told me that my beautiful daughter Ashley was dead. Ashley was given an illicit Fentanyl pill. I was told by the coroner that she probably died instantly.

This is an epidemic in our country.

Fentanyl is a pill 50-100 times more potent than morphine. An illicit pill can be even stronger.

I recently attended an Opioid Summit where the First Lady of the United States spoke. The numbers she gave on overdose are horrific. Eight people an hour die from overdose daily.

It is time to take action. Although, I do not have the answers to stop this death pill from reaching our streets, I do know that spreading AWARENESS can make a difference to many.

Andrea Thomas – Voices for Awareness Foundation

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On March 20th, 2018 I received a call at 9:30 p.m. from my Dad.

The only words I heard was “Your Brother”. I knew instantly that he was gone. My Brother Rob had taken his own life.

Suicide is a 9 second decision.

Approximately one million people die from suicide each year. That is equivalent to one death every 40 seconds.

D’Ann Hopkins - Voices for Awareness Foundation
VOICES FOR AWARENESS FOUNDATION PRESENTS

VOICES FOR AWARENESS

JULY 27TH, 2019

Deaths From Drugs and Suicide Reach a Record in the U.S.

awareness

n. aware-ness | a-\-wer-nes \\
Definition of awareness: the quality or state of being aware; knowledge and understanding that something is happening or exists promoting a heightened awareness of the problem.

COUNTERFEIT PILLS IN COLORADO

Since 2012, drug traffickers have been selling North American counterfeit medications made from fentanyl, a dangerous painkiller 25-40 times stronger than heroin, and even stronger synthetic opioids like carfentanil. The problem has spread to at least 46 states, and many Americans have suffered overdoses and death because the drugs they were taking were counterfeit.

What is Fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a synthetic (man-made) opioid 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. Non-pharmaceutical fentanyl refers to the direct manufacture of fentanyl (MF). MF is often mixed with heroin and/or cocaine or pressed into counterfeit pills with or without the user's knowledge.
The Rise and Rise of Suicide: We Must Remove the Stigma of Mental Illness

Margie Warrell

Suicide is on the rise globally, accounting for nearly one million deaths annually. Within the United States, suicide rates have risen 30% in the last 20 years. According to data from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH):

In 2016, there were 44,965 recorded suicides (though due to the stigma surrounding suicide, it is suspected that it is unreported). On average, adjusted for age, the annual U.S. suicide rate increased 24% between 1999 and 2014. In 2015 the suicide was the 10th leading cause of death overall—the seventh leading cause for males and the 14th leading cause for females. Suicide was the second leading cause of death for young people aged 15 to 24 and the third leading cause of death for children aged 10 to 14.

Between 1999 to 2010, the largest increases were among men in their 50s, with rates rising nearly 50%, and for women aged 60 to 64, with rates rising 67%. The escalating suicide rates, and rise and rise of people suffering from mental illnesses (nearly one in five U.S. adults—nearly 45 million in 2016—suffer with mental illness) call on each of us to pay closer attention to how the people we love and know are coping with life. Clearly just because someone’s life appears good on the outside, doesn’t mean all is well in their moments beyond the public eye. The alarming rates of anxiety and depression also provide a siren call to take a critical look at the larger factors at play—such as rising levels of loneliness attributed partly to overuse of social media— contributing to new depths of anxiety, disconnection and despair.

Fear of social rejection, ridicule, discrimination and judgement often keep people from sharing their struggle. While we may not all suffer from mental illness, we each have a role to play in ensuring that those who do suffer feel less afraid to reach out and get the support they need in the moments when they need it most. If people felt as comfortable talking about their PTSD, bipolar or anxiety as they did talking about their eczema or tennis elbow, it would markedly reduce the suffering of those with mental illness and the ability of those around them to support them.

There are many ways we can help to remove the social stigma and make it easier for people not to self-stigmatize themselves. Talk openly—without shame or self-consciousness—about your own experience of mental illness or that of your family. If you sense someone around you may be struggling, have the courage to ask them how they’re doing. Put yourself in their shoes and try not to judge, but to extend the compassion they need. And if you are struggling yourself, I can only encourage you, with all my heart, to reach out, to confide your struggle and to keep faith that hope exists no matter how dark life may feel right now. Because it does. Rediscovering it is easier when we don’t cut ourselves off and go it alone. Put yourself in their shoes and try not to judge, but to extend the compassion they need. And if you are struggling yourself, I can only encourage you, with all my heart, to reach out.
SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL ILLNESS PREVENTION

Prevention approaches focus on helping people develop the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they need to make good choices or change harmful behaviors. Substance use and mental disorders can make daily activities difficult and impair a person's ability to work, interact with family, and fulfill other major life functions. Mental illness and substance use disorders are among the top conditions that cause disability in the United States. In addition, drug and alcohol use can lead to other chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. Preventing mental and/or substance use disorders and related problems is critical to Americans’ behavioral and physical health.

SAMHSA

Understanding Drug Use and Addiction

Many people don’t understand why or how other people become addicted to drugs. They may mistakenly think that those who use drugs lack moral principles or willpower and that they could stop their drug use simply by choosing to. In reality, drug addiction is a complex disease, and quitting usually takes more than good intentions or a strong will. Drugs change the brain in ways that make quitting hard, even for those who want to. Fortunately, researchers know more than ever about how drugs affect the brain and have found treatments that can help people recover from drug addiction and lead productive lives.

Patti Richards

2018 Alcoholism Statistics You Need to Know

Alcoholism affects people from all walks of life. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC), more than 88,000 people die from alcohol-related deaths each year in the United States.1 And alcohol continues to be one of the nation’s most preventable causes of death, second only to tobacco and a poor diet/sedentary lifestyle. Alcoholism has a profound effect on the entire body, especially the brain, heart, pancreas, mouth, liver and immune system. In spite of its negative impact, more Americans than ever before consume alcohol on a regular basis. Understanding the dangers of alcohol abuse and its impact on society can help you and your loved ones make healthier choices.

GENERAL ALCOHOL STATISTICS

- Alcohol-impaired driving accounts for more than 30 percent of all driving fatalities each year.
- More than 15 million people struggle with an alcohol use disorder in the United States, but less than eight percent of those receive treatment.
- More than 65 million Americans report binge drinking in the past month, which is more than 40 percent of the total of current alcohol users.
- Teen alcohol use kills 4,700 people each year. That's more than all illegal drugs combined.
- Drunk driving costs the United States more than $199 billion every year.
Fight Sponsor Form

"A Fight for Awareness"

Hosted By
Rival Boxing Gym Grand Junction

July 27th, 2019 7:00 PM @
CMU University Plaza

Rival Boxing Gym G.J. is holding this professional boxing event in conjunction with the "Voices for Awareness Foundation" in an effort to promote AWARENESS relating to the issues of substance abuse / addiction and self-harm / suicide

Your interest in sponsoring a Fighter is greatly appreciated

Premier Sponsor

Includes:
Sponsorship Recognition
VIP table for 10 guests
Meet and Greet
Professional Fighter:
$2500

Saul Holguin

Honorable Sponsor
Includes:
Sponsorship Recognition
5 VIP tickets
Meet and Greet
Amateur Fighter
$1500

Christina Breault

Hazel Ruiz

Orlando Salgado

Vlad Dandu

Contact info:
Chuck Thomas (970) 986-0169
Andrea Thomas (970) 250-8449
Sponsor/Donor Agreement Form

Name: ________________________________

As you wish to be listed in the program:

Contact Person: __________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________

City: __________________ State: __________ Zip: __________

Phone: __________________ Fax#: __________

E-Mail: __________________

Yes, I would like to sponsor the Voices for Awareness Foundation – “Voices for Awareness Conference” at the following level

- [ ] $10,000 Premier Sponsor
- [ ] $5,000 Honoring Sponsor
- [ ] $2,500 Supporting Sponsor
- [ ] We will attend the event.
- [ ] We will not be attending. I would like to support the “Voices for Awareness Conference” with a donation of $________

Guest List:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Forms of payment:

Check □ Credit Card □ # __________________________ CSV# __________ Exp Date: ______

Name as appears on card __________________________ Signature __________________________

Please send me an invoice/receipt to: __________________________

Please return this form & Payment no later than June 1, 2019 to ensure proper recognition and seating.
**Premier Sponsor $10,000**

2 Tables (20 Tickets) to the Event with ULTRA premier seating

Premier signage at the CONFERENCE AND FIGHT

Premier logo placement in looping slideshow night of event

Premier logo placement on Facebook and hosting websites

Premier logo placement in all media and press releases

Special gifts at table night of the event for your guests

Recognition from the stage during the event

Designated cocktail server

1 month membership to Rival Boxing Gym of Grand Junction for 5

**Honoring Sponsor $5,000**

1 Table (10 Tickets) to the Event with premier seating

Premier signage at the CONFERENCE AND FIGHT

Premier logo placement in looping slideshow night of event

Premier logo placement on Facebook and hosting websites

Premier logo placement in all media and press releases

Special gifts at table night of the event for your guests

Recognition from the stage during the event

1 month membership to Rival Boxing Gym of Grand Junction for 2
**Supporting Sponsor $2,500**

1 Table (10 Tickets) to the Event with **VIP** seating

Premier signage at the CONFERENCE AND FIGHT

Premier logo placement in looping slideshow night of event

Premier logo placement on Facebook and hosting websites

Premier logo placement in all media and press releases

**Food and allocated drinks included in:**

**Sponsors and VIP table purchase**