



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**For more information, contact:**  
Tana Koss, Chair of BCCSP &  
Director of the Crisis Center, 436-4360 ext. 1252

### **Local Coalition for Suicide Prevention Honors National Suicide Prevention Week**

*The Brown County Coalition for Suicide Prevention announces a series of events in September/October 2011 to raise awareness and support for local suicide prevention.*

**(Green Bay, Wis.)** – The Brown County Coalition for Suicide Prevention is hosting a number of community events this fall, launching during National Suicide Prevention Week, September 4-10, 2011. The overall goal of the Coalition is to promote awareness that suicide is a preventable public health problem, providing education in the community and working to reduce the stigma associated with suicide and mental illness.

In 2010, Brown County experienced 29 completed suicides. Statewide, it was the second leading cause of death among youth, ages 15-24, and the tenth most common cause of death among all ages. Wisconsin's suicide rate is more than three times greater than the state homicide rate, and eight times greater than the number of deaths related to HIV.

To date in 2011, there have been 18 deaths by suicide in Brown County. The local Coalition envisions working towards the prevention of all suicides in our region and is calling on the Brown County community at large to become involved in prevention efforts.

To that end, the Coalition is hosting free QPR (Question-Persuade-Refer) trainings on the evenings of September 7, September 15, and October 26, providing education about the warning signs of suicide and how to offer hope and get help to save lives. All sessions are open to the public. Since 2009, the Coalition has trained more than 5,000 community members in QPR, with a goal to train an additional 1,500 this year.

Other local events include a fundraiser at Culvers on September 6, two local awareness walks on September 10 and 24, and a training for Veterans and their families on October 22.

For more information about the Coalition or any of these events, contact Tana Koss at 920-436-4360 ext. 1252 or visit [www.familyservicesnew.org/bccsp](http://www.familyservicesnew.org/bccsp) to view a full schedule.

#### **Important Numbers:**

Crisis Center of Family Services: 436-8888

National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255. Press option #1 if you are a veteran.

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**Media Contact:** Tana Koss, Chair - Brown County Coalition for Suicide Prevention, (920) 436-4360  
ext. 1252, tkoss@familyservicesnew.org

**For the Editor:** The Brown County Coalition for Suicide Prevention is comprised of individuals and organizations committed to the prevention of suicide, including: Brown County Human Services; Brown County Health Department; Aging and Disability Resource Center of Brown County; Family Services; Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance; Bellin Health Psychiatric Center; Oneida Behavioral Health; UW-Green Bay Counseling Services; Mental Health America- Brown County; NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)- Brown County; Survivors of Suicide; HOPES; Green Bay Police Department; AFSP Out of the Darkness Walk Committee; St. Mary's Catholic Community; St. Francis Xavier Parish of DePere; St. Vincent de Paul; Zablocki VA Medical Center- JH Bradley VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic; Green Bay Public Schools; Brown County Medical Examiner's Office; Green Bay Fire Department; College of Menominee Nation; St. Norbert College Counseling Services; and local Survivors.

**Brown County Coalition for Suicide Prevention**

*[www.familyservicesnew.org/bccsp](http://www.familyservicesnew.org/bccsp)*



## Suicide Prevention Week is September 4-10, 2011 Get Involved! Help Save A Life!

- Tues, September 6:** **Culvers Fundraiser for Brown County Coalition for Suicide Prevention**  
Culvers in Ashwaubenon is partnering with the Coalition for a 10% Donation Night, All proceeds from sales at 909 Hansen Road between 5-8p will directly impact local suicide prevention efforts!
- Weds, September 7:** **QPR Training\* at Brown County Central Library 6:30-8pm, FREE!**  
515 Pine Street, Green Bay in the Conference Rooms. Please RSVP to Crisis Center as space is limited to the first 90 people, call #436-8888.
- Sat, September 10:** **Out of the Darkness Community Walk, Meadowbrook Park Pavilion**  
760 Hillcrest Heights, Howard. Registration starts at 7:45am, 5K Walk starts at 9am, Erin Davisson MC with music by Ken Dennison. Go to [outofthedarkness.org](http://outofthedarkness.org) to register as a walker or to donate. No registration fee. Event sponsored by American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, organized by the local committee.
- Thurs, September 15:** **QPR Training\* at Bellin College of Nursing 6:30-8pm, FREE!**  
3201 Eaton Road, Green Bay in Room 113. Please RSVP to Crisis Center as space is limited to the first 90 people, call #436-8888.
- Sat, September 24:** **NAMI Walks Changing Minds---One Step at a Time, Green Isle Park**  
Park is at the end of Green Ave, Allouez. 5K walk to raise awareness of mental health issues and to fight the stigma often associated. Register online at [www.nami.org/namiwalks/wi/brown](http://www.nami.org/namiwalks/wi/brown). Walker check-in at 9am, 5K Walk starts at 10am. No registration fee, walkers are encouraged to collect donations for NAMI of Brown County.
- Weds, October 26:** **QPR Training\* at Harmony Café 6:30-8pm, FREE!**  
1660 West Mason Street, Green Bay in the Justice Room. Please RSVP to Crisis Center as space is limited to the first 40 people, call #436-8888.
- Sat, October 22:** **Seeking Light in the Darkness: For Veterans of the US Armed Forces**  
At the Aging and Disability Resource Center, 300 S. Adams Street, Green Bay. Registration at 11am, Workshop starts at 11:15am. This will be a gathering of veterans and their families who have lost a friend or loved one to suicide. Workshop facilitated by Aruna Jha, PhD, LCSW, Suicide Prevention Coordinator at the JH Bradley Outpatient Clinic. Please register by calling the Crisis Center at #436-8888, space is limited to the first 50 participants.

**Donate to Support Local Suicide Prevention Efforts!** You can support suicide prevention efforts in Brown County by making a tax deductible donation to the Brown County Coalition for Suicide Prevention. Bellin Health Foundation serves as the fiscal agent for the Coalition. All checks should be made payable to **“Brown County Suicide Prevention Fund”** and mailed to Bellin Health Foundation, 740 S. VanBuren St. Green Bay, WI 54301. Thank you for your support!

**\*QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer-** 3 simple steps that anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Just as people trained in CPR help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. Each year thousands of Americans, like you, are saying "Yes" to saving the life of a friend, colleague, sibling, or neighbor. **If you can't make it to any of these trainings... please contact Christel Giesen at 448-4297 to schedule a QPR Training today for your place of work, social group, or neighborhood!**