



THE CHARLES E. KUBLY FOUNDATION
A Public Charity Devoted to Improving the Lives of Those Affected by Depression.

Advancing Suicide
Prevention™

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAVING WISCONSIN YOUTHS FROM THEMSELVES

WISCONSIN FOUNDATION FORGES EDUCATIONAL ALLIANCE WITH NATIONAL POLICY MAGAZINE TO COMBAT YOUTH SUICIDE IN THE STATE

Charles E. Kubly Foundation and Advancing Suicide Prevention magazine partner to combat suicide as the Number 2 killer of children in Wisconsin

November 15, 2005 – Milwaukee, Wis. – Astoundingly, suicide is the Number 2 killer of children in Wisconsin*. And efforts to prevent youth suicide in the state are receiving a big boost because of a new alliance forged by the Charles E. Kubly Foundation with a national mental health policy magazine, foundation officials announced today.

Thousands of Wisconsin school and health care personnel will receive the upcoming youth-themed issue of *Advancing Suicide Prevention*, a professional publication that goes to 20,000 health policy leaders and influencers across the country. Funding from the Kubly Foundation will expand this core circulation by 5,000 additional professionals throughout the state. These include leaders and “gatekeepers” who can influence youth and policies affecting their well being – guidance counselors, school psychologists, child and adolescent psychiatrists and other professionals in Wisconsin.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for Wisconsin young people – and that makes it a major public health problem in Wisconsin, according to health officials. Between the years 1999-2002, 430 Wisconsin youngsters age 10-24 died by their own hand, making Wisconsin the 16th highest state in the nation in youth suicide. Moreover, experts in suicide prevention say that many of these deaths – most of which are based in an underlying mental illness – can be prevented.

“We’re losing 4,000 children every year to an outcome that’s preventable. The ripple effect of that is huge,” says Chicago psychiatrist and researcher Morton Silverman, M.D., an internationally-regarded expert on youth suicide.

Wisconsin physician Laura Roberts, M.D., M.A. with the Kubly Foundation Board of Directors agrees.

* According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars>, which notes that between the years 1999-2002 (the most recent year for which data is available), 430 children ages 10-24 in Wisconsin took their own lives, 40 percent more than the number who died by homicide during that same period.

“Every week we lose two of our children to suicide in this state, and *between 100 and 200 more youths attempt suicide* for every youngster who completes,” notes Dr. Roberts, chairperson of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. “Many of these children suffer silently with mental illness and addiction conditions – health issues *for which treatment exists*. We must do all we can to fight the culture of silence around this overwhelmingly important health issue. Suicide is devastating. And its effects last generations.”

Wisconsin child psychiatrist Russell E. Scheffer, M.D. points out that not treating depression and suicidal thoughts in youngsters can have profound effects as the child grows to adulthood.

“People with major depression have a 20 percent lifetime incidence of dying by their own hand,” notes Dr. Scheffer, director for child and adolescent psychiatry at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. “Many of these are preventable deaths...Suicide is a dramatic issue; not everybody knows the facts about this. Most primary care physicians probably have no idea that suicide is the number two killer of kids in Wisconsin. Awareness is a big issue.”

Executive Director Sally Kubly notes that her organization’s mission is in sync with the spirit of the magazine – to raise awareness of suicide as a preventable public health threat, and educate stakeholders about the scope of the problem and how to best combat it.

“We are working in concert with the State Departments of Health and Human Services and Education to effect increased awareness and action in youth suicide prevention through this initiative with *Advancing Suicide Prevention*,” notes Sally Kubly, Executive Director of the Milwaukee-based foundation, founded in 2003 in memory of her brother-in-law Charlie Kubly of Milwaukee, who died by suicide after battling depression for a number of years. “The first step in preventing suicide is to bring it out of the closet and reduce stigma. Our partnership with this national magazine shines a light on suicide for professionals who can influence its prevention among youth populations that are so vulnerable.”

The Youth issue of *Advancing Suicide Prevention* magazine focuses on the crisis of suicide among youth populations, the role of schools, substance abuse as an indicator for youth suicide potential, and issues that impede treatment of suicidal children and teens. It will be published in early January. For more information see www.advancingsp.org. For media access to Dr. Roberts or Dr. Scheffer, contact Denise Pazur at 920-457-4033 or at dpazur@advancingsp.com.

About the Charles E. Kubly Foundation

The Charles E. Kubly Foundation is a public charity committed to improving the lives of those affected by depression. Founded in 2003, the Wisconsin-based foundation seeks to better the lives of those affected by depression by increasing public awareness of the disease and its devastating effects, reducing the stigma associated with it, supporting depression related research and promoting improved access to quality mental health resources within communities. Through the generous support of its donors, the Kubly Foundation funds quality mental health projects that aim to reduce suicide and the stigma associated with depression and provide education and resource information. For more information about the Charles E. Kubly Foundation, visit www.charlesekublyfoundation.org, email info@charlesekublyfoundation.org or call 414-962-0918.

About Advancing Suicide Prevention

A unique strategic health policy magazine, Advancing Suicide Prevention presents the state of the science and policy on suicide prevention from diverse perspectives and for diverse audiences. These include over 20,000 leaders and key decision makers in health care, social and human services, policy development, advocacy, education and training, research, legal and judicial arenas, law enforcement, corrections, crisis intervention, risk management and pastoral counseling. This bimonthly, full-color 36-page magazine is published by PDV Foundation, Inc., a Wisconsin-based nonprofit magazine publisher serving the mental health and social services arenas. For more information about Advancing Suicide Prevention including how to advertise or subscribe, visit www.advancingsp.org, email info@advancingsp.com or call 920-457-4033.

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