

# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2024

CHESTER COUNTY  
 **SUICIDE**  
**PREVENTION**  
PARTNERSHIP



## ABOUT US

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Chester County Suicide Prevention Partnership (CCSPP) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that partners with organizations, business owners, survivors, survivors of loss, school professionals, mental health professionals and really anyone who has a passion for suicide prevention. Through collaborative efforts, we work to develop suicide prevention strategies to reduce the risk, stigma, and occurrence of suicide in Chester County, Pennsylvania.



Pictured: CCSP Board members, CCSP Partners, Chester County Dept. MH/IDD Staff, and Chester County Commissioners.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**SUSANNE FINK**  
CHAIR

**BRANDON MAY**  
TREASURER

**TRACY BEHRINGER**  
SECRETARY

**LILLIAN MILLER**  
BOARD MEMBER

**DR. RENÉE CASSIDY**  
BOARD MEMBER

**ANDREW REIGLE**  
BOARD MEMBER

## DEAR CCSP PARTNERS,

2024 was a very exciting time for us! This year we became an official 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, developed a strategic plan, secured a grant which allowed us to add programming, and much more!

Our continued hope is to be a resource for suicide prevention in Chester County while also providing support to those who need it.

We are so grateful for your partnership and support!

*Kate Siolek*

**KATE SIOLEK**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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# STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2024, CCSPP gathered key partners to develop a three (3) year strategic plan. The overall goals of the strategic plan are to:



**Expand programming and community awareness to reach more people in Chester County.**



**Build the organizational infrastructure to support the accomplishment of our mission.**

**To read the full Strategic Plan, scan the QR Code:**





*New*

## A FOCUS ON LETHAL MEANS + VETERAN INITIATIVES

In 2024, CCSPP received funding to expand efforts to include lethal means safety and suicide prevention focused on Veterans. This expansion includes: CALM (Counseling on Access to Lethal Means) Clinical Workshops, Connections: Trauma and Suicide Training, and Veteran suicide prevention community initiatives.

Why?

Why?

Why?

Why?

Why?

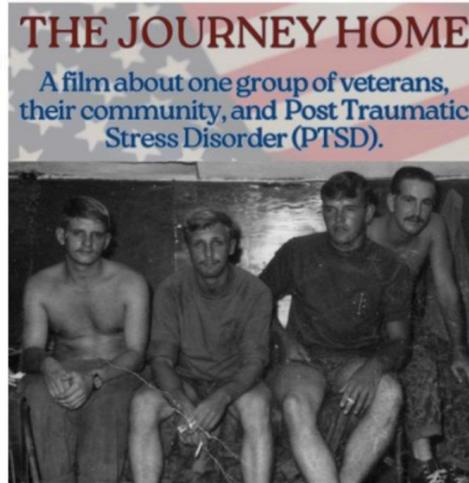
Why?

Why?

How?

Why?

Why?



*New*  
VETERAN COMMUNITY INITIATIVE  
**THE JOURNEY HOME**  
**FILM SCREENING & PANEL**

In honor of Veteran and Military Families Month, CCSPP held the first film screening of "The Journey Home" which included an expert panel discussion. This is a powerful film that documents the experience of local Veterans and their transition back home. For many, this journey can involve Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) which can lead to feelings of isolation, depression, and hopelessness. This film seeks to tell the bigger story by focusing on the lives of Veterans, their families and caring community members in small town Pennsylvania. CCSPP will hold 3 more screenings of "The Journey Home" in 2025-2026.

**We had 7 resource tables, 29 community members, and 4 panelists join the film screening!**



Pictured above is the AFSP training group which our facilitators attended.

# SUICIDE LOSS SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP

EST. JANUARY 2024

Loss to suicide is different from other losses. The grief which family, friends and colleagues experience is often layered with many questions and feelings of guilt, shame, anger or despair. As such, CCSPP created a support group for these survivors of suicide loss to find connections, strength and hope.

**In 2024, we ran 12 support groups which had 17 community members join.**

# EDUCATION:

# CONNECTIONS: TRAUMA & SUICIDE

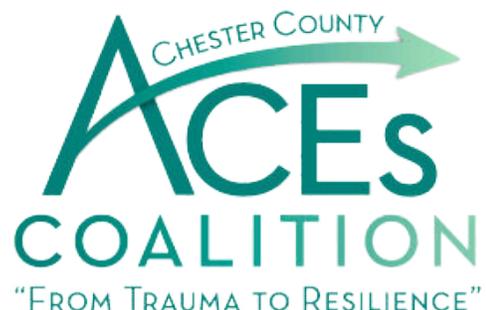
45

PARTICIPANTS  
REACHED IN 2024

3

COMMUNITY  
TRAININGS IN 2024

CCSPP partnered with the Chester County ACE's (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Coalition to expand the training, Connections: Trauma and Suicide in Chester County. This training explores trauma as a risk factor for suicide and conversely, the trauma experienced after the loss to suicide. Topics discussed in this training are: risk factors and signs of suicide, types of grief associated with suicide, how trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are connected to suicide and prevention strategies to reduce impact of trauma and suicide on families.



# EDUCATION: COUNSELING ON ACCESS TO LETHAL MEANS (CALM)

24

PARTICIPANTS  
REACHED IN 2024

100%

OF RESPONDENTS  
AGREE THAT  
THE TRAINING

“ADDRESSED AN ASPECT OF  
SUICIDE PREVENTION THAT IS  
OFTEN OVERLOOKED.”

CCSPP held one of four CALM Clinical Workshop instructed by Dr. JP Jameson of Appalachian State University and CEO of CALM America. Dr. Jameson demonstrated his depth of knowledge in suicidology encouraging attendees to think critically about the importance of asking “how” someone might attempt suicide, in addition to the more commonly asked question, “why”. The audience for this training was primarily mental and behavioral health professionals.



# EDUCATION:

## QUESTION, PERSUADE, REFER (QPR)

**3,090**  
STUDENTS  
TRAINED



Ask A Question,  
Save A Life.  
QUESTION. PERSUADE. REF

**506**  
COMMUNITY  
MEMBERS TRAINED

**38**  
COMMUNITY  
TRAININGS

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, Refer – 3 simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver 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 the help they need.

CCSPP implements QPR in the community and through a partnership with the Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU), QPR is implemented in Chester County schools.

# EDUCATION:

## MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID (MHFA)

**21**

**ADULT  
CLASSES**

**288**

**YOUTH  
CLASSES**

**3**

**TRAINED IN  
ADULT MODEL**

**40**

**TRAINED IN  
YOUTH MODEL**

Just like regular First Aid which can help someone in a medical emergency until help arrives, Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) can help someone in a mental health emergency until appropriate treatment and support are received or until the crisis resolves. This evidence based public education program introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental illness and suicide.

MHFA trainings are offered free to the community through a partnership between the Chester County Office of MHIDD and the Chester County Suicide Prevention Partnership.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH: 1,000+ PEOPLE REACHED



CCSPP Partners Meeting  
A Haven Community Breakfast  
Chester County SAP District Council  
Finding Hope through Resilience Walk  
Veteran Affairs Resource Fair  
VA 5K for Suicide Prevention  
Connections: Trauma and Resilience Training  
Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation at Commissioners Meeting  
Suicide Prevention Month WCHE Radio Show  
ACE's Resilience Champions  
Longwood Rotary Club  
Faith & Wellness Event  
Downtown Communities that Care (CTC)  
St. John Vianney Center  
Great Valley High School Student Club  
The Journey Home Film Screening

# SOCIAL MEDIA: 40,000+ IMPRESSIONS

**27,400+**

FACEBOOK

**10,900+**

INSTAGRAM

**2,300+**

LINKEDIN

# Follow Us on Social Media



Let's Get Connected for Our Latest News & Updates



*CCSPP Website*

Find us on



*Instagram*



**We couldn't have done it  
without your generous  
support.**

*Thank you*

**to our donors,  
volunteers, and  
community partners.**

