A photograph of the Williamsburg County Courthouse, a large, light-colored building with a prominent portico supported by columns. A wide staircase leads up to the portico. To the left of the courthouse is a tall, dark monument. The building is surrounded by trees and a low fence.

## *Williamsburg County Courthouse*

### *Williamsburg County*

# *Answering the Call to Action*

In South Carolina, a person dies every eleven hours by suicide. There are more than 44,000 deaths by suicide each year. More lives are lost to suicide than to road traffic accidents or homicide.

The Call to Action has been shaped by what stakeholders believe is important.

The achievements of the Call


to Action are strongly dependent on the will and commitment of stakeholders to take action and to work together.

#### **Help us fight suicide**

- Engage organizations and communities so that together each of us plays their individual role in reducing suicide
- Seek to achieve real change by prioritizing a few of the most

important issues to focus our joint energies on

- Recognize the good work already underway and help stakeholders share and coordinate activity
- Make us all more accountable for what we have promised to do because we have publicly stated our commitment

A photograph of The Old Mill, a historic building with a tall, red brick chimney. The mill is surrounded by lush green trees and a grassy area. A white car is parked in front of the mill, and a blue car is partially visible on the right. The sky is clear and blue.

## *The Old Mill*

### *Lexington County*



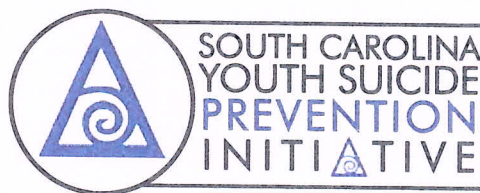
## **FOR EMERGENCIES**

If an individual is in immediate danger  
or poses a threat to someone else,  
please call **911**

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
**1-800-273-8255**

Crisis Text Line  
Text "HOME" to **741741**

- A clear, simple, publicly accessible, universal, accurate data collection method, which produces more timely and accurate statistics of suicides, serious self-harm events, etc.



## **South Carolina Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative (SCYSPI)**

**What we do:** The South Carolina Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative is a grant program of the Department of Mental Health (DMH). We are federally funded and evaluated by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

We have been tasked with reducing the instance of suicide among youth and young adults ages 10 to 24 in South Carolina. However, our systemic efforts positively impact the health and wellness of diverse populations across the lifespan.

We promote strength, resiliency, and hope for young people and their families by developing collaborative partnerships with statewide community-based organizations, state and local agencies, hospitals, inpatient facilities, academic institutions and many others who work together to reduce the incidents of suicide in youth and young adults throughout our state.

**What we aim to do:** To achieve our mission, we seek out and involve community partners and have built a coalition focused on preventing suicide in youth and young adults. We believe our role within the suicide prevention process works best when youth, young adults, survivors, those left behind by suicide, and professional and community stakeholders work together to:

- Understand cultural barriers associated with the topic of suicide prevention and grief support
- Be open, respectful and inclusive to the diversity in all lived experiences
- Provide access to information and resources

## **STATE AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS**



### **South Carolina Department of Mental Health**

**What we do:** We aim to prevent suicides in South Carolina by de-stigmatizing suicide and increasing awareness through preventative services and training, campaigning for social policy change and contributing locally, regionally and nationally to implement an achievable cross-sector strategy.

#### **What we aim to do:**

- Work with schools to improve outcomes for children and young people with social, emotional or behavioural difficulties
- Strengthen regional SCYSPI partnerships
- Train in young suicide prevention
- Campaign for change in problem areas
- Hold strategic meetings with local & regional leads

#### **How we would like to work with others:**

Promote mental health and emotional wellbeing of all children and young people by:

- Reducing stigma
- Provide effective, easily accessible and acceptable mental health services for children and young people.
- Institute a common, unbranded, online portal where people can find help
- A universally accepted standard against which every health or public service provider can be assessed and which assures everyone can get appropriate support when trying to prevent a suicide



# Resources near and far | *Help around the corner*

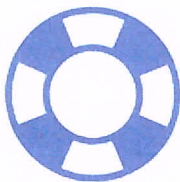
- Instill hope and advocate for programs and services that enhance community awareness
- Intervene and provide a space for those who are lonely, depressed, and suicidal or grieving the loss of someone by suicide to be heard
- Embrace recovery and nonjudgmental listening as the means for communicating and connecting with those affected by suicide

## How we would like to work with others:

- Implore South Carolina schools to adopt our Suicide Prevention School-Based Program
- ZeroSuicide Program Implementation in health and behavioral health care settings
- Provide access to information and resources
- Best-Practice Suicide Safe Policy and Protocol development
- Follow-up / Aftercare planning and development
- Destigmatization and awareness strategies
- Tiered comprehensive best practice for community members and multi-disciplinary audiences
- Cultural competency trainings focused on high-risk populations (i.e. LGBTQ+ populations, individuals living with serious mental mental illnesses, etc.)
- Coalition and task force development
- Postvention consultation

## Contact information:

**South Carolina Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative**  
 2205 Main Street  
 Columbia, SC 29201  
 Phone: (803) 896-4740  
 Email: [scyspi@gmail.com](mailto:scyspi@gmail.com)  
 Website: [scyspi.org](http://scyspi.org)



**American  
Foundation  
for Suicide  
Prevention**

## American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) – South Carolina Chapter

**What we do:** Our grassroots work focuses on eliminating the loss of life from suicide in South Carolina by delivering innovative prevention programs, educating the public about risk factors and warning signs, raising funds for suicide research and pro-

grams, and reaching out to those individuals who have lost someone to suicide.

We bring together people from all backgrounds who want to prevent suicide in our communities. Families and friends who have lost someone to suicide, vulnerable individuals, mental health professionals, clergy, educators, students, community/business leaders, and many others energize our chapter.

**What we aim to do:** As an organization that is dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide, AFSP creates a culture that's smart about mental health by engaging in the following core strategies:

- Funding of scientific research
- Educating the public about mental health and suicide prevention
- Advocating for public policies in mental health and suicide prevention
- Supporting survivors of suicide loss and those affected by suicide.

## How we would like to work with others:

### Research

AFSP began as a research organization dedicated to finding the best ways to prevent suicide. Much of what is known about suicide comes from studies that AFSP has funded. Our studies open up new areas of inquiry, and our council of scientific advisers helps set the national research agenda.

- Encourage research and promote AFSP research opportunities.

### Education

**Talk Saves Lives™ Training:** A community-based presentation that covers the general scope of suicide, the research on prevention, and what people can do to fight suicide.

- Conduct Talk Saves Lives™ presentations throughout the state to educate South Carolinians on the risk and warning signs of suicide, and how together, we can help prevent it. Talk Saves Lives is also available in Spanish and in the following additional modules: Firearm Owners, Seniors, and LGBT.

**Mental Health First Aid Training:** In a partnership with the National Council for Behavioral Health, AFSP chapters host Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) train-



ings. MHFA is an eight-hour training that teaches participants a five-step action plan to help someone who is suffering from a mental health crisis.

- Provide MHFA training to teach participants an action plan to help someone in distress.

**SafeTALK:** A Living Works program, SafeTALK is a half-day alertness workshop that prepares anyone over the age of 15, regardless of prior experience or training, to become a suicide alert helper.

**Seniors and Suicide brochure and literature:** distribution of our Seniors and Suicide brochure and literature with the Governor's Office on Aging and locations affiliated with senior programs and outreach.

### College Campuses

- Implement AFSP's signature intervention program, the **Interactive Screening Program (ISP)** at additional SC colleges
- Grow **Out of the Darkness Campus Walks** on SC college campuses
- Provide the AFSP-produced film **It's Real: College Students and Mental Health** that is designed to raise awareness about mental health issues commonly experienced by students, and is intended to be used as part of a school's educational program to encourage help-seeking. The film and guide encourage students to be mindful of the state of their mental health, to acknowledge and recognize when they are struggling, and to take steps to seek help.

### Middle Schools and High Schools

- Continue to train school counselors and educators to deliver **More Than Sad: Suicide Prevention Education for Teachers and Other School Personnel** and **More Than Sad: Teen Depression**
- Implement training programs for parents with **More Than Sad: Parent Training**
- Promote **Signs Matter** online program for K-12 Educators

### Advocacy

- Sponsor Advocacy Events for legislators to bring attention to policies that can make a difference in saving lives
- Recruit new volunteers for Field Advocate Program
- Continue partnerships and/or task groups with SC Department of Education, Department of Mental

Health, and DHEC - SC Violent Death Reporting System.

- Continue to build relationships with the military and veterans through summits, workshops and other program activities with Fort Jackson, South Carolina National Guard, Veterans Administrations, and the Veterans Policy Academy.

### Support survivors of suicide loss

- Provide programs and resources for healing as well as volunteer opportunities for survivors who find meaning in supporting their peers.
- Promote **Survivors Outreach Program**. In the aftermath of a suicide, trained AFSP suicide loss survivor volunteers meet in person, by phone, or video chat with the newly bereaved to provide support and resources.
- Provide host sites for **International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day** held yearly the Saturday before Thanksgiving. On Survivor Day, people affected by suicide loss gather in local communities to find comfort and gain understanding as stories of healing and hope are shared.

**Administer AFSP's signature Out of the Darkness Community Walks** to increase suicide prevention awareness and provide support to those affected by suicide.

### Contact information:

#### AFSP South Carolina Chapter

Office: 803-667-9853 Mobile: 803-552-9318

Email: [southcarolina@afsp.org](mailto:southcarolina@afsp.org)

Website: [www.afsp.org/southcarolina](http://www.afsp.org/southcarolina)



### National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) South Carolina

**What we do:** NAMI is the nation's largest grass-roots mental health nonprofit organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. One in four adults and one in five youth are affected by mental health conditions. We are working to dispel the myths and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness through sup-



# Resources near and far | *Help around the corner*

port, education and advocacy in South Carolina.

## What we aim to do:

- Support individuals living with a mental health condition and their families through free area support groups
- Offer free education presentation programs for students, school staff and families which includes warning signs and symptoms for mental health conditions, facts and statistics. There is a portion of each of the three Ending the Silence programs that focuses on suicide awareness and prevention.
- Offer free presentations (Ending the Silence, In Our Own Voice) and course presentations (Family-to-Family, NAMI Basics, Homefront, Peer-to-Peer, Provider Education, Crisis Intervention Training) in the community and to individuals living with mental health conditions and their families.
- Collaborate with partners and advocate to raise awareness and bring more services to South Carolina.

## How we would like to work with others:

- A common, unbranded, online portal where people can find help.
- A universally accepted standard against where all service providers can be assessed to assure everyone can get appropriate support when trying to prevent a suicide.
- A clear, simple, publicly accessible, universal, accurate data collection method, which produces more timely and accurate statistics of suicides, and serious self-harm events.

## Contact information:

NAMI South Carolina  
P.O. Box 1267  
Columbia, SC 29202  
(803) 733-9591



**Mental Health America of South Carolina**  
(803) 779-5363



## South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA)

**What we do:** SCCADVASA is the statewide coalition of organizations providing intervention services to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault and Primary Prevention programs to students and communities across the state.

**What we aim to do:** We work towards ending domestic and sexual violence in South Carolina and beyond through engaging individuals and communities in advocacy, collaboration and education. We advocate for the transformative social change that will result in a society free of violence, push for policy changes that support survivors, and provide education and technical assistance to build the capacity of our members, allied organizations and communities to provide trauma-informed and survivor-centered services.

## How we would like to work with others:

- Collaborate in preventing all forms of violence and trauma and understanding how our work can contribute to the overall goal of greater safety for everyone in the state.
- Support allied organizations in understanding the dynamics of sexual and domestic violence and the diverse needs of survivors when they access services.
- Incorporate suicide prevention strategies into services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence.



**Contact Information:**

Phone: 803-256-2900

Mail: P.O. Box 7776

Columbia, SC 29202

Email: [info@sccadvasa.org](mailto:info@sccadvasa.org)



## **SOUTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD**

### **South Carolina National Guard (SCNG) Suicide Prevention Program**

**What we do:** *"One suicide is one too many."*

Our goal is to improve awareness through the development and enhancement of the Suicide Prevention Program policies designed to minimize suicide behavior and reduce the stigma to facilitate the willingness to seek Behavioral Health treatment, thereby preserving life through individual readiness for service members, their families, and the citizens of South Carolina. The end state of this goal is to have Zero Suicides in South Carolina, and to build a Suicide-Safer Community.

**What we aim to do:**

- Educate our population about the resources both military and civilian around South Carolina
- Use Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) and Ask, Care, Escort (ACE) to prepare our Military and Community Leaders to Engage with someone who is having Suicidal Thoughts and Empower them with the ability listen, show compassion, and encourage self-motivation to seek and receive Behavioral Health treatment.

#### **Applied Suicide Intervention Training (ASIST)**

ASIST is a two day course developed by living works education. The Key learning objective is awareness of person at risk concerns, caregiver tasks, and development of intervention skills using an internationally known suicide intervention model. ASIST two day workshops are coordinated one a month throughout the year by the Suicide Prevention Program Manager (SPPM) of SCNG.

#### **Ask, Care, Escort (ACE)**

ACE training equips personnel with the skills necessary to recognize suicidal signs and symptoms and basic intervention techniques.

- Consistently be a Voice to all levels of leadership in the importance of providing Suicide Prevention Training and Awareness activities and events throughout our units and in our local community.
- Attend State, Regional, and Local Coalition and other policy meetings to coordinate our efforts with other Leaders in the Suicide Prevention Community.

#### **How we would like to work with others:**

- We coordinate with the ASIST Trainers from all community partners to provide ASIST training anywhere in SC.
- We have a page where everyone can find out what our resources are [www.facebook.com/SCNGSP-PM](http://www.facebook.com/SCNGSP-PM).
- SCNG provides 8 Centers around SC that have a Behavioral Health Specialist that is licensed and ASIST trained.
- We provide Speaking Presentations for one hour or up to an all-day workshop.
- Our Volunteers from the SCNG provide over 500 hours of service to assist various Suicide Prevention Organizations around SC.

#### **Contact information:**

**SFC Christopher Allen**

R2 Suicide Prevention Program Manager

Office: 803.299.2736

Cell: 803.727.2092

Email: [christopher.j.allen2.mil@mail.mil](mailto:christopher.j.allen2.mil@mail.mil)



The South Carolina Suicide Prevention Coalition would like to thank the numerous photography talents who donated their artwork to this document.

Your contributions capture the beauty and history of our beloved state from perspectives and through artistic lenses as diverse and unique as the residents who call The Palmetto State home.

## **Abbeville County**

**Abbeville Court Square** — Page 4

Photo by L. Kukainis

[femmeaufoyer2011.blogspot.com](http://femmeaufoyer2011.blogspot.com)

## **Aiken County**

**Aiken Horse Track** — Page 6

Photo by Scott Scheetz

<http://www.scottscheetzphotography.com>

## **Allendale County**

**Allendale County Courthouse** — Page 25

Wikimedia free-use image

## **Anderson County**

**Hartwell Dam** — Page 8

(Name)

## **Bamberg County**

**Southern Railway Depot in Denmark, SC** — Page 9

Photo by Earl C. Leatherberry

## **Barnwell County**

**Vertical Sundial at the County Courthouse** — Page 11

Photo by Jonathan Vickery

## **Beaufort County**

**Harbor Town Lighthouse - Blue Hour** — Page 12

Photo by Dan Clouser, donated in honor

of his step-son, Tanner Rowell, lost to suicide in 2016

[flickr.com/photos/propeakphotography](https://www.flickr.com/photos/propeakphotography)

## **Berkeley County**

**Cypress Gardens** — Page 13

Photo by Louann Harkey

## **Calhoun County**

**Trestle at Low Falls Landing** — Page 14

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## **Charleston County**

**Rainbow Row** — Page 15

Photo by Cindy Lark Hartman

**Ravenel Bridge** — Page 15

Photo by Curtis Cabana; owner of Curtis Cabana Photography based in Summerville, S.C. The photo of the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge was taken (by me) in March 2016 from the pier at Waterfront Park in Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

## **Cherokee County**

**The Peachoid - "Big Ole Peach"** — Page 16

Photo by Mike Legeros

## **Chester County**

**Chester Town Square** — Page 17

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## **Chesterfield County**

**Dizzy Gillespie Tribute Statue** — Page 11

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**Lake Marion** — Page 15

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**Walterboro Courthouse** — Page 13

Photo by Keven T. Boyd; KBoyd\_87

## **Darlington County**

**Darlington Speedway** — Page 20

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## **Dillon County**

**Little Pee Dee State Park** — Page 18

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**Old Dorchester ruins** — Page 42

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**Bettis Academy & Junior College** — Page 19

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**Palmetto Trail Bridge** — Page 27

Photo by Jason Taylor, Fairfield County Administrator

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Raven Cliff Falls — Page 22

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Ware Shoals Dam — Page 22

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Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin

National Wildlife Refuge — Page 22

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Myrtle Beach Skywheel — Page 7

Photo by Michael Kim; [hellomyrealtor@yahoo.com](mailto:hellomyrealtor@yahoo.com)

**Jasper County**

Sergeant Jasper Park — Page 24

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**Kershaw County**

Camden Revolutionary War Site — Page 23

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**Lancaster County**

Waxhaw Presbyterian Church Cemetery — Page 27

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**Laurens County**

Musgrove Mill Historic Site — Page 27

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Pearl Fryar Topiary Gardens — Page 40

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**Lexington County**

The Old Mill — Page 44

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**Marion County**

Francis Marion Memorial Statue — Page 27

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Marlboro County Courthouse — Page 28

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Newberry Opera House — Page 34

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Claflin University — Page 29

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Memorial Stadium (Clemson) — Page 26

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Game Day at Williams-Brice Stadium — Page 32

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School for the Deaf and Blind Walker Hall - Page 37

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Swan Lake — Page 10

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**Williamsburg County**

Williamsburg County Courthouse — Page 44

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**York County**

Winthrop University — Page 21

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# References

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URL: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/suicideTechnicalPackage.pdf>
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