

Contact Us...

If you would like more information on SASS or any of its activities, please feel free to visit us on the web at: www.SASS-MoKan.com. We can also be reached by phone or email:

Sheila Osborn
(816) 931-0030

Mickey & Bonnie Swade
(913) 681-3050



For more information email us at:
info@SASS-MoKan.com

Community friends...

Working together...
because suicide is everyone's business



D.W. NEWCOMER'S SONS
Funeral Homes • Crematories • Cemeteries



The Nation's Voice on Mental Illness



For a complete list of our community friends please visit our website: www.SASS-MoKan.com.



SASS-MoKan
P.O. Box 23242
Stanley, KS 66223



Suicide Awareness Survivor Support

Serving the MOKAN area



www.SASS-MoKan.com

Everyone's Business

SASS Mokan is dedicated to increasing awareness about suicide to the community through education, survivor support, and collaboration with community partners. We sincerely feel that "Suicide is everyone's business." With this in mind, SASS has five steps that we're taking to make sure that "Suicide is everyone's business." Those steps are: Education; Public awareness; Networking with healthcare agencies; Uniting survivors; and Providing information to area support groups. For more information on these steps, visit: www.SASS-Mokan.com.

Education

SASS works to foster greater understanding and sensitivity dealing with the traumatic grief experienced by survivors. Our educational efforts combat the stigma and shame associated with suicide by distributing educational materials based on facts, speaking throughout the community and creating and aiding support groups for survivors.

Public Awareness

SASS speaks as needed about the reality of suicide through our speaker's bureau. To schedule a presentation please call (913) 681-3050 or email us at info@SASS-Mokan.com. We distribute written facts based on educational information free of charge to the public and other agencies as requested. We support community initiatives by working with local agencies in an effort to increase school outreach programs to decrease teen suicide. We also collaborate with the media every chance we get to promote that "Suicide is Everyone's Business."

Networking with Agencies

SASS actively seeks collaboration with other agencies to support their efforts in educating about suicide, its aftermath and dispelling stigma/myths associated with suicide. SASS is currently partnered with and supported by New Directions Behavioral Health and NAMI of Greater Kansas City.

Uniting Survivors

SASS unites survivors of suicide (family, friends, etc.) by organizing community support groups throughout the MOKAN metropolitan area. These support groups are peer led and open to anyone grieving from the death of a suicide. SASS also holds an annual remembrance walk in September and a remembrance service in December for those affected by a traumatic death. Thus, it becomes a gathering place to share with others and celebrate the lives of those we have lost.

INDEPENDENCE SOS

Meets the first Tues. of the month

Robin Minzes

(816) 373-8479

Sheila Osborn

(816) 931-0030

ST. JOSEPH SOS

Meets the second Tues. of the month

Reverend Scott Killgore

(816) 232-3374

SHAWNEE MISSION SOS

Meets the second and fourth Tues. of the month

Bonnie and Mickey Swade

(913) 681-3050

LAWRENCE SOS

Meets two Tuesdays of the month

Marcia Epstein

(785) 841-2345

TOPEKA SOS

Meets the first and third Tues. of the month

Steve Newcomer

(785) 478-4947

For other sites, info@SASS-Mokan.com

NATIONAL SUICIDE LIFELINE

1-800-273-TALK (8255) • 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433)

Providing Information to Support Groups

SASS collects and distributes information for survivors that are disseminated at support group meetings. This information includes literature from the American Association of Suicidology, -American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Advancing Suicide Prevention, relevant books and DVDs on suicide and clinical intervention. As support groups continue to increase in the MOKAN area SASS will work to network, collaborate, and share materials and maintain an up-to-date bibliography on current books and websites.

Did You Know?

- 1) More than 32,000 people kill themselves each year.
- 2) Homicide claimed the lives of 526 Kansans and Missourians in 2006. However, suicide killed more than double that number.
- 3) Hispanic adolescent girls have a higher rate of suicide than non-Hispanic.
- 4) Suicide is now the third leading cause of death among African-American men between the ages of 10-24 years of age.
- 5) Deliberate suicide actions have occurred in children as young as seven years old.
- 6) Most people experience some suicidal thinking at brief periods in the course of life.
- 7) There is no single reason for suicide.
- 8) Guns are used in 60% of suicide deaths in the U.S. and are the leading method among nearly all groups.
- 9) Older persons have a higher prevalence of depression, a greater use of highly lethal methods and social isolation.
- 10) Suicide rates among the elderly are highest for those who are divorced or widowed.
- 11) Males are four times more likely to die from suicide than are females. However, females are more likely to attempt suicide than are males.
- 12) Suicide can be preventable and does not have to be an option.