

October 19, 2017

**Please support The Samaritans
2017/2018 Municipal Campaign**

As you know, many families in, and around your community, have been affected by suicide. One in six people are directly affected. **An average of 225 NH residents die by suicide each year. NH loses someone to suicide every 36 hours!!!**


Since 1981, The Samaritans have maintained **the only** completely confidential and anonymous, volunteer staffed suicide prevention hotline in the Monadnock Region and in the state of New Hampshire. Our compassionate volunteers help the lonely, depressed and suicidal of all ages throughout New Hampshire. We also provide prevention programs and help families after they've lost someone. The Monadnock United Way supports a portion of our program, but for the remainder, we must rely on individual donors and the continued support of local towns to sustain our programs.

For 2017/2018, we are requesting a \$250 municipal grant to help maintain our crisis hotline for those who are lonely, isolated, depressed or suicidal. We provide a local (603-357-5505) and toll free in NH (1-866-457-2910) crisis hotline, a weekly support group for those who've lost a friend or loved one to suicide (A Safe Place), Educational and Outreach programs to businesses, schools and organizations and provide deeply meaningful volunteer experiences. We never charge for any of our programs or services.

Together, we can continue our efforts in suicide prevention through partnerships with all NH cities and towns. Collaboration and communication are integral to prevention.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request and for your past support. If you have any questions, about our hotline or other programs, please don't hesitate to call our business office at (603) 357-5510 or visit www.samaritansnh.org.

Sincerely,


Carmen Trafton
Executive Director

Someone in NH dies by suicide every 36 hours.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death in New Hampshire (after accidental injury) for individuals age 10 to 34. It is the fourth leading cause of death in NH for individuals age 35 to 54 (after accidental injury, cancer, and heart disease).

As a group, white males age 85 and older have the highest suicide rate in NH. Individuals age 65 and up represent just 12 percent of the NH population, however, they account for more than 15.75 percent of the suicide deaths.

Throughout his career vicar Chad Varah had offered counseling to his parishioners, and wanted to do something more specific to help people struggling to cope and possibly contemplating suicide. He launched a crisis hotline that he called a "999 for the suicidal". The first call to the new service was made on 2nd November 1953 and this date is recognized as Samaritans' official birthday. The Keene, NH chapter was founded in 1981. We serve the Monadnock Region and beyond. We are not affiliated with any other Samaritans or religious organizations. We are governed by a local volunteer Board of Directors and follow all city, state and federal regulations.

Our mission is to reduce the incidence and impact of suicide.

Samaritan volunteers answer crisis hotline calls from those who are lonely, isolated, depressed and suicidal.

We offer the only confidential, anonymous crisis hotlines in NH.

Local: 1-603-357-5505

Toll Free in NH: 1-866-457-2910

We NEVER charge for ANY of our programs or services.

We provide outreach, education, training, volunteer experience, support, prevention and postvention services.

We provide a free, weekly, confidential, closed support group, **A Safe Place**, for those who've lost a friend, or loved one to suicide.

Call 603-357-5510 or email director@samaritansnh.org for meeting time and location.

The Samaritans is a non-profit, 501©3 charitable organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

