

Good morning Jason,

Reaching out to let you know we finally received check yesterday from Kaukauna Suicide Awareness, after they deposited funds for BENS HOPE event, that you so kindly donated per our application. We truly appreciate your support for the 2nd annual BENS HOPE event and our outreach efforts as noted below:

June 15, 2016 - Terry and I spoke as guest speakers at the 135 WI Annual Funeral Directors Association Convention in WI Dells.

August 2, 2016 - We along with other participants from SOS spoke at Southwest Health Center to the EMS Crew.

August 16 & 18 - We along with other participants from SOS spoke both evenings in effort to educate/share/train with the Platteville Police Department.

September 6, 2016 – Terry and I met with Daryl from Queen B and were interviewed to share our story, discuss SOS efforts and promote BENS HOPE event.

September 15 – We and others from SOS will be speaking at UWP - panel presentation.

September 19 – We and others from SOS will be speaking to EMS crew out of Dickeyville.

September 21 - Terry and I were invited by Medical Examiner Tim Candahl from La Crosse WI to attend La Crosse Area Suicide Prevention Summit, with his interest to have us as possible speakers at future events.

September 24, 2016 - We will be hosting 2nd annual BENS HOPE 5K/2 mile event in Platteville.

September 27, 2016 - Terry and I will be speaking with ladies church group.

September 29, 2016 - Terry and I accepted invite from Coordinator/Kathy Hottenstein, to speak to Tri County Response Team following speaking by a Veteran who received purple heart award and contemplated suicide himself and lost his brother to suicide.

October 12, 2016 - Terry and I will be presenting at CESA 3 to group of counselors from various schools, in an effort to get into their schools and speak to students. It is our desire to take a preventative/proactive approach so the students better understand that suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary situation. We hope sharing our story of Ben's suicide and the aftermath of it, will impact the students and help them realize life will bring good times and hard times, but the hard times pass and hope is offered with each new moment and day.

It is truly our desire to spare other families from bearing the hardships and pain that our family has dealt with since Ben's suicide. While we can't change the outcome of Ben's decision and bring him back, we feel strongly, that by sharing our real life story, it will open the ears and eyes to others. And if by speaking on this tough topic of suicide we can educate others, bring awareness, offer support, and reduce the stigma, then we've accomplished much. And we believe that our efforts may be the saving grace some are seeking.

God bless and thank you again so very much for your generous donation to help us make the difference in the lives of many....

Sincerely,
Patti & Terry Cullen

Thank you,