

# Grant Us Hope

April 2019

Ohio and Northern Kentucky's provider of Hope Squad

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

We believe that EVERY school in Ohio needs a Hope Squad to help young people grow up safe, healthy and strong. To do that, we need the support of many who, like us, believe every life has value.

To reach our goal, we need support from individuals and organizations who know that investing in kids is an investment in our collective future.

As you think about those causes you choose to support, please keep Grant Us Hope in mind. As we grow, we have a unique opportunity to make an immediate difference.

Please consider making a donation to support youth across Ohio and Northern Kentucky. Donations can be made on our website at [www.grantushope.org](http://www.grantushope.org) or by sending your donation to:

Grant Us Hope  
4010 Executive Park Dr.  
Suite 320  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

## THANK YOU!

On Friday, March 8, Grant Us Hope presented to the employees of Ingage Partners competing in the "Pay it Forward Cincinnati" competition. GUH WON! The grant of \$41,000 will result in ten rural schools starting Hope Squads next school year. Ingage will also provide 100 hours of technical assistance to set up a distance learning program that will eliminate the barrier of distance.

We are so thankful to the family of Ingage Partners who choose Grant Us Hope as the 2019 recipient. Working together, we know we are going to be able to save more lives!



Executive Director Keith Kline accepts check from Ingage Partners employees. The grant will allow GUH to expand Hope Squad to rural schools through distance learning.

## First Annual Ohio Hope Squad Conference a Hit!

At the request of Hope Squad members and advisors, Grant Us Hope held the first Ohio Hope Squad Conference on March 11 at the Sharonville Convention Center. Over 500 attended hearing presentations on growing leadership, how emergency hotlines work and how to impact the culture of their school. Participants also had time to network and share ideas with Hope Squad members from other schools across the city.

GUH Founder Diane Egbers shared "Today was absolutely remarkable. To have this much enthusiasm and excitement about what is going on with Hope Squad in our region has been amazing. Both students and advisors are even more prepared to support their schools around mental wellness and suicide prevention."

Pictures from the event are located on the back of this newsletter.

### What's in this Month's Newsletter

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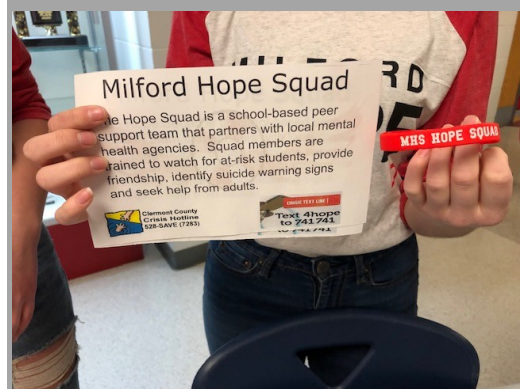
2019 Ohio Hope Squad  
Conference



because **YOUR** life matters



## Ohio Hope Squad of the Month: Milford High School



Implementing Hope Squad was both a personal, and professional mission of our superintendent, Nancy House. Milford has a history of being ahead of the curve with regards to mental health supports and services, and Hope Squad is yet another manifestation of the degree of commitment we have to our students' mental and emotional wellbeing. In addition to our partnership with two on-site mental health agencies, we hired our own mental health provider in the winter of 2018 to coordinate the district's mental health services, engage in crisis intervention/conduct risk-assessments, and oversee the successful implementation of Hope Squad at Milford High School.

In the fall of 2018, we officially launched as a Hope Squad school. As part of our kickoff, we had our Hope Squad members announced and introduced at our homecoming pep-rally in front of the entire student body. They were recognized for their trustworthiness, honesty, kindness, reliability, and character. This helped open the pathway for students to identify and approach our Hope Squad members when they need support, and it served as an experiential reminder for our Hope Squad members of their value within the school/among their peers.

Part of being a Hope Squad member at Milford requires being visible, available, and engaged with peers. We kept this in mind when designing our Hope Squad shirts, which display a large life-preserver with our eagle wings on the back, as well as a personalized last name on each shirt. This has assisted our Hope Squad members in being easily identified by their peers, while reinforcing a sense of unity, teamwork, and dedication among members.

Since the launch of our Hope Squad, we have worked diligently to ensure that our Hope Squad is engaged both at the school, and community level. We set up and ran a free gift- wrapping table at our local Christmas craft show that hosts thousands of attendees. This was a great opportunity to further inform the public/community about our Hope Squad, and for our students to serve the community in a unique way.

Most recently, our Hope Squad set up a table at our senior night basketball game where they handed out MHS Hope Squad bracelets, as well as flyers with information on Hope Squad, and crisis hotline and text-line information to the public. Our attending Hope Squad members were recognized in front of a large audience during half-time, and they were able to interact with fellow students and the public to promote suicide awareness and prevention!

We have seen great activity and utilization with this program, and since November of 2018, our Hope Squad members have already provided support and/or interacted with over 120 different students. Hope Squad goes beyond suicide prevention, it helps establish a community that supports mental health while destigmatizing mental illness, it spreads kindness and compassion, it is a lifeline to those in need, and serves as a beacon of hope to those who may be suffering in silence. At Milford High School, our students have embodied what it is to be a Hope Squad member, and we look forward to seeing their continued growth, success, and active engagement within the school and community!

## Suicide Prevention Resources for Parents/Guardians/Families

Sadly, the Greater Cincinnati area has lost several young people to suicide in the past few months. This page lists a selection of websites and online information for parents, guardians, and other family members. The resources provide guidance on talking with your child if you think he or she may be at risk for suicide and on coping with a suicide attempt or death. A few of the resources also discuss how you can take action at the school and community levels to prevent suicide.



## INFORMATION SHEETS

### [National Association of School Psychologists Preventing Youth Suicide—Tips for Parents and Educators](#)

This webpage describes the risk and resiliency factors related to suicide, warning signs of suicide, ways to respond, and the role of the school in suicide prevention.

### [Suicide Prevention: Facts for Parents](#)

This information sheet focuses on suicide among high school students and how parents and high schools can help prevent it.



## Websites

### [Jason Foundation Parent Resource Program](#)

This website contains basic information about suicide and how you as a parent or guardian can help prevent youth suicide. It also has a video of a parent and community seminar that includes basic information on suicide and provides awareness and suicide prevention strategies for parents and other adults.

### [Maine Youth Suicide Prevention Program](#)

(Look at both the center of the webpage and the links in the left sidebar.)

This website includes a parent-specific section with a number of information sheets that cover basic information on suicide prevention, common reactions to youth suicide, talking with your child, and coping after a suicide attempt or death.

### [Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide](#)

This website's parent section provides information to help you talk with your teens about suicide or the death of a friend by suicide. It includes a link to the video *Not My Kid: What Every Parent Should Know*, which features eight parents from culturally diverse backgrounds asking two experts common questions about youth suicide.

because **YOUR** life matters 



# Coming Together to Make a Difference!



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## The Grant Us Hope Team

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## WE HAVE MOVED!



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**PLEASE UPDATE YOUR RECORDS**