



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Cummings, Director of Communications
(513) 695-2350
jcumings@mhrswcc.org

Loveland Couple Honored for Movie, Work to Prevent Suicide

Lebanon, Ohio, November 2016 – The Suicide Prevention Coalition of Warren and Clinton Counties has honored a local couple for their work to prevent suicide and encourage people to talk more openly about the topic.

Christi and David Eaton of Loveland, Ohio received the SPC's Power of Prevention Award last week at the MHRS Board of Directors meeting. The Eatons produced the movie "Hope Bridge", released last year and starring Booboo Stewart and Kevin Sorbo. The movie follows Jackson, played by Stewart, as he searches for answers following his father's suicide. Sorbo plays a counselor who seeks to help Jackson deal with his grief.

"We are so pleased to honor the Eatons for their work to encourage more discussion about suicide and work to prevent it," said Patti Ahting, Associate Director of Mental Health Recovery Services of Warren & Clinton Counties and leader of the Suicide Prevention Coalition. "Their work has enabled many people to take a new look at the topic of suicide and mental health, and build an open dialogue that empowers people to learn the signs of suicide and step in to prevent it where they can."

The Eatons, themselves survivors of suicide in their family, have shown the movie at events across Ohio and around the country. The events include panel discussions with counseling professionals and survivors of suicide about their experiences. The Eatons, along with their family and friends, have channeled the pain of suicide into creating the movie as well as a non-profit organization called Speak2Save. The organization encourages open dialogue about suicide and change the way people look at and talk about suicide and mental health. For more about Speak2Save, visit www.speak2save.org.

"There is a lot we can all do to build bridges of hope," said David Eaton. "We are honored and humbled to be some part of encouraging that conversation."

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SPC Honors Film Makers with Power of Prevention Award

About the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Warren & Clinton Counties

The Suicide Prevention Coalition of Warren and Clinton Counties is a partner group of Mental Health Recovery Services of Warren & Clinton Counties, the local board of mental health and addiction services. The Suicide Prevention Coalition works to prevent suicide by mobilizing community through education and awareness. The Coalition is comprised of individuals who are survivors of suicide and staff from local social service agencies, local government boards, law enforcement and interested residents.

About MHRS

Mental Health Recovery Services of Warren and Clinton Counties (MHRS) is the local board of alcohol, drug addiction and mental health services serving residents of Warren and Clinton Counties. MHRS plans, funds and monitors services for residents with mental health, alcohol and addiction issues by contracting with local agencies to provide programs for individuals, families and others affected by mental illness and addiction. For more information about MHRS or the Suicide Prevention Coalition, visit the MHRS website at mhrsonline.org.

SUGGESTED PHOTO CAPTION: MHRS Associate Director Patti Ahting (far right) presented the Power of Prevention Award to David and Christi Eaton at the MHRS Board of Directors' November meeting. With the Eatons is their son, Benett.

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