

# Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Team



Each time a suicide is completed, at least six people are intimately impacted. Persons who have had a loved one complete a suicide, often called suicide survivors, are at risk due to their emotional response, which may include the use of unhealthy coping strategies or attempting suicide themselves. Research indicates that survivors of suicide are as much as nine times more likely to complete suicide themselves without some form of intervention.

To respond to these sobering statistics, a group of local volunteers formed the Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Team. With the assistance of CHE funding, the LOSS Team was trained to bring immediate support to survivors of suicide. Programs like the LOSS Team have been shown to reduce the risk to survivors and increase the likelihood that survivors will seek help for their own emotional response.

Members of the LOSS Team, consisting of trained survivor and mental health professionals, are activated by first response officials when a suicide occurs. The team appears on site,

providing resources, support, and hope. The volunteers provide immediate assistance to survivors to help them cope with the trauma of their loss, provide follow-up contact with sur-

vivors, and coordinate the utilization of services and support groups within the community.

The LOSS Team was nominated for the Horizon Award because of their commitment to offer resources, support, and serve as sources of hope to the newly bereaved. The LOSS

Team volunteers are: Barb Scholz, Kimberly Mundil, Chaplain Ray Reimer, Cynthia Surrounded, Colette Wheeler, Kathy Rowoldt, Terri Marti, Sue Bell, Jana Langhorst, Amanda Bell (pictured), Dr. Don Belau, David Miers, and Travis Parker (not pictured).

This award recognizes the team members for their dedication and commitment to helping others through the difficult experience of a suicide. CHE is pleased to provide recognition to them for their efforts and for using their experiences to create a healthier Lincoln!

*To recognize special individuals that enrich our community by sharing their time, resources, and talents to make Lincoln a healthier place.*