

SPEAK Program seeking local students to help raise awareness and peers struggling with suicide

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HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (WHNT) – The Huntsville Hospital Foundation is now accepting applications for its 2018-2019 SPEAK Student Ambassador Program. SPEAK stands for Suicide, Prevention, Empowerment, Awareness and Knowledge. The program is open to upcoming high school sophomores, juniors and seniors in Huntsville City, Madison City, and Madison County Schools.

SPEAK Student Ambassadors are responsible for promoting suicide prevention and awareness among students, teachers and faculty in their schools. All ambassadors receive training for crisis intervention and awareness, and help provide resources on topics such as suicide, feelings, self-esteem, bullying, depression, and anxiety through the SPEAK North Alabama mobile app and other initiatives.

“We are looking for SPEAK Student Ambassadors who are thoughtful leaders and advocates in their schools,” said Anna Manning, SPEAK coordinator. “Suicide is the third leading cause of death for ages 15 through 24 in the state of Alabama. The SPEAK suicide prevention program seeks to address and reduce that number by providing education and prevention resources. Our ambassadors are crucial to this effort.”

The 2017-2018 class of SPEAK Student Ambassadors was comprised of 47 student ambassadors representing 15 area public and private schools. Through the program, 4,871 students received suicide intervention training.

Manning says they would love to double or even triple the number of SPEAK Student Ambassadors for the upcoming school year.



Photo: Getty Images

“I would say for sure that the teens are our biggest support,” describes Manning. “They have insight into what’s really going on in the schools and with their peers. I think they are our biggest hope as far as knowing what to say, what to do and what programs we need to focus more on.”

Learn more about applicant criteria and responsibilities. The deadline to apply is Friday, May 4.

TAKING ACTION





Youth suicide expert helps adults talk to teenagers about depression, suicide; praises SPEAK initiative



NEWS

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NEWS

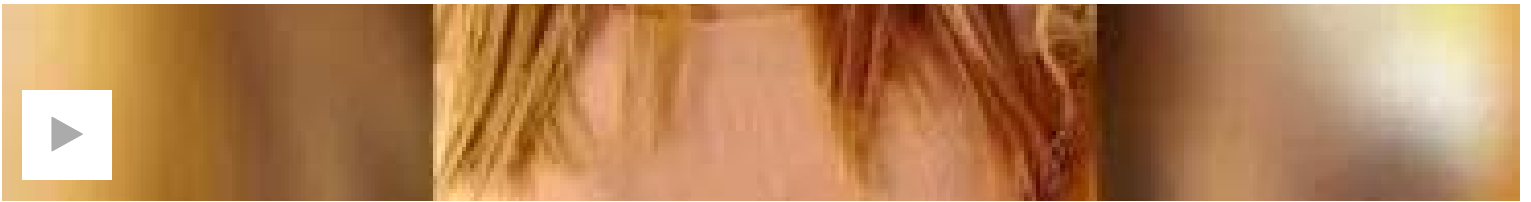
SUICIDE

Madison mother organizes suicide prevention movie showing on April 10



Huntsville City Schools says their students will not walkout on National School Walkout Day





Florida girl's suicide leads to cyberstalking charges for 12-year-olds



Horizon Elementary receives Lighthouse Award for successful "Leader in Me" behavioral program





Madison mother shares story of son's suicide to raise awareness



After her friend's suicide, a Tennessee teen posts an anti-bullying video – and is suspended from school





Madison County School systems host State of the Schools address



First Baptist Church's ESL program helped thousands learn English for over more than 50 years





Former educator works to provide students with free mental health care options in schools



Three Huntsville City Schools appear on state list of failing schools





Huntsville City Schools exploring future of security and school safety