



**NATIONAL  
SHATTERING  
SILENCE  
COALITION**  
Speaking Out • Inspiring Change

# **RIPPLES OF HOPE FOR WAVES OF CHANGE 2022 SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT**

*Image credit: Leslie Carpenter's son who lives with a severe Schizoaffective Disorder.*

*"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope... and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples builds a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."*

*Robert Kennedy*

# REPORT DEDICATIONS

Terrell Alston, 8/16/16

Farron Barksdale, 8/20/07

Bill Becker, 2/8/15

Paul Blair, 12/78

Sasha Bond, 8/16/20

Kelsey Rose Brouillette, 10/28/18

Gina "GG" G. Burns, 11/6/19

Casey Alan Campbell, 10/1/09

Calvin Clark 3/18/19

Daniel Douglas, 9/9/18

Paul Flannery, 5/1/08

Josh Francisco, 10/22/14

Vince Gieser, 8/27/13

Katie "Kate" Gorfinkle, 4/27/22

Nolan Edward Harris, 6/18/17

Walter "Guy" Justus, 6/10/19

Laurie Mendoza, 6/20

Cynthia Montoya, 7/12/22

John "JT" Terrence Norton, 12/15/16

Christopher P. Pickering, 11/12/20

Zaccaria "Zac" William Pogliano, 1/18/15

Kevin Powers, 6/15/05

Dr. Robert Powitsky, PhD, 10/26/19

Patrick Ranahan, 7/23/14

Joseph Reinig, 10/6/21

Charles "Chuck" Winston Renz, 11/11/08

James Mark Rippee, 11/29/22

Ronald Micheal Robbiparo, 8/5/16

Evan Rumlou, 5/21

Jonathan Salcido, 5/4/17

Carl (Robby) Talbot, 3/21/19

Christopher John "CJ" Twomey, 4/14/10

Justin Wilkerson, 1/5/21

Brian Wood, 3/22/18

And to all who died way too soon with serious brain disorders, #RestInPeace fearless loved warriors and precious souls. You are not forgotten. We fight this battle on your behalf, righting the wrongs to ensure this cruel, barbaric system no longer fails those still here. And, once we together get to the top of this steep hill, we will raise a flag in your honor.

# A SPECIAL DEDICATION

The powers that be in California have been aware of Mark Rippee's plight – a blind man with a treatable brain illness (TBI) and schizophrenia – for decades. The TBI professionals would not take him because of his schizophrenia and the SMI professionals would not take him because of his TBI. He suffered so much and his sisters and mother who, no matter how loud they screamed from the rooftops, were not able to access treatment or housing that heals for him, suffered so much right along with him.

We're all so angry and so disgusted with anyone in CA who knew about Mark's situation and who had the power to help him yet stood by and did nothing, literally walking over him as he slept on the cold concrete streets in Vacaville. His story was covered over and over again in the news media. Letters were written on his behalf to Governors, Congressmen, hospital administrators, and on and on.

Mark and his family will not be forgotten. We will keep fighting for those still here. Our deepest condolences to Mark's family. Catherine J. Rippee-Hanson and Linda Rippee, our hearts are broken and we stand with you.

**#RIP Mark**





# THE ACTIONS

The National Shattering Silence Coalition has  
FAITH in the power of people's collective voices.

**We are the voices for those living with and dying far too young from serious brain disorders (SBD).**

Since October, 2017, the National Shattering Silence Coalition has been speaking out and inspiring change for over 8 million children (1 in 10) and 14.2 million adults (1 in 20) with serious brain disorders (SBDs).

Our nonpartisan alliance of family members, individuals suffering from SBDs, professionals in the trenches, and caring people, all united to ensure brain illness, health, and criminal justice systems count those with SBDs, and their families in all federal, state, and local policy reforms.

**OUR VISION:** We envision a world in which people with serious brain illnesses can receive equitable, compassionate, collaborative treatment and support that enable them to live their best lives.

**OUR MISSION:** To raise awareness and advocate for solutions to the humanitarian crisis faced by people with serious brain disorders commonly referred to as serious mental illnesses.



Now over 400 members strong, we are collectively shattering the silence about a humanitarian crisis, and inspiring change to help ensure treatment before tragedy, and build a more compassionate and just world.

# WHY REPEALING THE IMD EXCLUSION IS A PRIORITY

The IMD Exclusion is blatant discrimination against those with serious brain disorders like schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

The Exclusion prevents federal Medicaid funds from covering inpatient services in a psychiatric facility with more than 16 beds, for patients between the ages of 18 and 64 who suffer from a psychiatric illness unless states and facilities meet specific requirements for waivers or utilize other mechanisms that allow for payment.

It bars Medicaid enrollees with “mental diseases” from receiving the same level of care that enrollees without severe mental illness receive for physical ailments such as cancer and heart disease. In doing so, the exclusion denies equal protection under the law to the very group of people it is supposed to help.

People who are denied medical treatment instead, are abandoned, criminalized or left to die in our streets. Billions of dollars, we refer to as the #CostOfNotCaring, are wasted in the process.



# **NATIONAL CALL TO ACTION TO GET CONGRESS TO REPEAL IMD EXCLUSION USING ACTION NETWORK**

Background: Representative Grace Napolitano representing the 32nd district of California introduced H.R. 2611 - "Increasing Behavioral Health Treatment Act" that would, among other things, repeal the IMD Exclusion. The bill had 11 co-sponsors but many more were needed; and, it was necessary for someone in the Senate to introduce a bill mirroring H.R. 2611.

Using the Action Network platform, a call to action was issued to write letters to both Congressional representatives as well as Senators in an effort to get Congressional Representatives to co-sponsor H.R. 2611 and Senators to mirror the bill. NSSC members were also asked to request meetings with their representatives.

**OUTCOMES:** NSSC Members Barbara Gates and Jeanne Gore meet with Representative Tim Levin (CA) and convinced him to co-sponsor H.R. 2611. Meetings were also held with Congressional leaders in the State of Maine. To date, 14 Congressional leaders are now co-sponsoring the bill to repeal the IMD Exclusion in the House of Representatives.

# LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN TO CONGRESS

Let's get the IMD Exclusion Repealed! Please write to your Representative to co-sponsor H.R. 2611 - "Increasing Behavioral Health Treatment Act"



**"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane." ~ MLK**

# 30

PERSONAL LETTERS SENT TO CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Let's get the IMD Exclusion Repealed! Please write to your Senator asking for a bill to mirror H.R 2611 H.R. 2611 - "Increasing Behavioral Health Treatment Act"



# 29

PERSONAL LETTERS SENT TO SENATORS

*“As a parent trying to get help for a loved one who has a serious mental illness, it’s like being forced to watch your child drown and (you’re) powerless to save them. I tried to get him the treatment he needed because he was too sick to realize he needed help.*

*He finally sliced his throat right in front of me.”*

*A mother’s appeal in her letter to US Congressman Raul Ruiz*

*“Even the U.N. has cited the U.S. for our inhumane response and the terrible conditions the SMI suffer from which only makes them deteriorate even more. Incarceration, persecution and inattention to SMI inmates (many who haven't even been able to get a trial for years and are imprisoned without a conviction) has been ruled as ‘cruel and unusual punishment.’*

*If we don’t (repeal), America's street bedlams and tent cities will grow exponentially every year to our national shame. I'm 74 and I never thought I'd live to see a disaster like the one that exists now in my country. How can people continue to be so cruel and blind to this suffering ...?”*

*An appeal from a woman who has been advocating for appropriate psychiatric care for seriously mentally ill for over 20+ years in her letter to US Congresswoman Jackie Speier*

# OTHER NOTABLE ACTIONS TO SHATTER SILENCE & INSPIRE CHANGE

- Cry to all to attend a rally in NYC to end solitary confinement.
- NSSC member Leslie Carpenter attended and submitted comments at the April session of the ISMICC public meeting, with members Katie Dale, Ann Corcoran, Sherri McGimsey, Mary Ellen Stuart, Sharen Engdahl, and Dave Meyers attending and submitting comments at the October session.
- Request sent out to members to complete NORC's survey regarding access to (or inability to access) mental health treatment.
- Support of Treatment Advocacy Center's request to submit letters to Congress to ensure 50% spent on SMI research with reshare to our members, asking to write in.
- Shout out to our members to join Lynn Nanos and Ann Corcoran at NAMI MA to help dispel myths regarding AOT.
- Call to action to our caregivers to submit comments to SAMHSA.
- Request to our members to write personal appeals to Governor Newsom to prompt him to pass the Housing that Heals legislation in the State of CA.



# THE MEMBERS

Through the KINDNESS, passion, initiative and perseverance of our members, we're moving forward, not standing in silence.



RIPPLES OF HOPE IN MAINE  
**JEANNE ALLEN GORE**  
NSSC Coordinator

**Q:** What does the woman who has been waging a war to bring compassion and justice to a cruel and barbaric system do when she finds out Justin, a mentally ill man whose girlfriend had been unable to get him treatment for years shot and killed his own brother, Gabe, on Thanksgiving and is now sitting behind bars for murder?

**A:** She joins Justin's girlfriend along with two other NSSC members, former Senator John Nutting and Joe Pickering, Jr., at a press conference at the Maine Capitol and fights back, demanding Governor Mills work with NSSC and members to ensure treatment before tragedy.

Subsequently, Jeanne works with the press, State legislators and others to dispel misinformation and unfounded fears regarding Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) and the IMD Exclusion waiver for SMI, encouraging Maine to start utilizing its life-saving AOT called the Progressive Treatment Program in Maine. She has sent out 2 press releases since the press conference, has been interviewed with John Nutting by Jackie Mundy of Maine's NewsCenter 6, and is currently writing an Op-Ed.

Under her leadership, Joe Pickering Jr. also pushed for a bill for an IMD Waiver for SMI being introduced in the next legislative session by Senator Joe Baldacci, one key step in fixing a system that is simply failing those like Justin.



RIPPLES OF HOPE IN IOWA  
**LESLIE CARPENTER**  
NSSC Advocacy Mentor

**Q:** What does one of the best mental health advocates in the country do when she lives in a state that ranks 51st in the number of hospital beds and is one of the few remaining hold outs in the US without an Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program?

**A:** After getting the legislation to allow for AOT in Iowa passed in 2018, Leslie has been gathering stakeholders, building a team and secured funding for a 2 year pilot for Iowa's first AOT Program, which will start in 2023. This has been done with the assistance of the Treatment Advocacy Center's AOT Implementation Team.

*"In addition, over the past year, we have been able to successfully lobby for the passage of several bills through the Iowa Legislature to improve the treatment of people with Serious Brain Disorders:*

- *Increasing reimbursement rates for Direct Support Professionals*
- *Adding 12 Psychiatry Residencies at our state hospitals & Iowa Medical Classification Center*
- *Adding Loan Forgiveness for mental health professionals to work in underserved areas in Iowa."*



## RIPPLES OF HOPE IN MASSACHUSETTS

### **ANN CORCORAN**

#### **NSSC Policy Action Committee**

**Q:** How do we stop the revolving door that leads to homelessness, repeat hospitalizations, violence, law enforcement encounters, incarceration and criminalization of mental illness in one of the last three states in the entire country without an AOT law?

**A:** Take determined, relentless and collaborative action to advocate to get an AOT law passed.

*"Meeting with many state representatives and senators throughout the year, our support for an AOT law has grown. We're dispelling the myths that surround AOT that have long been a barrier in getting this important legislation passed."*

*We've fostered a relationship with Boston Outpatient Assistant Treatment (B.O.A.T.) program, a mental health treatment program created in partnership between the Boston Municipal Court and Boston Medical Center. The recent report released by B.O.A.T. recognizes the challenges in not having an AOT law which lends to the criminalization of mental illness.*

*What has long seemed to be an impossible task, AOT for the first time has become closer to becoming a reality. There will be AOT legislation filed concurrently in both the state senate and house in the upcoming legislative session, something that has never happened in Massachusetts before."*





## RIPPLES OF HOPE IN NORTH CAROLINA

### **SHERRI McGIMSEY**

#### **NSSC Member**

**Q: What can a mother do to ensure her son, who has an incurable no-fault brain disease (Schizoaffective), and others like him have a safe and supportive place to go?**

**A: Establish a Clubhouse in her community modeled after Fountain House.**

*"It hurts like hell on earth that's there is no cure for Schizoaffective. Our son, 'Our Beautiful Mind,' will always have an open invitation from us, his parents. We are so thankful and grateful we still have him but it's so difficult to know he gets no other invitations due to his illness. There's no stigma to his illness, just a lack of continuum of care. This February, we finally got our nonprofit status and have been working overtime to open the doors of our own Clubhouse, the Brighter House.*

*My hope for the Brighter House is to bring a sense of community: a safe place for our loved ones living with a SBD where they are valued for what they can bring to the table each and every day. Hopefully for some who have lost their connection with their families, they can reconnect or find new connections along with a support network that will be there for them to end isolation and bring dignity back into their lives.*

*We're all in this together. We all need peace of mind to know if something happened to us tomorrow, they would have a great support system to live their best lives possible."*



## RIPPLES OF HOPE IN CALIFORNIA

# **KERRY MORRISON**

### **NSSC Member**

**Q:** Why is it so hard to help the most seriously mentally ill move from the streets to a safe place? This was the question Kerry Morrison, Founder and Project Director of Heart Forward LA, asked herself.

**A:** To answer this question, she traveled to Trieste, Italy, heralded by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a global best practice in community-based mental health care.

From that original trip in July 2017, she has organized two delegations of leaders from CA to visit Trieste. She worked with a team from the LA County Department of Mental Health to formulate a proposal that was approved by the state's Mental Health Services Oversight Committee to fund a five-year pilot in Hollywood, now referred to as Hollywood 2.0.

She also stepped away from her career managing Hollywood's BID and formed a nonprofit, Heart Forward LA, to keep the flame of hope alive that the Trieste model inspires. She blogs about the failures of the American mental health system juxtaposed against the Trieste model at [www.accoglienza.us](http://www.accoglienza.us). She hosts a podcast, Heart Forward Conversations from the Heart. And she finds ways to demonstrate the transformative power of embracing radical hospitality in her work in supportive housing, board and care homes and the LA county jail.



## RIPPLES OF HOPE IN VIRGINIA **EDMUND W CREEKMORE Jr.** NSSC Member

**Q: If there exists today a substantial body of research supporting a finding of decreased recidivism into and diversion from the criminal justice system, why would we not as legislators and stakeholders wish to promote the same advantages in terms of decreasing unnecessary recidivism into the civil justice system (state hospitals, crisis stabilization units, etc) and divert entirely such cases from the criminal justice system from the outset?**

**A: The practical focus of Ed's work as a licensed clinical psychologist in Virginia with years of training and experience in forensic psychology and as an advocate for legislative change in the Virginia General Assembly is to help policy makers better understand the answer to such questions; and, he does this largely by testifying in front of the Deed's Commission and in other legislative forums.**

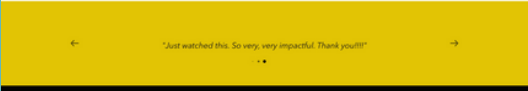
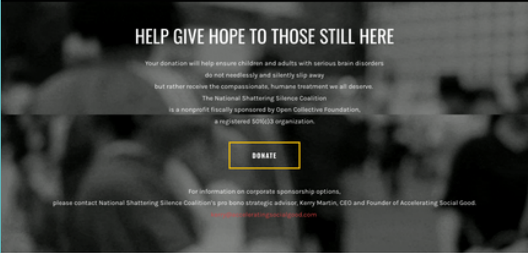
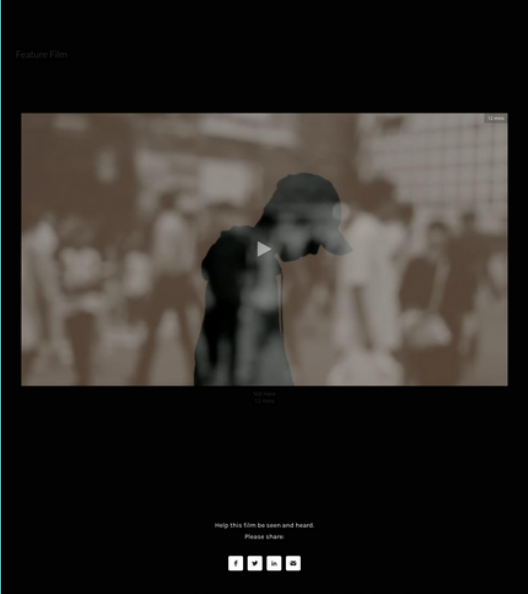
*"Mental health dockets as a "special docket" in the criminal courts exist at the present time in Virginia as a form of what is termed "therapeutic jurisprudence" which emphasizes the role of the judge or special justice as a convenor of the parties having a shared interest in the welfare of those with complex neuropsychiatric and developmental disorders who are in need of court ordered treatment services. However, such "specialty" courts exist at the present time exclusively in the criminal justice system, not in the civil justice systems.*

*Diversion from the civil court system to nonjudicial delivery of health care services, including through necessary "same day" crisis support, would be the practical and desirable objective of such a system."*



# THE CAMPAIGNS

Social media campaigns give HOPE  
with the sharing of stories.



# 'STILL HERE'

## SUICIDE AWARENESS & PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

### "For those still here, there is still hope."

[www.awarenessties.us/still-here](http://www.awarenessties.us/still-here)

In partnership with Accelerating Social Good and Awareness Ties, during November (National Suicide Survivors Month) 6 user stories were released, one on each day leading up to the 19th, International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day.

The first 4 videos featured NSSC members speaking to losing a loved one to suicide to bring much needed awareness to the fact that those with serious brain disorders should have survived but our broken system let them fall through the cracks.

The 5th video featured an NSSC member speaking to losing his son to the criminal justice system.

The 6th video featured our pro bono advisor speaking to her suicide attempt, but she is "still here, still fighting, and still hoping."

AN AWARENOW ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY

# STILL HERE

FOR THOSE STILL HERE, THERE IS STILL HOPE

PRESENTED BY  
NATIONAL SHATTERING SILENCE COALITION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
ACCELERATING SOCIAL GOOD  
AWARENESS TIES



PRODUCED BY AWARENESS TIES

RATED 'O' FOR ORIGINAL & ORGANIC  
CONTENT TO RAISE AWARENESS

## 'STILL HERE' DOCUMENTARY

On November 19, to honor International Survivors of Suicide Day, we released a 12 min documentary comprised of all six user stories as well as statistics on suicide to raise awareness and to give those still here, hope.

The short film is now the most watched movie on KNEKT TV, where it is being streamed in high definition, and is coming soon to Roku and Apple TV.

'Still Here' view numbers are still increasing. As of today, the landing page for our campaign has received over 500 views, with 943 views of the YouTube version, in addition to over 1,000 views via Instagram.

To help raise awareness,  
please share these stories of loss and hope:  
[www.awarenessties.us/still-here](http://www.awarenessties.us/still-here)



Featuring Jerri Clark, Ronni Martorello, Kimberly Brouillette, Hallie Twomey, Jack Wood, and Kerry Martin

# SHINE ON

In memory of those we've lost,  
 we hold memories that still burn bright.  
 In recognition of those still here,  
 we lift them up with light.



Light a candle in memory of  
 someone lost by suicide,  
 someone who fell through  
 the cracks of our "care" systems,  
 or someone who was an advocate  
 who made an impact.

Light a candle in recognition for  
 someone who survived an attempt  
 or for someone at risk.

[DONATE TO LIGHT A CANDLE](#)



BENEFITTING

PRESENTED BY

PRODUCED BY



**ACCELERATING SOCIAL GOOD**

**AWARENESS TIES**  
THE OFFICIAL SYMBOL OF SUPPORT FOR CAUSES

# 'SHINE ON'

## SUICIDE AWARENESS & PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

"Light a candle today to change a life tomorrow."

[www.awarenessties.us/shine-on-nssc](http://www.awarenessties.us/shine-on-nssc)

We've partnered with Accelerating Social Good and Awareness Ties to present the 'Shine On' initiative. Our goal is to raise awareness and donations for the work that needs to be done to save lives. By the end of this year, we want to have 500 candles lit.

*"In memory of those we've lost, we hold memories that still burn bright. In recognition of those still here, we lift them up with light. Today, we ask that each member and every subscriber take a moment to make a donation and light a candle."*

Our call to action is as follows: Donate to light a candle in memory of someone lost by suicide, one who fell through the cracks of our "care" systems, or an advocate who made an impact. Or, donate to light a candle in recognition of someone who survived an attempt or for someone currently at risk.





# THE TOOLS

**PEACE** of mind is found in having the tools  
needed to do the work that needs to be done.

# NEW WEBSITE NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION

We retained AwarenessTies to redesign our website, with our pro bono strategic advisor, Kerry Martin, managing this project for us. As the website is the hub of all our public outreach, marketing and fundraising activities, we're now in an even better position to attract corporate sponsors, newsletter subscribers, and new donors.

The new site will incorporate our new logo designed earlier in the year by a volunteer. We also hope to set up a new merchandise shop next year.

Please stay tuned for the release of our new site before the clock ticks over to 2023.

Sign up for our newsletter to be the first to get a sneak peek.

# **OUR COALITION GROWS BY OVER 16% TO NOW OVER 400 STRONG**

In 2022, our Coalition added 52 new members, a percentage increase of 16% over last year, bringing our committed alliance to now just over 400 individuals, families, professionals and organizations. This year, the number of individuals who joined us increased by 8% and organizations by 148% relative to 2021.

We strengthened our core internal teams, adding 2 new dedicated members to our Steering Committee, Jack Wood and Ronnie Martorello, to help guide our overall vision, 8 new members to our Blogging Committee so we can step up our efforts to educate the public, and 3 new members to our Policy Action Committee to further amplify our voices in the political arena under the guidance of our newly appointed passionate and tireless Advocacy Mentor, Leslie Carpenter.

While our Coalition has been through some challenging and tough times – health issues, personal crises, and volunteer turnover which is always a problem when so many of us have loved ones who are unable to access treatment – despite all of this, we have managed to keep steering our Coalition in the right direction, continually training and networking with our members, advocating both nationally and at the state level, all with one common goal: to build together a world in which people with serious brain illnesses can receive equitable, compassionate, collaborative treatment and support that enables them to live their best lives.

# **MORE CREATIVE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS ENABLES US TO CONTINUE BUILDING OUR FOUNDATION AND SOLIDIFY OUR ROOTS**

The Coalition is an all-volunteer non partisan alliance, with no one taking a salary. With that said, we do solicit voluntary membership dues, seek foundation grants, and also ask the general public for donations to support our administrative and marketing costs, with all spending 100% transparent on Open Collective's (our fiscal sponsor) website.

This year, we raised over \$8,000, with \$2,500 coming from the R. Anthony & Sheila L. Carter Family Foundation, and \$2,615 from the 'Still Here' campaign. Overall, donations were up 81% from last year, and this does not include the funds we are now raising from our ShineOn campaign.

In addition, over 112 individuals made donations, with an average donation of \$50. We also charge our members voluntary annual membership dues, with individuals contributing \$10, families \$20, and organizations \$30.

We are very optimistic about the fundraising potential of the now on-going ShineOn campaign to help us close out the year with well over \$10,000 in contributions.

# GRATITUDE FOR OUR IN-KIND DONATIONS

We received in-kind donations totaling \$7,500 of free ad space in AwareNow, an online publication published by AwarenessTies in partnership with KNEKT TV, ISSUU and Mixam to raise awareness about our nonprofit and our 'Still Here' campaign.

**8,000,000**   
CHILDREN WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS

**14,200,000**   
ADULTS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS

**TOO MANY SILENTLY SLIP AWAY.**


Today, in the United States there are over 22,000,000 million people living with and suffering from serious mental illness – no fault serious brain disorders – with their loved ones suffering alongside them. Through the cracks of a broken healthcare system **1 in 10 CHILDREN** and **1 in 20 ADULTS** fall, with some never returning. We can no longer stay silent and still while so many suffer. Now is the time to speak out, stand up and together take action.

The **National Shattering Silence Coalition (NSSC)** Nonprofit united their voices for those with serious brain disorders to tear down the wall of silence and inhumanity killing their loved ones, families and our national soul. Please stay tuned for personal stories of their losses to preventable suicides. Learn what you can do to help ensure no more needlessly and silently slip away but rather receive the compassionate, humane treatment we all deserve.

 **NATIONAL SHATTERING SILENCE COALITION**  
Speaking Out - Inspiring Change

 **SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT NSSC.**  
IF YOU OR A LOVED ONE IS EXPERIENCING A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS, THERE IS HELP. **DIAL 9-8-8** FOR THE NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE


AN AWARENOW ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY



**STILL HERE**  
FOR THOSE STILL HERE, THERE IS STILL HOPE

PRODUCED BY NATIONAL SHATTERING SILENCE COALITION  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ACCELERATING SOCIAL GOOD AWARENESS TIES

PRODUCED BY AWARENESS TIES  
RATED 'O' FOR ORIGINAL & ORGANIC CONTENT TO RAISE AWARENESS

**WATCH NOW**  
  
TAP, SCAN OR CLICK

*"Stories that every parent needs to hear. I can't imagine losing my son to suicide. I'm going to hug him tighter tonight."*

*"Really intimate, making me feel I was sitting in their living rooms. Gave me goosebumps. Captivating, heart wrenching and very very impactful."*

*"Cut-wrenching portrayal of those we've lost so needlessly to suicide and those left behind. And, at the same time, giving us hope for those still here."*

**LET'S NOT ALLOW ANY MORE TO SILENTLY SLIP AWAY.**  
PLEASE DONATE TO THE NATIONAL SHATTERING SILENCE COALITION: [AWARENOW.US/DONATE-TO-NSSC](http://AWARENOW.US/DONATE-TO-NSSC)

# THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM OF PRO BONO ADVISORS



Through our pro bono strategic advisors, we received countless, invaluable hours of free advice on issues ranging from effective grassroots and political advocacy, intersection of homelessness with SBD, digital marketing, public relations, social cause awareness campaigns, and website design and development. Our heartfelt gratitude to:

- Tim Murphy - former eight time Congressman and author and champion of Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act, amended and passed as the 21st Century Cures Act in 2016 advising us on legislative issues
- Pat Morgan - award-winner author and former federal homeless policy expert advising us on intersection of homelessness and SBD
- Milton Mack - 2022 recipient of the Judge Stephen S. Goss Lifetime Achievement Award from the Judges and Psychiatrists Leadership Initiative advising us on judicial issues
- Kerry Martin - mental health advocate and suicide survivor advising us on social impact management and measurement, strategic marketing, project management, and fundraising, walking with bipolar disorder



# THE EDUCATION

Through education, TRUTH evokes compassion for the humanitarian crisis allowing far too many to silently slip away.

# **IMPROVING COMPASSIONATE, EMPATHETIC AND COLLABORATIVE TREATMENT OF PEOPLE WITH SERIOUS BRAIN DISORDERS**

## **NSSC Member Advocacy Workshops, NAMI Provider Trainings, Community Advocacy Presentations and More**

Our new Advocacy Mentor and seasoned advocate, Leslie Carpenter, educates our members on how to be more effective advocates. For example, prior to launching our IMD Exclusion campaign, she held a workshop with our team about how to advocate with your US Legislators and/or their policy staff to ask them to co-sponsor the bill to repeal the IMD Exclusion. While many of our members already have extensive experience advocating, we recognize that some may not hence this helped provide some guidance on general advocacy and also specifically about the IMD Exclusion.

Leslie also taught more than 15 classes of NAMI Provider training to improve compassionate, empathetic and collaborative treatment of people with serious brain disorders in various settings across Iowa. And, she provided more than 30 advocacy presentations to community groups, classes of nursing students, nurse practitioner students, physical therapy students, social work and; social justice students, legislators, political candidates, the Iowa Judicial Summit on Mental Health, the NAMI Iowa Fall Conference, and the collaborative Crisis Conversations Conference which was a collaborative effort of NAMI National and the Treatment Advocacy Center.

Along with NSSC Member, Jerri Clark, Leslie co-lead a Family Focus Group on what Families want from AOT at the Treatment Advocacy Center's AOT Symposium, a panel discussion on this subject along with Judge Elinore Stormer and Dr. Daniel Garza. From this, Jerri and Leslie wrote an essay to further disseminate this information, along with input from Kathy Day. This was published by the Treatment Advocacy Center.



**BY SHARING OUR LIVED EXPERIENCE AND COLLECTIVE KNOWLEDGE,  
WE'RE SHATTERING SILENCE AND INSPIRING CHANGE.**

## **Media and Press**

NSSC has published OpEds pieces in [foxbangor.com](http://foxbangor.com) and [pressherald.com](http://pressherald.com) and received coverage in articles appearing on [newscentermaine.com](http://newscentermaine.com), [sunjournal.com](http://sunjournal.com) and [wmtw.com](http://wmtw.com). Team members have also appeared on Maine news channels 6, 8, 13 as well as in NPR with quotes and interviews in the Sun Journal and the Portland Press Herald.

## **Blogs**

Our Blogging Committee has also published eight blogs this year, with a goal to increase that number to 24 next year. Our posts shared to subscribers and members via mail chimp, to our fiscal sponsor channel via updates, and all social media channels. We are collecting personal stories and videos to share on our website, blog and social media.

## **Social Media Footprint**

We are continuing our efforts to extend our reach and wrap across digital marketing channels launching a TikTok this year, and have seen a 755% increase in our LinkedIn following, 27% increase in Twitter and 18% in Instagram.



# THE FUTURE

**FREE** to pursue goals with donated funds,  
the future holds continued progress.

# WHAT WE CAN ACCOMPLISH IN 2023 WITH YOUR HELP

1. Support and accelerate our mission by soliciting corporate sponsors.
2. Secure grant funding to a) plan annual conference/NSSC Hill Day to educate members and meet with representatives in DC or at home offices; b) host a symposium inviting experts from around the country to discuss the need to reclassify serious mental illnesses as medical illnesses; c) create and implement a national marketing campaign to address social injustices and educate the public on SBDs; and, d) hire a strategic marketing and public relations company with lived experience to run our marketing, communications, social media and public relations.
3. End blatant discrimination against those with SBDs by continuing our work on repealing federal IMD Exclusion as well as encouraging individual States to request IMD Waivers (e.g., as currently doing in State of Maine).
4. Accelerate our efforts to reclassify serious mental illnesses as serious brain disorders by finalizing our Position Statement on the urgent need for the reclassification and on boarding a Medical Advisor to assist in our efforts in Q1 of 2023.
5. Further amplify our voices by continuing in our efforts to collaborate with other like-minded organizations on similar missions as we are stronger together and can affect more sustainable and meaningful social change.
6. Extend our educational reach, ramp up our blogging to two times a month, cross posting to both LinkedIn Articles and Medium, the largest blogging platform in the world.
7. In response to preventable tragedies, such as Mark Rippee and Gabe DaMour, happening everyday all across America, establish an Emergency Action Committee to write OpEds.

*"We have been too quiet for too long.  
There comes a time when you have to say something.  
You have to make a little noise. You have to move your feet.  
This is the time."  
~John Lewis*

We hope you will join us.  
Together, let's speak up and shatter the silence.  
Let's inspire change and send forth ripples of hope.

**[www.nationalshatteringsilencecoalition.org](http://www.nationalshatteringsilencecoalition.org)**

*"I am a member of the National Shattering Silence Coalition because there is a killing silence and mind blindness toward those we love and once loved. Society looks upon them with sleepy cruel eyes. We need to wake up society like 10,000 bolts of thunder from the skies. This pandemic of pain will never end until we do."*

*Joe H. Pickering Jr., Father of the late Christopher Pickering*

*"As a masters level nurse with a long family history of bipolar disorder, I know firsthand the struggles that families like mine face. Our inadequate and outdated laws in Massachusetts around mental health deny those with serious brain disorders proper treatment and instead allow incarceration, violence, involuntary hospitalizations or homelessness leaving many on the streets to die. I wanted to turn my family's pain into actionable change and joined NSSC to help me do this. This is a humanitarian crisis that can no longer be ignored, together our voices are stronger."*

*Ann Corcoran RN, MSN, Policy Action Committee*

*"Being a member of the NSSC coalition it's very important to me. Being able to compare how one state successfully manages individuals with anosognosia, with our state, actions has been invaluable, and helping to improve our laws. When we can say another state does such and such, and it is worked – it makes changing things here, so much easier!"*

*Senator John Nutting*

# CREDITS



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