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Tony Coder, Executive Director
Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation

From a Mission to a Movement

Iconic LOSS Team Pioneer Taps Respected Ohio Leaders to Grow Postvention Movement
12th Annual LOSS Team Suicide Postvention Conference Oct.

[Columbus, Ohio]: The Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation (OSPF) announced today that its long-time Postvention Contractor Denise Meine-Graham, along with partner and spouse Robbie Graham, will now lead the national and international LOSS (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors) Team effort founded by Dr. Frank Campbell, Ph.D., LCSW, C.T., and launched in 1997.

“Dr. Campbell’s decision marks a major milestone in his mission to expand postvention from theory to implementation in even more communities around the world,” said Tony Coder, OSPF Executive Director. “As we know from established research, those people impacted by the suicide of a loved one, known as suicide loss survivors, are at increased risk for suicide. Postvention is prevention.”

Postvention refers to outreach to suicide survivors and referral to support services that reduce risk and promote healing for bereaved family, community members, first responders and others who are impacted by a suicide loss.

Dr. Campbell envisioned an Active Postvention Model (APM) made up of a team of volunteer survivors of suicide, who have reached an altruistic level of healing from their own loss. This enables them to respond to the scenes of suicides, disseminate information about resources, while also being an instillation of hope for the newly bereaved. The primary goal of the APM is to shorten the elapsed time between their loss to suicide and the newly bereaved survivors getting help. Prior to this model survivors had reported years between their loss and finding local resources for help.

In 2014, after the suicide death of her son Drey, Denise Meine-Graham founded Franklin County LOSS (now LOSS Community Services) based on Dr. Campbell’s model, and in the following years gained significant funding and expanded services to support thousands of suicide loss survivors in central Ohio. Her work includes fostering and training LOSS Teams throughout Ohio and several other states.

Campbell, who is clear that he is not retiring but shifting gears, grew his APM model for 25+ years primarily through face-to-face presentations and hands-on trainings. COVID invited Meine-Graham and Robbie Graham to develop and facilitate growth through online programs designed to train communities to launch their own LOSS Teams.

“My days of long-term travel, driving or flying, are over,” Campbell said. “So, I’m wanting to turn it over to people who can make that technology work to our advantage so that we can hurry up this transition from the mission to a movement.”

“For LOSS teams, what that can mean is continuing to grow nationally and internationally with and due to today’s technology, training worldwide is more achievable without the overhead, thus reducing time and expensive travel. Robbie and Denise can do all of this more effectively and be peer leaders in this endeavor. I think good leadership is welcoming others who can harness the technology to do the job, do it well and take it further.”

Through their recently established business entity, Postvention Consulting LLC, Meine-Graham and Graham provide programs and trainings to a growing number of US States, including Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Maryland.

“When Drey took his life in 2012, there was no support here for suicide loss survivors. I met Frank Campbell one year and one month after Drey died at a national LOSS conference here in Columbus,” Meine Graham said. “I went to the conference totally cold, intending to go to breakout sessions that might teach me how to express my grief through art or something.

“Frank was the keynote, and when I heard him speak, I was just in awe and couldn’t believe we didn’t have a LOSS Team in Columbus. That made no sense to me. So, I canceled all my breakouts and followed him around the rest of the conference, because I just wanted to learn from him.”

Dr. Campbell, Meine-Graham and Graham are all presenting at the 12th Annual National LOSS Team Suicide Postvention Conference in Columbus October 24-26, at the Easton Hilton.

“Now Denise is that person people follow around and want to hear from,” Campbell said, “I got the postvention model far enough up the mountain to set a base camp, and Denise and Robbie are going to take it to the summit. I’m going to be their cheerleader and send them oxygen as they save lives and promote healing through postvention and help more LOSS Teams launch around the world.”

“Postvention was always the area that was not talked about, the stigma, the shame, and the silence of survivors going without treatment, without support, without recognition,” Campbell continues. “But yet everything that has advanced our knowledge around suicide has been brought forth by survivors. When we help them heal and not die, we do suicide prevention work.”

Learn more about:

Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation (OSPF) <https://www.ohiospf.org/>

Dr. Frank Campbell <https://lossteam.com/index.php>

Denise Meine-Graham and Robbie Graham <https://www.postventionconsulting.com/>

12th Annual National LOSS Team Suicide Postvention Conference in Columbus October 24-26
<https://losscs.org/suicide-postvention-conference/>