



News from Livingston County, NY

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Out of the Darkness Campus Walk in Geneseo to Fight Suicide

Geneseo, NY, February 28, 2020 — Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, yet it can be prevented. On April 5, 2020, the [Western New York Chapter](#) of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) will host the annual SUNY Geneseo Out of the Darkness Campus Walk to support its educational efforts, support programs, and [bold goal](#) to reduce the annual U.S. rate of suicide by 20 percent by 2025.

The event begins at 12 p.m. with participants meeting at the quad on the SUNY Geneseo campus. Participants from the Greater Rochester area will join the quarter of a million people who are walking in towns across the United States to draw attention to suicide prevention.

“Suicide touches one in five American families, and is something that young adults certainly understand. We hope that by walking we will draw attention to this issue and help encourage the community to have supportive conversations about mental health. Our ultimate goal is to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide,” said Missy Stolfi, Area Director for the Western New York Chapter of AFSP.

Lynne Mignemi, Chairperson of the Livingston County Suicide Prevention Task Force, stated, “The Suicide Prevention Task Force is proud to support SUNY Geneseo's Sisters Making a Change as they sponsor and host their annual American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Out of the Darkness Walk. The Village of Geneseo and the Livingston County community have embraced this event in recent years in a manner that makes this a genuine and heartfelt community and college collaboration.” Mignemi added, “Maxi Wacholder, a Suicide Prevention Task Force member and loss survivor, is to be admired for her indomitable spirit in bringing this event to Main Street and to the county community at large, proving we are never alone in our

goal of reducing stigma and providing hope. Please join us for a day of remembrance, education, music and hope.”

The Geneseo Out of the Darkness Campus Walk is one of more than 550 Out of the Darkness Overnight, Community and Campus Walks being held nationwide this year. The walks are expected to unite more than 300,000 walkers and raise millions for suicide prevention efforts. In 2019, these walks raised over \$21 million for suicide prevention. The SUNY Geneseo Out of the Darkness Campus Walk raised over \$10,000 and had 350 participants last year.

“These walks are about turning hope into action,” said [AFSP CEO Robert Gebbia](#). “The research has shown us how to fight suicide, and if we keep up the fight, the science is only going to get better and our culture will get smarter about mental health. With the efforts of our courageous volunteers, and a real investment from our nation’s leaders, we hope to significantly reduce the suicide rate in the United States.”

For more information on the Out of the Darkness Campus Walk in Geneseo, please click [here](#).

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