

What's Left

Lives Touched By Suicide



The Rochester-Olmsted Youth Commission has been involved for over 3 years in education efforts around mental illness and suicide prevention. These important public health issues affect all of us in one way or another yet stigma, misunderstanding, and inadequate access to mental healthcare options continue to create barriers to effective treatment. Suicide is the second leading cause of death in this country for 15 – 24 year old's, and the 10th leading cause of death for people of all ages. No surprise then, that the 2013, Olmsted County Community Health Needs Assessment identified mental health as one of 5 top community priorities.

Talking openly about mental illness and suicide is difficult for many of us, and in the case of suicide, family members and those left behind are often uncomfortable talking openly about their experience and grief. In January 2016, the Youth Commission is co-sponsoring a multimedia art exhibit at the Rochester Civic Theatre with many local and statewide partners. "What's Left" is intended to provide a space for participating artists and the broader community to reflect on the impact of suicide and mental illness, and explore the use of artistic expression in the process of grieving, healing, and expressing hope. Over 50 Minnesota artists have contributed to the exhibit which is on loan from the MacRostie Art Center in Grand Rapids Minnesota.

The community is invited to attend a grand opening on Thursday, January 7, 2016, 5pm – 7pm. Refreshments are being donated by the Canadian Honker Restaurant. A short program featuring the exhibit creator Jon Bauer will begin at 5:30pm. The exhibit will be open through January 29, 2016 from 11am – 3pm Monday through Friday. The Theatre will also try to accommodate groups by special appointment.

Mary Gorfine, Rochester-Olmsted Youth Commission Program Coordinator