

**Need help NOW? Text or Call 988 or Text "HOPELINE" to 741741**



# COMMUNITY FOR HOPE

## 2023 Annual Report

*Prepared January 2024*

communityforhope.org 2700 W. 9th Ave. Suite 100 Oshkosh, WI 920-230-4840

Community for Hope is a volunteer group of community members dedicated to promoting suicide prevention, intervention, and grief support in Winnebago County and all surrounding communities. Established in 2001 in response to a growing number of teen suicides in Oshkosh and the clear need for action to stop this alarming trend. With recent data from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services 2022 Suicide in Wisconsin: Impact and Response Report indicating a 32% increase in suicide amongst Wisconsin residents in the last 20 years, the group's focus has expanded from focusing solely on teen suicide to all age groups and community members.



## State of Northeast Wisconsin Suicide Prevention

The landscape of suicide prevention continues to be both challenging and dynamic. Community for Hope closely follows patterns and analyzes data to gain insights into the trends associated with suicide in the region. This data serves as a foundational guide, enabling us to tailor our efforts effectively to address the specific needs of the communities we serve.

While the data exposes the persistent challenges faced by our communities, it also highlights the impact of our interventions. Positive stories emerge, demonstrating instances where individuals have received timely support and assistance, emphasizing the tangible difference that community-based suicide prevention efforts can make.

CFH remains steadfast in its dedication to continued collaboration, community engagement and education, and an evolving approach to meet the dynamic needs of Northeastern Wisconsin. Together, we strive to build a resilient community where mental well-being is prioritized, and everyone has access to the support they need.

*Community for Hope is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization - all donations are federally tax-exempt.*

# PROGRAMMING & COMMUNITY

## QPR Training: Recognized Value

Community for Hope volunteers lead and offer, free of charge, QPR and Adult Mental Health First Aid Training to all community members. QPR uses 3 steps (Question, Persuade, Refer) to practical and proven suicide prevention training.

Mental Health First Aid helps remove the fear and hesitation from starting conversations about mental health and substance use problems by improving understanding and providing an action plan that teaches people to safely and responsibly identify and address potential mental illness or substance use disorder.

*Even though I have attended this presentation several times before, I always learn something new*

**87%**

of QPR attendees say that they are likely to utilize the skills they learned in the presentation in the near future

**77%**

of QPR attendees agreed that they feel more comfortable talking about suicide and mental health after the QPR presentation

**364**  
Community Members  
Trained in QPR in 2023

## Meet Project Safe Guard

A powerful new initiative where CFH volunteers collaborate with Winnebago County gun shops to create voluntary safe storage spaces for individuals in crisis.

Project Safeguard prioritizes compassionate support during challenging moments, working closely with gun shops to ensure access to a supportive space. The program includes mental health training for gun shop employees, empowering them to recognize distress signs and connect individuals to valuable community health resources.

One gun shop has already embraced Project Safeguard in 2023. Looking ahead, our goal is to expand to three more gun shops in 2024, strengthening our support network and fostering unity in Winnebago County. This initiative exemplifies the transformative impact of collaboration, bridging the gap between our organization and local businesses. Join us in building a community that prioritizes mental health and compassion through Project Safeguard – making a difference together.

# ENGAGEMENT THAT MATTERS

## Outreach & Education

CFH regularly engages in Public Speaking throughout the community including Advocacy Events, distribution of Educational Materials curated by CFH, and community members consultations by request. In 2023 CFH took part in the Oshkosh Zooloween Boo at the Leach Ampitheater, and held a special training for the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Men's Basketball team on QPR!



## Impactful Special Events

*"I can't stop thinking about what a wonderful community event you put on with the showing of that movie! Love the conversations that were started and stories that were told!"*



On October 12, 2023 CFH hosted a free screening of the impactful film "Coming Up for Air." The event, highly valued by the community, portrayed the struggles of those affected by mental illness, suicide, and grief. The film offered a moving exploration of mental health challenges, fostering a sense of community and understanding. Attendees actively engaged in a meaningful conversation following the screening, breaking down barriers surrounding mental health topics.

### Save the Date!

The CFH annual Fall event will be held on November 14th at The Waters in Oshkosh, WI. Follow us online and through our social media for more updates as they become available!



## Grief Support

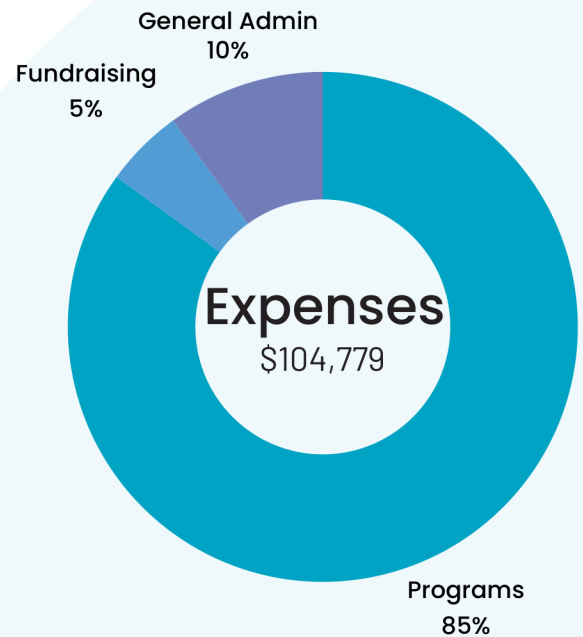
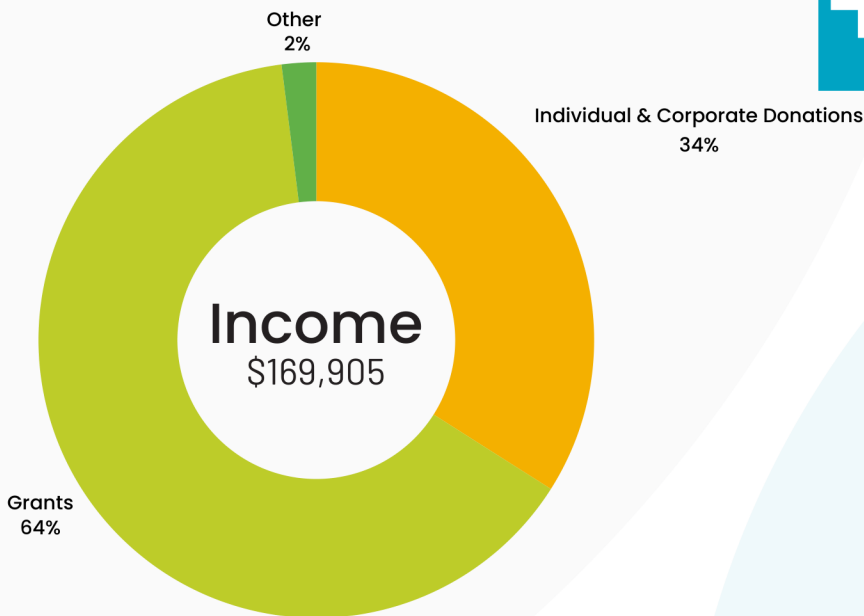
Survivors of Suicide Loss (S.O.S.L.) groups are sponsored by CFH and are extremely valuable spaces for family members, friends, and coworkers of those who have died by suicide. The groups are free, do not require registration, and are led by trained facilitators. Group members gather to talk and listen openly and honestly about suicide with the goal of providing better understanding and acceptance for the lives impacted by suicide. CFH volunteers also gather to put together and distribute Hope and Comfort packages to families affected by suicide.

Find a SOSL group that's right for you by scanning the QR code or visiting [communityforhope.org/grief-support/](https://communityforhope.org/grief-support/)



# 2023 Financial Overview

**+ 46** New First-time Donors!



## Connect With & Support the Mission

For more information about becoming a student, volunteering, donating, or partnering with Community for Hope-

🌟 [communityforhope.org](https://communityforhope.org)

✉ [communityforhopeoshkosh@gmail.com](mailto:communityforhopeoshkosh@gmail.com)

📍 2700 W. 9th Ave.  
Suite 100 Oshkosh, WI

📞 920-230-4840

✚ Find us on , *Instagram*, 

Your donations and commitment to CFH helps essential work needed to help end suicide and create space for healing in our community!

