



Barry Hutcherson, Mayor
Chester County, Tennessee

City/County Proclamation from the Office of the Mayor
Suicide Prevention Awareness Month September 2024

WHEREAS, suicide is a tremendous form of suffering and one of the most disruptive and tragic events a family and a community can experience, with more than 1,200 lives lost in Tennessee each year and an estimated 25 attempted suicides for each suicide death; and

WHEREAS, more than three lives a day are lost to suicide in Tennessee, which means we lose 24 Tennesseans each week and 100 people per month, devastating an estimated 135 people affected and left behind by each death; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the twelfth leading cause of death in Tennessee, the third leading cause of death among youth and young adults ages of 10 to 24 as well as the fifth leading cause of death of adults ages 35-44 and the sixth leading cause of death for adults ages 45-54; and

WHEREAS, elevated risk for suicide includes those bereaved by suicide and those who have attempted suicide, older adults, American Indians/ Alaskan Natives, Black youth, Construction and Extraction workers, people living with a disability or physical health conditions, Farmers, First Responders, members of the LGBTQIA+ population, Service members and Veterans; and

WHEREAS, And Tennessee Veterans, active-duty military, and National Guardsmen's disproportionate risk for suicide, as compared to the general population, means more die from suicide than combat; and

WHEREAS, public awareness of this tragic problem is a key to preventing further suffering and loss of life; and the risk for human self-destruction can be reduced through awareness, education and treatment; and

WHEREAS, suicide prevention has been declared a state priority by the Governor; and the Tennessee Legislature has declared teen suicide prevention as a state priority in partnership with the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network to implement the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is a national leader in the effort to prevent suicide, being one of the first states to develop a suicide prevention and evaluation plan covering the lifespan; and

WHEREAS, 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States; and



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WHEREAS, the Governor of Tennessee has appointed a Suicide Prevention Network Advisory Council to coordinate the implementation of the Tennessee Strategy for Suicide Prevention; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network is a grassroots collaboration of Tennesseans and organizations working to eliminate the stigma of suicide, educate the community about the warning signs of suicide, and ultimately reduce the rate of suicide in our state; and

WHEREAS, every member of our community should understand that throughout life's struggles we all need occasional reminder that we are all silently fighting our own battles; and

WHEREAS, everyone can play a role in suicide prevention by learning and sharing the risk and warning signs, decreasing the stigma as a mean to promote help-seeking by talking about suicide using safe-messaging, and sharing the available resources; and

WHEREAS, we encourage all Tennesseans to take the time to inquire as to the wellbeing of their family, friends, and to genuinely convey their appreciation for their existence by any gesture they deem appropriate. A simple phone call, message, handshake, or hug may go a long way towards helping someone realize that suicide is not the answer; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Barry Hutcherson Mayor of Chester Co, do hereby proclaim September 2024, as

SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH
in Chester Co, TN, Tennessee, and do urge all citizens to work to prevent suicide and to raise awareness and compassion around all people affected by this tragedy.

Donna E. Bell
Mayor City of Henderson