



TOWNHALLER

Honoring Dr. Amanda Burke



"You don't always need a plan. Sometimes you just need to breathe, trust, let go and see what happens."

Mandy Hale



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The late Dr. Amanda Burke (Townhall II's Problem Gambling Prevention Specialist and Associate Professor at Kent State University) was honored and awarded at the National Conference on Gambling Addiction and Responsible Gambling in Washington DC in late July. Amanda passed away unexpectedly in December of 2022 at the age of 41.

During the Annual Awards Lunch Ceremony, Amanda was awarded the 2023 Jim Wuelfing Annual Award for Prevention, which honors "annual achievement in advocacy, development, integration, outreach, research or training in the area of prevention of problem gambling."

Amanda was truly a leader in the field of gambling prevention. She exhibited passion and enthusiasm for the work that will never be duplicated. Townhall II is honored to have been a part of Amanda's life. She provided a legacy that will never be forgotten and will be impossible to replace. She was a true example to everyone in the fields of prevention and problem gambling.

Townhall's New Support Group

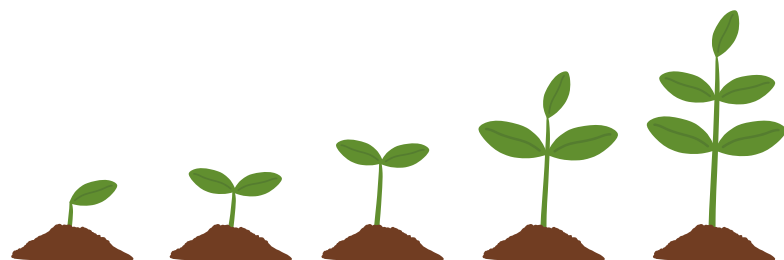


There's always room to grow, so how about a group on that concept? Starting this fall, a new support group is going to be offered weekly for women identifying survivors affected by sexual violence. Group to Grow is going to be held WEEKLY at our Ravenna location on Wednesdays from 6pm – 7:30pm.

This group will be facilitated by two victim services advocates, Sarah Vaughan and Mallen Rush. Group to Grow is to take the place of a former group provided by victim services, Connect to Cope. We hope by having the group run weekly rather than bi-weekly, we can provide more support and accommodations for attendees. For instance, if someone happened to be busy the Wednesday before and couldn't make it, that attendee would no longer have to wait until the next bi-weekly meeting for support within the group's setting.

The logo of this group was commissioned from the same person who created the logo for The Rainbow After the Rain (our LGBTQIA+ weekly support group offered from the Victim Services team). The hands in the logo art are a teal color in reference to the official color used for Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), which is annually held in April.

The first session of Group to Grow will be October 11th. Any inquires about the group can be sent to either Sarah Vaughan (sarahv@townhall2.com) or Mallen Rush (malleng@townhall2.com).



What's happening in Prevention?

We want to send a big thank you to all the schools who support the prevention services that we offer. We served 7,057 students, parents, and caregivers this 2022-2023 school year!

Townhall II's Prevention Department is looking forward to the 2023-2024 school year. We have already begun booking programs with various schools throughout the county and some of our specialists have already started in the classroom!

Prevention Programs

Child Violence Prevention

Personal Body Safety: 1,780 (PreK-6th grade)

Sexual Assault Prevention

Stand Up: 967 (7th-12th grade)

Substance Abuse Prevention

Too Good for Drugs & Project Alert: 3,390
(K-12th grade)

Suicide Prevention

Signs of Suicide: 867 (9th-12th grade)

Parent Education

Active Parenting: 53 (parents & caregivers)

If you are interested in any of our programs, please reach out to either Sarah Gehring (sarahg@townhall2.com) or Sarah McCully (sarahmc@townhall2.com) and they will help you get scheduled.

Prevention Staff

Sarah McCully

Prevention and Outreach
Director

Sarah Gehring

Substance Abuse Prevention
Manager

Taryn Vespoint

Substance Abuse Prevention
Specialist

Cheyenne Sims

Substance Abuse Prevention
Specialist

Sarah Denison

Substance Abuse Prevention
Specialist

Cara Baker

Substance Abuse Prevention
Specialist & Behavioral Health
and Wellness Coordinator

Becca Roberts

Child Violence Prevention
Specialist

Tiffany Martin

Sexual Assault Prevention
Specialist

KUDOS KORNER

Kudos to Sydney B! Sydney is a Crisis Intervention Specialist who goes above and beyond during her shifts to ensure that everything in the helpline is running smoothly. She consistently helps newer employees gain knowledge and crisis intervention skills. She has helped work through power outages and internet outages all while having a positive mind set. She is a huge asset to our team. Thank you Sydney!



Kudos to Mackenzie P! Mackenzie is also a Crisis Intervention Specialist who ensures that every caller is safe, feels comfortable speaking with her, and empowers the caller. Mackenzie has also shown great leadership skills handling emergencies within the department. Thank you Mackenzie!

HAPPENINGS OF THE MONTH

September 4th

Labor Day

Did you know that Labor Day came about by activist who pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the hard working American's that contributed to our strength, prosperity, and well-being?

September 13th

Positive Thinking Day

This day promotes positive thinking and the impact it can have on our lives. Think about all the positive things in your life from being able to breathe, walk, think, or sleep! Starting a gratitude journal and writing down 3 things you are grateful for each day can have a huge impact on your mental health!

September 14th

National Sober Day

Spend this day sober to increase awareness around addiction and recovery. This is one way we can show support to loved ones in sobriety. Use **#NationalSoberDay** on your social media to show your support.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Start Date: February 2022

Current Title: Crisis Intervention Specialist

Background: "I am from Cincinnati but have lived in Kent since beginning my undergrad at KSU with an honors degree in psychology (BSN). My dream would be to open a "one stop shop" mental health center that is accessible to all SES that has everything a client would need including counselors for LGBTQ, trauma, couples and families. I want to be a therapist because I want to be a safe space for people to open up and in turn, grow. My current interest is trauma and I plan to specialize in that. I am currently in the clinical mental health counseling master's program at KSU.

Fun facts about Keegan: She is currently doing her "practicum" at school and has begun counseling KSU students in the counseling center on campus!

Keegan's favorite quote: "Grow through what you go through."



Keegan Dennis

NEW STAFF

Chloe Eaglowski

Crisis Intervention Specialist

Ellianna Crumley

Crisis Intervention Specialist



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