

THE JORDAN SPRAGUE *Life Shines* FUND

Dedicated to the spirit and vibrant memory of Jordan Sprague, the eldest son of Rob and Lisa Sprague and big brother to Kate, Jack, Rose, Chad and Sean. The Jordan Sprague Life Shines Fund was created in 2011 after the tragic loss of Jordan to suicide in July 2010. Jordan was an amazing young man with a heart full of compassion for all of those in his life. He will be always remembered for his open smile, his tremendous sense of humor, his love of nature and his desire to always learn more about the world around him. A student at Rutgers University his star was rising but suicide prevented him from experiencing all of his tomorrows.



Our Goal

Recognizing that everyone at some point in their life feels depressed or overwhelmed, experiences a traumatic loss or event and has trouble coping with the challenges they face just getting through another day—the Jordan Sprague Life Shines Fund is established with the goal of supporting efforts to help people in crisis, respond to those who are suffering or in despair and prevent suicide.

The focus of the Fund's activities will be regional on a community level, funding activities that directly support those who are "at risk" for suicide as well as their families and caregivers.

Join our Friends Supporting the Fund

Though declared a significant public health problem over 10 years ago by the U.S. Surgeon General, suicide prevention typically does not exist in formal corporate philanthropy despite the fact that suicide leads to more deaths in the US than AIDS and homicide combined. Some of that is due to people's discomfort talking about suicide, the stigma attached to it and the many myths and misconceptions people have about suicide. The Fund is doing something to change that getting individuals, businesses, corporations, foundations and those in the sports and entertainment fields to recognize that suicide is a health problem like any other and that by working together we can help people in crisis and save lives.



The Fund has opportunities for you to become a major sponsor of our Fall Gala or to join corporations like The Bank of New York and Johnson and Johnson and support suicide prevention services in the region. Funds will be dedicated to The Samaritans of New York, a not-for-profit organization that helps people in crisis through its 24-hour Suicide Prevention Hotline, education programs and support groups for those who have lost loved ones to suicide.

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The Problem of Suicide

Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the U.S. Twice as many Americans die from suicide as die from AIDS. There are 40% more deaths from suicide than homicide. Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death of American teenagers, the 2nd for college students. One in ten high school students report having made a suicide attempt in the New York City school system, the largest in the nation. *Approximately 1,000,000 teens suffer from depression and half of them will eventually attempt suicide.*



Approximately 25% of adults suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder in any given year, yet less than one-third of them receive treatment. Older and middle-aged men commit the largest number of suicides in the U.S. Depression affects nearly

10% of adults in a given year (more than 19,000,000 people each year) and 90% of individuals who commit suicide experience a mental or substance use disorder or both.

The Jordan Sprague *Life Shines* Fund's mission is to:

- 1. increase available support to those who are in distress, depressed, in crisis or suicidal**
- 2. increase the availability of suicide prevention and crisis intervention training and education**
- 3. increase awareness of the public health problem of suicide and the best means to prevent it**

What Does the Fund support?

The Fund will raise money for the non-religious Samaritans of New York, a 501 ©3 non-profit corporation that operates suicide prevention services in the NYC Tri-State area (www.samaritansnyc.org/aboutus, EIN #13-3164464). Tax-deductible contributions will be made directly to Samaritans (financial statement is available upon request). Funding will support Samaritans' programs:

- The NYC Tri-State area's only confidential **24-hour Suicide Prevention Hotline** providing immediately accessible emotional support to those who are in distress and suicidal, answering 69,000 calls last year. The service is free and is provided by trained volunteers who donate 35,000 hours a year (the equivalent of \$800,000 in donated labor).
- **The Safe Place Program** offers free support groups for people who have lost a loved one to suicide twice monthly providing a safe and supportive environment where they can share their feelings with others who have experienced similar losses.
- **The Public Education Program** provides training and technical assistance to mental health professionals having trained over 30,000 social workers, guidance counselors, psychologists and others in the keys to effective suicide prevention.

