Behind the Lifekeeper Quilts

Sandy Martin formed the Lifekeeper Foundation in 1995 in memory of her only child, 17-year old Tony who died on December 16, 1988.

Sandy quickly became active in suicide awareness, education and prevention. She served in leadership roles and Board positions for many suicide prevention organizations, including SPAN USA (Suicide Prevention Action Network), AFSP (American Foundation for Suicide Prevention), and AAS (American Association of Suicidology). She served in every way she could, including facilitating support groups, chairing survivor conferences and training Home Visit teams.

In 1997, Sandy developed Lifekeeper Memory Quilts to "place a face on suicide" and give the world a visual image of the 32,000+ suicides in the United States each year. The impact of these amazing quilts has been beyond measure and has reached many thousands of people with a powerful message of suicide prevention.

The logo of the Foundation, the Lifekeeper, is today an important symbol for many survivors. It is a circle within a circle, housing seven infinity signs. Created by Sandy, the Lifekeeper is a symbol of hope and a belief that our loved ones live on, seven times longer than eternity, which is infinite.

_Sandy died on April 1, 2006. Though we lost a great champion of suicide prevention, she has us to carry on her legacy._

**We are the Life Keepers!**

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**SPAN-GA**

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Lifekeeper Memory Quilts

Suicide is a secret epidemic in Georgia and across our nation. Even though there are three suicides to every two homicides, the stigma and shame associated with suicide keeps the awful truth in the shadows.

Lifekeeper quilts take the truth into the light. They put a “Face on Suicide”, a visual image of the 32,000+ suicides in the United States each year. Looking at the faces on each quilt starts a conversation. As people take a closer look, they see faces that could easily be their mother or their brother or their friend. They see a concrete representation that we are losing real people, real lives, and in the wake of the tragedy are a multitude of real survivors.

People begin to understand that if real people complete suicide, then real action might prevent it.

Every year SPAN-GA displays the quilts at the Capitol for our legislators to view. The quilts are also brought to events, meetings, conferences, community fairs, and schools and colleges statewide.

All who view the quilts are incredibly impacted, and many are moved to get involved in suicide prevention.

This can be your legacy as well.

You can be a Life Keeper.

Creating a Square for the Lifekeeper Memory Quilt

Many people choose to honor their loved one by having his/her photo on a Lifekeeper Memory Quilt.

If you would like to participate in the program, visit www.span-ga.org to view sample quilt squares and download information and directions. You can also contact us at 678-469-5225 or email quilt designer, Diane Petro at FOSquilts@span-ga.org

When your square is finished, you can email a file to us or mail us a hard copy. If you need help designing your square, we will be happy to support you. Call or email Diane using the information above. Just let us know how we can help!

For everyone who has shared a loved one’s story with the world by honoring them on a quilt, THANK YOU for helping to create awareness and SAVE LIVES.

You are truly the Life Keepers!