



REPORT TO THE **COMMUNITY** 

# OUR MISSION

To transform lives by building a community where suicide prevention is accessible without barriers.

#### OUR VISION

Everyone wins when we achieve our vision that all community members who are at risk for suicide can access mental health support services and live full, meaningful lives.

# OUR VALUES



Hiring and certifying people with lived experiences to become peer support specialists and offer real-life connections in support.



Educating the community.



Connecting those seeking help with additional resources.



Normalizing the conversation about mental health conditions and suicidality.



## **ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Rebecca Ackerman

Payton Cooper

Lori Edwards

Cindy Marling

Francesca Reicherter

Bill Rotchford (Chair)

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Entrepreneur, Founder of Here Tomorrow

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Executive Director, USO Florida

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Psychiatrist, Mayo Clinic

Steven Gottfried

CEO, Equip ID

Jerry Sweat

Lead Pastor, Beach Church

Partners, supporters and neighbors,

As Board Chair, I'm excited to share how we are transforming the way individuals facing suicidal thoughts or hopelessness can access immediate, life-changing support through confidential peer-based support. Our mission is to transform lives by building a community where suicide prevention is accessible without barriers. We provide real-time help, a supportive environment, and resources to change the lives of the friends and family members we serve.

#### A worthy investment in our community

In 2024, Here Tomorrow provided up to one year of no-cost, no-wait support to 1,305 individuals through our Certified Recovery Peer Specialists. That includes "friends" struggling with hopelessness or suicidal thoughts, and "family" members—like I once was—fighting for someone they love. I believe with all my heart that if Here Tomorrow had existed for my son Gary, our story would be different. That's why all of us; the staff, Board of Directors, Advisory Council, volunteers, strategic partners and others, are so very grateful. Every donor dollar makes this place available to change the outcome for someone else.

#### Enhancing communication for greater reach

To connect with even more people in need, we focused on strengthening both internal and external communication. We refreshed our tagline and mission statement to ensure our message is clear—especially when every moment counts. We also launched a redesigned website, making it easier than ever for individuals to find and access the critical support they need.



#### Looking ahead: A future without suicide

The most recent CDC data from 2023 continues to highlight the urgent need for intervention, with Duval County's suicide rate exceeding both the national and Florida state averages. Our goal is to change this reality to create a future where those struggling can find hope, help, and healing.

As Here Tomorrow embarks on our fifth year of service, we are truly thankful for your unwavering commitment to help us provide a vital service to our community. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of those who need us most.

Sincerely,

Joe Kennev

Founder and Board Chair

# REAL PEOPLE. REAL STRUGGLES. REAL HOPE.

#### By Christina Foshee

About six weeks ago, I connected with a man who was referred to us by the 988 Florida Lifeline. In that first conversation, he barely spoke—just enough to tell me he was "so ready to die." He was making plans to rehome his service dog so he could end his life without worrying about what would happen to him.

Our talks were up and down. Some days he'd say there was no hope at all. Other days, he'd just revisit painful memories. But slowly, he began taking small steps—leaving the house more often, taking better care of himself, and spending time with his wonderful dog.

Thanks to the resources we connected him with, he now has access to free general healthcare. Recently, he shared that he's been reading a self-help book, exercising regularly, reconnecting with friends—and most importantly, he said he finally feels hopeful.





## By Brannon Hicks

A veteran referred by the VA walked into Here Tomorrow after calling 988 in crisis the night before. The VA offered him a therapy appointment in two weeks—time he felt he didn't have—so they gave him our rack card, and he came straight to us. I met with him immediately. He had his service dog with him, as I did, and was visibly on the edge. Once we sat down, he broke down in tears.

A former Army infantryman with three combat tours, he was desperate for help. We connected over our shared experiences and our dogs. Within three days, our therapy team had him scheduled and seen. He's now doing well and using his VA benefits to complete multiple trade schools. I wish the VA had been able to help him immediately—but I'm proud they trusted us to be there when it mattered most.

#### By Savannah Reimer

A teenager came to us after hearing about Here Tomorrow at his youth group. He asked his mom to bring him in because he was struggling—really struggling—with anxiety and a difficult relationship at home. He told us he'd been using substances to cope with the stress, but it was only making things worse.

Together, we started working on healthier ways for him to manage what he was feeling. He began trying out new coping skills, leaning into self-care, and channeling his emotions through writing music. Now, he's over 180 days sober.

He says his anxiety is more manageable, he feels more in control, and he's finally found outlets that help instead of hurt. He's also shared how much of a difference the funded therapy and regular check-ins at Here Tomorrow have made in helping him feel supported and seen.

# STORIES OF RECOVERY THROUGH PEER SUPPORT

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My journey is one of resilience and change. From a young age I dealt with undiagnosed ADHD. I navigated through significant educational challenges that made me feel less than others. These difficulties were heightened by personal hardships in my teenage years, which deeply affected my self-perception and identity. I carried these emotional struggles into early adulthood. I silently suffered with my pain until it became unbearable. After a period of profound personal reflection, I finally realized it was time for change.

With the unwavering support of family and friends, I began a transformative journey. From overcoming great setbacks in life, to becoming a successful college graduate, my path illustrates the impact of support and inner strength. Now, years into a journey of self-discovery and growth, I am proud of the progress I've made. My experiences have equipped me with valuable insights and a personal philosophy: to lead by example and show the possibilities of positive change. I am now committed to encouraging others, sharing a message of hope and the potential for joy in life.



By Mikey Velarde Teen Peer Support Specialist

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My personal journey toward mental health has been a winding road, filled with many challenging experiences that have tested my strength in ways I never thought possible. Living with bipolar disorder and ADHD has meant navigating constant highs and lows, wrestling with a mind that often feels like a roller coaster ride. There were moments when the despair seemed too deep, when the urge to give in felt overwhelming. But here I am, standing tall, proof that recovery is possible.

It's been eight years since I broke free from an abusive relationship, a journey that taught me the true meaning of resilience and self-worth. For more than two years now, I've been walking the path of sobriety, which reminds me every day of the strength within me. Anxiety and depression have been constant companions on this journey, and gloom lurks in the corners of my mind. But I've learned to face it headon, to seek help when I need it and to find comfort in the knowledge that I am not alone.

So why do I do what I do? Because I know firsthand the power of hope, the healing that comes from reaching in and then out and finding someone who understands. With empathy born from my own struggles, I'm here to walk alongside you, to offer a hand to hold and a shoulder to lean on as you navigate your own path to wellness.



By Melissa Manzur Peer Support Specialist



# THE HERE TOMORROW TEAM (Top to bottom, left to right):

**Chris Shaw** 

Peer Support Specialist

Ben Feimi

Teen Peer Support Specialist

**Allen Stewart** 

Peer Support Specialist

Joshua Rumberger Rev

Grant Coordinator

Andi Jackson

Peer Support Specialist

**Robert Arcuri** 

Peer Support Specialist

**Emma Schmidt** 

Administrative Assistant

**Christina Foshee** 

Peer Support Specialist

Savannah Reimer

**Development Coordinator** 

Julie Snyder

Inpatient Team Lead

**Amber Cage** 

Military Peer Support Specialist

Melissa Manzur

Peer Support Specialist

Maia Savage

Outreach & Collaboration Coordinator

**Tracee Holzendorf** 

**Executive Director** 

Amanda Frankenfield

Director of Peer Services

Jess McCrosky

Director of Training & Outreach

**Brannon Hicks** 

First Responder & Military
Program Manager

Michele Tucker

Director of Operations

**Nancy Weaver** 

Director of Development

Jade Baughan

Peer Support Team Manager

Bethea García

Training & Resource Coordinator

Mikey Velarde

Teen Peer Support Specialist

Not pictured: Joe Kenney, Founder & Board Chair; Judah Baker, Payton Cooper and Jillian Westberry, Peer Support Specialists; Jessi Garrison, First Responder Peer Support Specialist; Mariel Acosta, Military Peer Support Specialist; Elly Armendariz, Teen Peer Support Specialist; Emily Pope, Teen Outreach Coordinator; and Miriam Racine, Receptionist

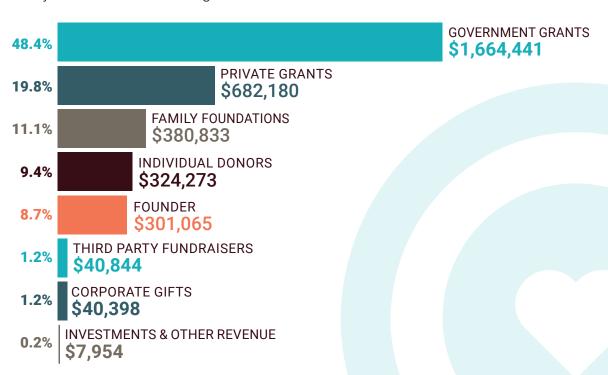
# **2024 IMPACT IN NUMBERS**

At Here Tomorrow, every number tells a story of hope restored, lives changed, and connections that matter. In our most impactful year yet, we walked alongside more than 1,300 individuals—576 of whom we met for the first time.

Thanks to our growing team of peer support specialists, funded therapy, and strong community partnerships, we've provided record-breaking support through over **5,700** peer sessions and nearly **3,000** therapy sessions.



With meaningful investments from government agencies, foundations, and individual donors, we've been able to offer sustainable care to high-acuity individuals, reduce re-entry after Baker Acts through collaboration with Baptist Health, and continue showing up for every Friend and Family member who walks through our doors.



**TOTAL REVENUE: \$3,441,988 TOTAL EXPENSES: \$3,475,892** 



here **here** tomorrow.org





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