ABOUT RISE

The RISE Team
Staff
- Jenna Clinchard  
  - Executive Director
Board Members
- Mark Braman
- Gary Borgese
- Mary Campbell  
  - Secretary
- Susan Davis
- Andi Jason
- Jeffrey Kash
- Kristen Keller  
  - Vice President
- Robert Kilcullen
- Amy Paterra  
  - Board President
- Crystal Salvador-Zapote  
  - Treasurer/CFO
- Jonathan Schoenberg

Key Operational Support
- Max Hofert
- Saguaro Technology

Rise Against Suicide is a nonprofit based in Lafayette, Colorado. Our mission is to help young people at risk of suicide by removing the financial and social barriers to treatment, helping them to find hope and healing. The organization was originally founded as Second Wind Fund of Boulder County in 2009; however, its name was changed in 2020 to better reflect what our organization does and strives toward every day.

Rise Against Suicide funds therapy sessions for at-risk youth struggling with suicidal ideation in the geographic areas included in Boulder Valley School District and St. Vrain Valley School District. Young people up to the age of 19 who are experiencing suicidal thoughts and are uninsured or underinsured are eligible for funded counseling services through RISE. The organization receives referrals from private and public elementary, middle, and high schools, community social workers, psychologists and mental health professionals, hospitals, and mental health facilities. Within hours of receiving a request for help, at-risk youth can be connected with qualified, private therapists; this immediate response is unique to Rise Against Suicide.

According to the CDC, as of 2019, suicide was the second leading cause of death among 10 to 24-year-olds in the United States. In Colorado specifically, from 2016 to 2018, suicide death rates among 10 to 24-year-olds increased 51.3% highlighting the significance of this problem in our country as a whole as well as in our state specifically. RISE works to ensure that no young person struggling with suicidal thoughts is unable to receive the quality mental health care they need and deserve, in an effort to combat youth suicide.
Dear Friends,

Rise Against Suicide (formerly Second Wind of Boulder County) celebrated 12 years of service this year. Every year offers growth opportunities for the organization; however, 20/21 demanded we make significant changes due to the pandemic. When the schools stopped in-person learning in March 2020, we needed to figure out how to continue reaching our kiddos.

Young people struggled significantly through COVID-19 and continue to suffer today. Many had to adjust to remote learning, isolation from friends, and family struggles, including losing loved ones and guardians losing jobs. During this time, many kids experienced heightened feelings of stress, anxiety, and for some, suicidal thoughts. Therefore, RISE’s service is critical to ensuring that uninsured or underinsured youths access quality and timely mental health care.

Despite the struggles that many people faced, our community came together to support our young people struggling with suicidal thoughts. Due to continued support from the community, RISE was able to pivot and find new avenues to reach youth and funded 1,111 therapy sessions which were the most funded in a single year since we opened in 2009.

Looking to 2022 offers us much hope with our kiddos getting back to school, connecting with friends, and having the opportunity to learn in person. We could not do this without all of our phenomenal and generous donors, foundations, and grants. My sincere thanks to all who continue supporting RISE and its youth.

Jenna Clinchard

JENNA CLINCHARD
Rise Against Suicide, Executive Director
RISE IN 2021

Like many other organizations, RISE had to pivot in 2021, as a result of COVID-19. Before the pandemic RISE relied heavily on counselors in schools to make referrals and connect us with the young people we serve. However, once kids transitioned to online learning it became difficult for counselors to connect with youths, so RISE needed to come up with new ways to reach the community and its children struggling with suicidal thoughts.

One of the ways RISE did this was by partnering with other groups in the community that served similar demographics, who are listed below:

- Boulder Community Health (BCH)
- Centennial Peaks Hospital
- Children, Youth, and Families | City of Longmont
- Colorado Spirit – MHP
- Out Boulder
- YMCA

These partnerships allowed children to be referred to Rise Against Suicide through these organizations rather than just through schools. This made a significant impact in RISE’s ability to reach our community’s youth; in 2020 RISE received 153 referrals and funded 1,111 therapy sessions, which is a record for the organization. Specifically, RISE had 66 referrals from the Boulder Valley School District and 87 from the Saint Vrain Valley School District.

RISE Against Suicide also added an In-House Qualified Referral Source (QRS), who conducts suicide risk assessments to determine if a child needs RISE’s services. This allows children, parents, and/or trusted adults to reach out directly to RISE instead of having to go through schools in order to get in contact with the organization, which has been a tremendous help to those who utilize our services. The addition of a QRS along with RISE’s community partnerships continue to broaden Rise Against Suicide’s outreach efforts even as kids are going back to school, allowing RISE to serve more young people struggling with suicidal ideation.
I am writing to thank you for the help and hope you have given my son and our entire family. My 15-year-old son was seen by a therapist within his health insurance plan, and found to be deeply depressed and suicidal. During this time of shock, pain and fear, we were told the health insurance plan did not cover mental health treatment, so for him to be hospitalized or even receive outpatient counseling, we would have to pay full out of pocket. Having limited financial resources, we were desperate to keep him safe and find outgoing therapy we could pay for without becoming homeless. We called over 30 resources trying to find help for him, and finally through his school, found RISE. Words cannot express the relief and hope RISE offered at a time we so desperately needed help.

It is hard for parents or any individual who has not experienced this to understand just how frightening and devastating it is to see a child (or any loved one for that matter) sink into depression and plan to end their life. As a parent, you feel so helpless and paralyzed with fear that you may lose your child. Yet there are such limited sources for help. You watch over your child so carefully from infancy, provide good nutrition, good physical health care, protection from disease, safety, love and nurturing, and if you are lucky enough, you still have health insurance for your child. But what happens when your health insurance provider decides mental health is not something they will cover and this precious child you love so much develops depression?

Kids don’t choose to be depressed. Impulse control during adolescence is limited, not to mention the tremendous stressors during adolescence. This is why we lose so many of our precious children to suicide. Available, affordable help is in short supply, which is why RISE is such a valuable and necessary fund. Without it, I don’t know where desperate parents and kids would go. It has saved an untold number of lives. It has certainly rescued our family, and we will be forever grateful!

Not only is the help RISE provided life-saving, but I can’t express my thanks and gratitude enough for the response I got when I first called. After 30 rejections and extreme desperation on my part, the first response from the individual answering the phone at RISE was, "We will help you. We will get your son the help he needs right away. We will help you through the referral process with the school. We are here for you." And you were, with a therapist who could see him right away and all your support. I cried a lot during this crisis with my son – out of fear and frustration. But the tears I had after that call were of pure relief and gratitude. I know you must know the tremendous good your organization does but let me say from the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU for helping to save my son.

- RISE AGAINST SUICIDE PARENT
EVENTS

**Emerge 5K Run**
Due to the pandemic RISE's Emerge 5K Run was virtual; however, that did not prevent people from participating and even offered the opportunity for people to participate from across the world. 617 people participated in the race from 8 different countries, our farthest participant joined us from Koror, Palau, which is 7,434 miles from Boulder! Participants sent in pictures of them and often their friends and family participating in the run, which RISE then posted on a Motigo wall to provide some measure of connection since everyone couldn’t be together in person. Emerge was RISE’s most successful event of the year, due to the generosity of our community members, donors, and sponsors, and brought in roughly 23% of the organization's total income for the fiscal year.

**Holiday Star Program**
In 2019 RISE started the Holiday Star Program and the program saw positive growth in 2020. Before the pandemic the Holiday Star Program entailed RISE having trees and starry walls in different locations throughout Boulder, Longmont, Lafayette, Louisville, and Erie where people could take a star and donate the gift of mental health. However, COVID-19 and quarantine limited people's ability to physically get out into the community, so RISE took the event virtual by creating a starry wall on the organization’s website that people could donate through. While RISE enjoys getting out into the community during the holiday season and putting up trees and stars, making the event digital allowed for people from across the nation and the world to donate the gift of mental health in addition to local community members.

**RISE Auction**
For the third year in a row, in September, National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, RISE held an online auction. During this event local businesses donated items, which RISE then auctioned off to community members to raise money for our community's young people.

**RISE Together Partner**
The RISE Together Partnership is a new initiative that allows donors to sign up to donate monthly, while this isn’t technically an event it offers a new avenue through which community members and donors can support the organization. The program got off to a modest start but RISE is confident that it will grow as the organization continues to get out into the community and people hear about the opportunity to be a RISE Together partner.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Revenue

- Individual Contributions: 41%
- Events & Fundraising: 30%
- Foundations & Grants: 28%
- Other: 1%

Expenses

- Programming: 78.1%
- Administrative Fees: 14.2%
- Fundraising: 7.7%

ASSETS

- Total Current Assets: $358,721.00
- Total Fixed Assets: $2,635.91
- Total Assets: $361,356.91

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

- Total Liabilities: $9,779.80
- Unrestricted: $351,577.11
- Total Liabilities & Equity: $361,356.91
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We at RISE want to express our sincerest gratitude to all of our donors and members of the community, without your generosity and support our organization would not have been able to find nearly as much success as it did in 2020 and wouldn’t have been able to serve as many young people as it did. Your support allows us to continue to help save the lives of young people struggling with suicidal thoughts and ensure that they receive the quality mental health care that they need and deserve.

We also want to offer our sincerest thanks to all of our outstanding therapists, without whom, our work and the success we have had in reaching our community’s young people struggling with suicidal thoughts would not be possible.

- Rowena Baca, MA, LPC
- Lavinia Ball-Marian, MA, LPC
- Rhae Birmingham, MA, LPC
- Kira Brissenden, MSW, LCSW
- Kirsten Burris, MA, LPC
- Sydney Cople, MA, LPC, NCC
- Kathy Cornelius-Smith, MA, LPC
- Heather Crate, LCSW
- Sherry D’Andrea, MA, LPC
- Marc Esenwein, LCSW
- Kristen Forrest, MA, LPC
- Alyssa Frank-Martin, PhD
- Brian Keating, MA, LPC
- Jeffrey Kuhn, LCSW
- Peter Lear, LCSW
- Corina Mihailescu, LPC
- Neil Rosen, Psy.D
- Robin Sackmann, LPC
- Jessica Whitesel, MA, LPC