



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free film screening aims to save lives in Rutherford County

'Suicide: The Ripple Effect' chronicles the story of man who attempted to take life by jumping from Golden Gate Bridge

ASHEVILLE, N.C. – Local residents are invited to a free November film screening that shines a light on people who are using personal experiences with suicide to help others find the hope they need to stay alive.

"Suicide: The Ripple Effect" will be presented from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 27, at the Isothermal Community College Library Auditorium, located at 286 ICC Loop Road in Spindale. The event is open to the public. Following the screening will be a panel discussion with local experts, including Rutherford County psychologist and mental health advocate Dr. Terry Ledford.

The event is presented by Vaya Health, a public managed healthcare organization serving western North Carolina, and sponsored by Vaya's Consumer and Family Advisory Committee. It is also supported by the Community Health Council of Rutherford County, the Rutherford-Polk-McDowell Health District and the United Way of Rutherford County.

"Suicide is a concern in every community, including western North Carolina," said psychiatrist Dr. Craig Martin, Vaya's chief medical officer. "This film draws attention to the issue so that people in crisis can find hope and get help before it is too late. Suicide is a tragic response to what is often a temporary problem, and it leaves devastation for survivors and communities, but it is often preventable with available services and supports. Treatment is available right here in the Rutherford County area."

The film chronicles the story of Kevin Hines, who at age 19 attempted to take his life by jumping from the Golden Gate Bridge. Since then, Hines has been on a mission to use his story to help others find recovery and stay alive. The film also features some of the world's leading suicide prevention experts and the stories of individuals who are using their own experiences with suicide to help others find hope.

Mental health professionals from Family Preservation Services of NC will be on hand at the screening to provide support and answer questions about local services. Western North Carolinians seeking help for depression or other mental health concerns are encouraged to call Vaya's toll-free, 24/7 Access to Care Line at 1-800-849-6127.

About Vaya Health

Based in Asheville, N.C., Vaya Health manages public funds for mental health, substance use disorder and intellectual or developmental disability services in 23 western North Carolina counties: Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Caldwell, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison,

McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes and Yancey. Access to care and crisis assistance are available 24/7 at 1-800-849-6127. Learn more at www.vayahealth.com.

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