



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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[www.heartlineoklahoma.org](http://www.heartlineoklahoma.org)

### **Memory of Edmond Youth to Increase Awareness of Suicide**

When Andrew Neely's lifeless body was found on March 29, 2007, his mother, firefighters, & EMTs performed CPR in the attempt at giving him a second chance.

At the hospital the words were the harshest a parent has to hear, "He will not survive."

As his mother cradled her son, knowing these were his last breaths, she whispered into his ear, "Send us 'Pennies from Heaven' so we know that you are near." Andrew died on April 5, 2007.

Andrew was a gifted student in math, science and English. He was in two church youth groups and loved speed skating, skateboarding, camping, and cars. He played clarinet in the Edmond Santa Fe High School marching band and was in the clarinet choir. Andrew was in Boy Scouts for eight years, attaining the rank of Life and was working toward his Eagle. Andrew was posthumously honored with the Spirit of the Eagle National Award for a celebration of his life. Funds donated to Boy Scouts in Andrew's name allowed many boys to join, and much needed scouting equipment has been purchased. Andrew's dream was to be in the Naval Air Force and become a Blue Angel. His family wants to continue to carry on Andrew's tradition of public service projects. "Andrew wanted to make the world a better place," Andrew's mother, Tracy Neely, explained.

In honor of her son's dream of making the world a better place, Neely hosts a free event filled with hope and education about suicide prevention. Open to the public, the "Pennies from Heaven"

event will include a silent auction of Andrew Neely's personal belongings, including a dirt bike, games, a slide show, and photo opportunities with fire fighters. It will further help people learn about what they can do to change Oklahoma suicide statistics and how to help those in their personal circle who are struggling with suicidal thoughts. The public may donate pennies in support of suicide prevention efforts, which will be donated to HeartLine's suicide prevention programs. The event will take place on Sunday, April 5 at 3:30 p.m. at the Crossings Community Center at 2208 W. Hefner Road in Oklahoma City.

Pennies may be donated at these locations during the weekend of April 3rd, 4th, & 5th, and Monday the 6th ONLY:

\* Legacy Bank, 1289 E. 15th (& Bryant), Edmond, OK (Lobby hours- Fri. Apr 3, 8am-5pm, Sat. Apr 4, 9am-noon, Mon. Apr 6, 8am-5pm. Closed Sun.)

\* Fort Thunder Harley-Davidson, 500 SW 11th St., Moore, OK (Fri. Apr 3rd, 9am-7pm, Sat. Apr 4, 9am-7pm, & Mon. Apr 6, 9am-7pm. closed Sun.)

\* Atomic Brown Scooter Shop, 3104 N. Western Ave., OKC (Fri. Apr 3, 10am-6pm, Sat. Apr 4, 10am-3pm. Closed Sun & Mon)

\* Roll-A-Way Skating Rink, 5800 NW 36th, OKC (Friday Apr 3, 7pm-midnight, Sat. Apr 4, noon-5pm & 7pm-10:30pm, Sunday Apr 5, 1pm-4pm. Closed on Mon)

\* Subway, 23 N. Council Rd. (at Reno Ave) OKC  
hours 10am-9pm all week

\* Boy Scouts of America Scout Shop, 3031 NW 64 (near NW 63 & May) Fri. Apr 3, 9am-6pm; Sat. Apr 4, 9am-2pm, & Mon. Apr 6, 9am-6pm (Closed on Sun)

\* Weatherford Fire Dept., 118 N. Kansas St. (just north of Main St.), Weatherford, OK

\*Broadway Lites Beauty Salon

118 N. Broadway,(just north of Main St.), Weatherford, OK

\* By mail: HeartLine, PO Box 12832, Okla. City, OK 73157 Attn: Pennies from Heaven.

Donations made by mail can be used as a tax deduction.

HeartLine's HELP (Healthy Education for Life Program) Suicide Awareness and Prevention Outreach Program is considered an invaluable service to the community as it assists schools and community youth groups in identifying students who are at risk. It informs everyone from those who work with young people to students about suicidal warnings signs and how to take action, and includes information on the impact of depression and substance abuse. The video-based program, presented by concerned volunteers, currently reaches approximately 5,000 youth each year. Following the presentations, over 10% of youth have self-identified that they have considered harming themselves or are currently thinking about attempting suicide. Suicide is the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of death for Oklahoma youth aged 15-24.

HeartLine has been serving Central Oklahoma since 1971, and provides suicide prevention outreach programs, listening and crisis intervention services. HeartLine's call specialists are trained in crisis intervention and are available around the clock through HeartLine's phone-based services, including 2-1-1, the 24/7 helpline 848-CARE, and two national suicide prevention lines 1-800-SUICIDE and 1-800-273-TALK.

For more information about volunteer opportunities or how to incorporate HeartLine's HELP program in a school or youth setting, call 840-9396 or visit [www.heartlineoklahoma.org](http://www.heartlineoklahoma.org).

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