

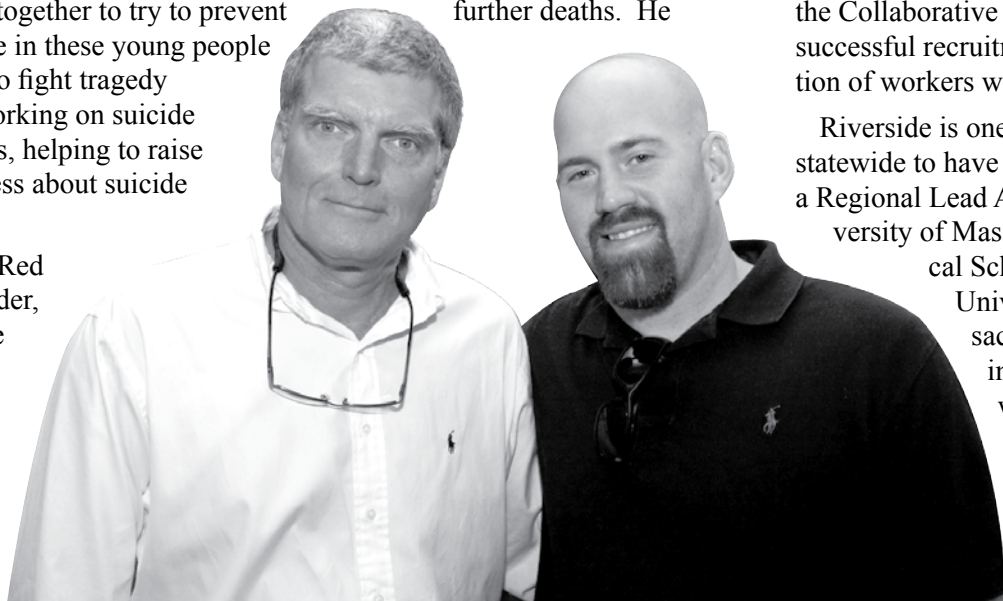
IN REVIEW

Suicide Prevention Fundraiser Hits a Home Run

For the 200 people who attended Riverside's "Strike Out Teen Suicide" Brunch on July 25, the event quickly became much more than a chance to socialize over eggs and pancakes while listening to a popular Boston sports star. It became an opportunity learn just how widespread is the tragedy of youth suicide and its devastating impact on friends and families. It became an opportunity to speak out loud and clear about a subject that is, much too often, confined to whispers.

Larry Berkowitz, Ed.D., the Director of the Riverside Trauma Center astonished the crowd by explaining that, nationwide, four times as many youths die of suicide than homicide. And, yet, the media is mostly silent on the topic. Rich Roberts, the father of Jason Roberts, a Needham teen who took his own life in March, gave a poignant speech about his son and the shock of his death. He also spoke about how many of Jason's friends and fellow classmates joined together to try to prevent further deaths. He expressed his pride in these young people who had decided to fight tragedy with activism – working on suicide prevention hotlines, helping to raise funds and awareness about suicide prevention.

Kevin Youkilis, Red Sox All-Star infielder, surprised everyone in the room when, affected by the openness of those who spoke before him, he



Rich Roberts with Kevin Youkilis

[Kevin Youkilis continued on next page]

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Riverside To Lead Regional Employment Collaborative

Riverside was recently selected as the Lead Agency for the Regional Employment Collaborative serving South Central Massachusetts. As a result of this new contract, we will receive up to \$500,000 over a three year period to develop the Central Mass Regional Employment Collaborative. The goal of the Collaborative is to increase the successful recruitment and retention of workers with disabilities.

Riverside is one of five agencies statewide to have been designated a Regional Lead Agency. The University of Massachusetts Medical School and The University of Massachusetts Boston, in collaboration with the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Health and

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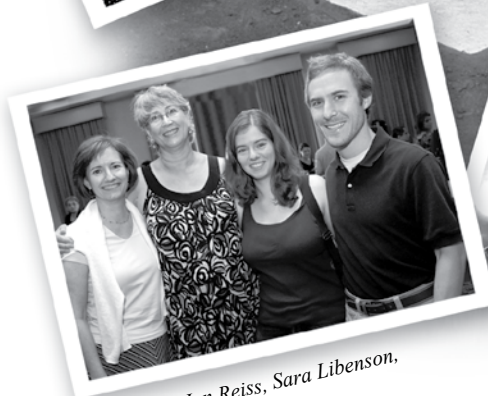
revealed that, as a teen, he experienced the loss of three friends to suicide. Visibly overcome by emotion at times, he spoke in particular about the high school friend who became his college roommate and had been one of the few people who believed that Kevin would, in fact, make it to the major leagues. Even today, many years later, the emotional impact on Kevin of the young man's death during the fall of his sophomore year at the University of Cincinnati was obvious.

On a beautiful Saturday morning in July, hundreds of adults and teens came together at the Needham Sheraton and came away with much more than they expected. They came away with a better understanding of long-term impact on everyone in the community when a young person kills themselves and the realization that they can, in fact, help prevent future tragedies. In the process, \$30,000 was raised to support Riverside's suicide prevention programs.

*Shannon Jurgens, Dan Shapiro,
Jenn Gates, Kayla Pitey, Ashley Marshal*



*Holly Shuman, Bob Shuman,
Renee Aisenberg, Peter Aisenberg*



*Lisa Muto, Jan Reiss, Sara Libenson,
David Jewett*



Brian Murch and Andy Shapiro



We want to thank everyone who helped make the "Strike Out Teen Suicide" Brunch a success.

In particular, we would like to recognize Kevin Youkilis *Hits for Kids*, New England Sports Academy and S.A. Chrobak – Photographic Artists for their donation of fabulous silent auction items. And, of course, a special thanks to our sponsors:

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Andy Shapiro, Ruth Bonsignore, Michael Peltier, Ronna and Stephen Miller with Kevin Youkilis



Letting the Good Times Roll! 3rd Annual Blue Jean Ball on Track for Success

With Riverside's 3rd Annual Heart and Soul Blue Jean Ball only weeks away, it's becoming clear that this year's gala will be a very special event.

We'll be treating our guests to the sights, sounds, and tastes of Louisiana and the "Big Easy." For the very first time, renowned Zydeco and Blues recording artist Major Handy will be bringing his entire band and legendary skills up north all the way from Lafayette, Louisiana to entertain a New England crowd.



Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and the Needham Bank have once again signed on as major sponsors, but there are many more sponsorship opportunities available.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities or tickets to the Ball, please contact Dawn Hayes at 781-320-5325 or dhayes@riversidecc.org.

We hope you can join us on September 26th at Elm Bank in Wellesley to help raise funds for Riverside while dancing the night away.

[Lead Regional Collaborative continued from page one]

Human Services, recently announced a total of \$2.5 million awarded to these lead agencies via a grant from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Located across the state, the Collaboratives will bring together the work of non-profit vocational services agencies, regional state disability and workforce and economic development offices, and private industry partners in order to improve employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. The Collaborative Riverside has been tapped to lead will target 38 southern Worcester County communities.

Dr. Jean McGuire, Assistant Secretary for Disability Policy and Programs at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services, explained that all of the lead agencies "has proposed innovative and effective approaches to improving the employment rate of individuals with disabilities." We are delighted to have been recognized for our long history of assisting individuals with mental illness and other disabilities to find and retain meaningful employment.

Congratulations to:

SHINING A LIGHT ON TEEN MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES:

Burlington Middle School Students Make a Difference for Riverside

What can a group of middle school students do to raise awareness about teen mental health issues? Well, “Teen Light,” a community service group made up of 8th graders at the Burlington’s Marshall Simonds Middle School, managed to coordinate three separate fundraising projects that, together, brought in over \$11,000 in support of the Riverside Trauma Center’s youth suicide prevention programs! An impressive number for any group – a remarkable figure for a group of young people.

After identifying depression and other mental health problems facing teens as a subject that deserved more attention, this enthusiastic and energetic band of students, with the help of the faculty, set up a blog about mental health and invited staff from the Riverside Trauma Center to speak on the topic at a class assembly.

Their first fundraising drive, a chocolate lollipop sale, brought in \$1800 – with 500 lollipops sold in the first day alone. This was followed by a “restaurant night” and a community-based Walk-a-Thon. Throughout the year, “Team Light” stayed true to its mission: educating themselves and the public on an important topic, while raising funds to tackle the problem. We are proud that this wonderful group of teens chose to honor Riverside with the result of all of their hard work. Thank you!



Left to right: Diane Arathuzik, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Emmanuel College, Patricia Iyer, Medication Administration Program (MAP) Trainer for Riverside, Helen Ahern, MS, RN, Assistant Professor of Nursing, Emmanuel College .

Patricia Iyer, Medication Administration Program (MAP) Trainer for Riverside, on receiving the Clara Barton service to Humanity Award at Emmanuel College.

Kathleen Janssen, Director of Quality Management, on the publication of her article on “Volunteerism” in the “Massachusetts Report on Nursing.”



Students and staff from the Marshall Simonds Middle School present a check from their first fundraising project to Larry Berkowitz and Dorothea Iannuzzi of the Riverside Trauma Center

We would like to thank all our generous donors in the past fiscal year for their support and recognition.

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