



**American
Foundation
for Suicide
Prevention**
Massachusetts



May 11, 2023

Joan McNamara
Town of Natick
13 East Central St., Natick, MA

Dear Joan McNamara & Natick City Board,

My name is Heather Claflin, and I am the Special Events Manager for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), Massachusetts Chapter. AFSP Massachusetts is committed to making a positive impact in our community by supporting individuals who have experienced a loss to suicide, support someone who struggles, or have personally experienced a mental health crisis. One of the ways we do this is through our annual Out of the Darkness Community Walks.

I am writing for your approval to have a banner displayed during National Suicide Prevention Week and the week after in the Town of Natick. National Suicide Prevention Week is from September 10th-16th and we are asking for the banner to stay up until the 24th. The banner would have our walk title, the date and the website for the walk to learn how to register or just to learn more about why we have the walk.

The MetroWest Community Walk to Fight Suicide is taking place at the Natick Common on October 15, 2023. Last year we raised \$49K with 310 Participants.

What is an Out of the Darkness Walk to Fight Suicide?

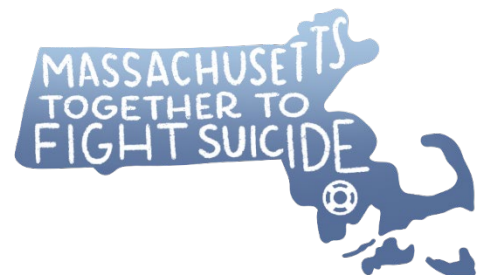
AFSP's Community Walks, held in hundreds of cities across the country, are the core of the Out of the Darkness movement, which began in 2004. These events give people the courage to open up about their own connections to the cause, and a platform to create a culture that's smarter about mental health. Friends, family members, neighbors and coworkers walk side-by-side, supporting each other and in memory of those we've lost and for those who need us now.

Your Support Makes a Difference!

In Massachusetts, suicide is the second leading cause of death for ages 10 to 34. Mental health and suicide prevention are more important than ever. With your support, we are maximizing our mission by reaching and serving more people through our lifesaving programs and resources. The funds we raise help to: fund research for suicide prevention, create and distribute education programs, advocate for public policy, and support survivors of suicide loss.

Thank you for considering our request!

Sincerely,
Heather Claflin
AFSP Massachusetts Special Events Manager
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617-285-9413





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