WEBINAR

Children of Suicide: In her Wake

Monday, November 23, 2016 7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.

Thursday, November 26, 2016 12:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Greystone Bereavement Centre

1802 McAra St., Regina, SK

Sponsored by

Although reliable statistics are difficult to come by, a conservative estimate reveals that at least 10,000 to 20,000 children and adolescents in the United States are bereaved by suicide each year.

Although bereaved children experience a painful period of acute grief after a parent dies by suicide, most come to terms with the loss. However, a clinically significant number may develop psychiatric disorders, alcohol abuse, and suicidality. There may be a window of opportunity after a parent’s death to fortify family cohesion and to mitigate confusion, self-blame and guilt for the death. It is critical to support these vulnerable youth and to help them tap into available community support services. Dr. Rappaport will examine the effects of bereavement on children, drawing on research and on personal experiences as a clinician and as a daughter who lost her mother to suicide at four years old.

This webinar will integrate her personal experience working through the loss of her mother with an overview of research and guidelines that are relevant for both caregivers/clinicians who help bereaved children heal and for those who have lost a loved one to suicide and are wondering about the impact on children. Dr. Rappaport will provide insight into the emotions and experiences that children, teens and families affected by a suicide death often go through and will offer ways to provide support. She will discuss developmentally appropriate ways to respond to common questions, address how to prepare kids to return to school, and review research that addresses survivors’ questions about genetic risks.

About the Presenter

Dr. Nancy Rappaport is a graduate of Princeton University and Tufts University School of Medicine. A board certified child and adolescent psychiatrist, Rappaport is associate professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School where she teaches about child development and supervises child psychiatry fellows.

Rappaport authored the memoir In Her Wake: A Child Psychiatrist Explores the Mystery of Her Mother’s Suicide (Basic Books, September 2009), winner of the Boston Authors Club’s 2010 Julia Ward Howe Prize. In a starred review, Publisher’s Weekly called the book “Fearless ... a stunning narrative of perspective, profound sadness and unrelenting hope.” She has traveled extensively to consult and present about children who are adapting to the loss of a loved one to suicide and to help educate a broad audience about mental illness and how to provide support to a person who is suicidal. Her most recent book is The Behavior Code: A Practical Guide to Understanding and Teaching the Most Challenging Students (Harvard Education Press, April 2012), written with behavioral analyst Jessica Minahan.

Space is limited so please register for this webinar by contacting dwayne@rpci.org or call 306-523-2786