

## ***Iowa Suicide Bereavement Support Groups***

The following is a list of suicide bereavement support groups. The Iowa Department of Public Health makes these support group lists as a public service and does not run, recommend, endorse, or fund any of the groups listed. In addition, we do not monitor individual groups. We update information on a quarterly basis.

Each of the groups is facilitated by at least one individual that has completed training or has an educational background in counseling that specifically qualifies them to facilitate the group. The group meets at least monthly and has a primary focus of supporting those who are bereaved by suicide. Descriptions of each group include contact information for the group coordinator; meeting location, day, and time; type of facilitator, and age range supported. Each group is provided at no cost unless otherwise noted. If you have questions about this list or to have your group listed, contact Keri Neblett at [keri.neblett@idph.iowa.org](mailto:keri.neblett@idph.iowa.org).

If you need resources or immediate support, please contact Your Life Iowa by calling 855-581-8111, texting 855-895-TEXT (8398), or visiting <https://yourlifeiowa.org/>.

***Note: Due to COVID-19 many groups have modified their meeting format to a virtual platform, require social distancing and masks or have canceled meetings. Contact the group facilitator prior to the meeting for details.***

### **Ankeny – Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group**

Contacts: Stephanie McAdam, [stef.mastergardener@gmail.com](mailto:stef.mastergardener@gmail.com), 515-491-3446

Meeting Place: 118 NW Linden, Ankeny, IA 50023

Meeting Days/Time: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month, 10:00-11:30AM

Facilitated by: Peer

### **Cedar Rapids - Suicide Survivors Group (Adults welcome)**

Contacts: Nancy Oehlert, [noehlert@foundation2.org](mailto:noehlert@foundation2.org), 319-362-2174

Meeting Place: Please contact Nancy for meeting location details

Meeting Days/Time: 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month, 6-7:30pm

Facilitated by: Professional

### **Davenport – Families/Friends of Suicide Loss Support Group**

Contact: Jeff Banks 563-528-2915, [jefffromebanks@gmail.com](mailto:jefffromebanks@gmail.com)

Meeting Place: St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2136 Brady, Davenport, IA 52806

Meeting Day/Time: First Monday of every month, 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Facilitated by: Peer

### **Des Moines - Coping After a Suicide Support Group**

Contacts: Stephanie McAdam, 515-491-3446, [stef.mastergardener@gmail.com](mailto:stef.mastergardener@gmail.com)

Meeting Place: Polk County River Point, 2309 Euclid Ave., Des Moines, IA 50310

Meeting Day/Time: Last Saturday of each month, 9-10:30 am; 2nd Thursday of each month, 6-7:30pm

Facilitated by: Peer

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**Dubuque Area Suicide Survivors' Support Group: A Grief Group for Family and Friends (Adults and Adolescents welcome)**

Contact: Bridget Bartlett, [bridget.bartlett@hillcrest-fs.org](mailto:bridget.bartlett@hillcrest-fs.org), 563-582-0145

Meeting Place: Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2155 University Ave, Dubuque, IA 52001

Meeting Day/Time: 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7pm

Facilitated by: Professional

**Hampton – Remembering Lives Lost to Suicide (Adults and Adolescents (Ages 16+) welcome)**

Contact: Jill Odell, [jill.odell3@gmail.com](mailto:jill.odell3@gmail.com), 641-430-8034

Meeting Place: Informal gatherings at various locations

Meeting Day/Time: Please contact facilitator for more information

Facilitated by: Peer

**Iowa City – Coping with Suicide Loss**

Contact: Kitch Shatzer, 319-461-0266, [revkitch@hotmail.com](mailto:revkitch@hotmail.com)

Meeting Place: Guidelink Center, 300 Southgate Ave, Iowa City, IA 52240

Meeting Day/Time: 1st Thursday of every month, 7:00-8:30pm

Facilitated by: Peer

**Knoxville - The Safe Place**

Contact: Shelly Braley, 641-891-5912, [Rochelle@iowatelecom.net](mailto:Rochelle@iowatelecom.net)

Meeting Place: Celebrate Church, 1005 N Lincoln, Knoxville, IA 50138

Meeting Day/Time: 1st Thursday of each month at 6:30pm

Facilitated by: Peer/Professional

**Manchester – Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group (Adults welcome)**

Contact: Colleen Jennings, 563-608-7800, [cocojenn65@gmail.com](mailto:cocojenn65@gmail.com)

Meeting Place: Regional Medical Center, Sheppard Education Center, 709 W. Main St, Manchester, IA

Meeting Day/Time: 1st Tuesday of each month, 6:00-7:30pm

Facilitated by: Peer

**Mason City – Touched by Suicide**

Contact: Wendy Martinez, 641-420-0049, [touchedbysuicidemasoncity@gmail.com](mailto:touchedbysuicidemasoncity@gmail.com)

Meeting Place: First Baptist Church, 125 East State St. Mason City, IA

Meeting Day/Time: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, 6:00-8:00pm

Facilitated by: Peer/Professional

**Omaha – Parents of Suicides Together (Adults welcome)**

Contact: Karen McElroy 402-677-4564, [parentsofsuicidestogether@yahoo.com](mailto:parentsofsuicidestogether@yahoo.com)

Meeting Place: St. Robert's Church at 11802 Pacific St, Omaha, NE 68154 (temporary location)

Meeting Day/Time: Meetings held monthly on the second Tuesday of the month from 7:00-9:00pm

Facilitated by: Peer

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### **Spencer – Survivors of Suicide Loss Group**

Contact: Lynn Graesing, 712-260-7072, [lynn.graesing@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.graesing@gmail.com)

Meeting Place: Grand Avenue Community Outreach, 605 Grand Ave, Spencer, IA 51301

Meeting Day/Time: 2nd Saturday of each month, 9:30 am-11:00am

Facilitated by: Peer

### **Swisher - Parents Healing Together (from child loss by suicide)**

Contact: Deb Ferguson, 319-721-9815, [parentshealingtogether@gmail.com](mailto:parentshealingtogether@gmail.com)

Meeting Place: contact facilitator

Meeting Day/Time: 3rd Sunday of the month

Facilitated by: Peer

### **Urbandale – Survivors of Suicide Loss Support Group (Adults welcome)**

Contact: Andrea Severson, 515-274-4006 ext. 164, [aseverson@dmpcc.org](mailto:aseverson@dmpcc.org)

Meeting Place: Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center, 8553 Urbandale Ave. Urbandale, IA 50322

Meeting Day/Time: 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, 7:00-8:30pm

Facilitated by: Professional

### **Waterloo - Survivors of Suicide Support Group (Adults welcome)**

Contact: Heather Peiffer, [hpeiffer@cvhospice.org](mailto:hpeiffer@cvhospice.org) or Lynette Jordan, [ljordan@cvhospice.org](mailto:ljordan@cvhospice.org) 319-272-2002

Meeting Place: 900 Tower Park Drive Waterloo, Iowa 50702

Meeting Day/Time: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, 6:00-7:30pm

Facilitated by: Professional

### **Waverly - Healing After a Loss to Suicide**

Contact: Bonnie Travers, 702-203-9567, [bonnietravers@ymail.com](mailto:bonnietravers@ymail.com)

Meeting Place: Heritage United Methodist Church 1201 230th St, Waverly, IA 50677

Meeting Day/Time: 2nd Saturday of each month, 10-12pm

Facilitated by: Peer

### **West Des Moines - Surviving Loss by Suicide (Adults welcome)**

Contact: Stephanie McAdam, 515-491-3446, [stef.mastergardener@gmail.com](mailto:stef.mastergardener@gmail.com)

Meeting Place: Hamilton's Funeral Home 3601 Westown Pkwy, West Des Moines, IA 50265

Meeting Day/Time: 1st Thursday of each month, 6-7:30pm

Facilitated by: Peer

### **In addition to these groups, here are a few Iowa resources that may also be helpful:**

- [American Foundation for Suicide Prevention: Iowa chapter](#)
- [Compassionate Friends](#)
- [NAMI Iowa](#)

Local support may also be available at funeral homes, hospice grief support, mental health providers, school counselors, crisis centers, employee assistance programs or faith communities.

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