

The Resiliency Center created to meet ongoing needs resulting from mass violence

When a needs' analysis identified 65 zip codes with people impacted by the Hesston and Newton, Kansas, mass shooting, The Resiliency Center was formed.

NEWTON, KANSAS, UNITED STATES, January 15, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- On February 25, 2016, three people were killed and 14 others injured in a series of shootings in Newton and Hesston, Kansas, including in and outside an Excel Industries building. The shooter was then killed by a responding police officer.



The effects of a traumatic event do not end in a single day, week or month. It can take years for healing to occur with the help of appropriate resources. Our services provide a bridge to recovery."

Jan Jones, executive director of The Resiliency Center.

Two years later, family, friends, coworkers and community members still face the aftermath of that day. Out of this traumatic event—and its ongoing challenges—arose The Resiliency Center, a grant-funded nonprofit organization with services to foster resiliency and promote healing.

"The effects of a traumatic event like the one that occurred in Newton and Hesston do not end in a single day, week or month," said Jan Jones, executive director of The Resiliency

Center. "It can take years for healing to fully occur, with the help of appropriate resources. Our services provide a bridge to recovery."

The Resiliency Center, with offices located at 215 S. Pine in Newton, is part of SafeHope Inc., a 20-year-old nonprofit that provides advocacy and support to survivors and secondary victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking in Harvey, Marion and McPherson counties.

Like SafeHope, The Resiliency Center provides free, confidential and voluntary counseling, as well as advocacy services. It was created to help both children and adults reach their full potential, with service and response experts available 24-hours a day, seven days a week. The resources of The Resiliency Center are available to all those affected by the events of February 25, 2016, including first responders, students, teachers and faculty, businesses, houses of worship, emergency management personnel and volunteer organizations.

"Our community understands that impact of trauma firsthand, and we welcome any affected individual to The Resiliency Center," said Jennifer Tarwater, program director for The Resiliency Center. "Immediately following the shooting, the leaders of this community, with support of the Kansas Governor's Office and the Office for Victims of Crime, facilitated a needs' analysis. The results of this analysis identified at least 65 zip codes in Kansas where people were impacted by this tragedy. The center's services will go beyond Harvey County, and The Resiliency Center is available to all who have been impacted by this tragedy."

After a traumatic event, which the American Psychiatric Association defines as "an experience in which individuals fear for their lives or the lives of those close to them," adults and children alike can experience a change in how they view the world and others. The specialized trauma therapy, support groups, community wellness initiatives and other programs offered by The Resiliency Center provide a safe place for people of all ages to develop the knowledge and skills for healing and change.

Research has shown that, for years after a traumatic event, highly individualized symptoms can affect a person's daily functioning in a multitude of ways. Depression and anxiety are common, as well as difficulty eating, sleeping, parenting or working. Children face additional symptoms in school and with their social groups. It can be common, at any age, to experience flashbacks or dreams of the event, or to be easily startled by stimuli in otherwise ordinary circumstances. Some people may notice they feel numb to routine daily activities, or that they begin to avoid social interaction.

The Resiliency Center, funded by the Victims of Crime Act through the Kansas Governor's Grants Program, encourages those affected by the tragic events of February 25, 2016, and other trauma, to explore its services and resources.

Help is available 24-hours a day by calling 833-840-6004. For a full list of services, please visit www.ResiliencyCenter.org. To set-up an in-person appointment, call 316-217-1880 or stop by during business hours at 215 S. Pine, Suite 103, in Newton, Kansas.

Our volunteers play a vital role in our ability to provide quality services within our community. To inquire about becoming a volunteer, call The Resiliency Center's administrative line at 316-217-1880.

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The Resiliency Center, based in Newton, Kansas, is a safe and supportive healing environment for those affected by the tragic events of February 25, 2016. Our free and confidential services and programs promote healing and overall wellness, and provide education and resources. To learn more about The Resiliency Center, a welcoming place for people to connect and obtain assistance in the healing process, visit www.ResiliencyCenter.org.

SafeHope, based in Newton, KS, provides advocacy and support to survivors, and secondary victims of domestic violence, sexual violence and stalking in Harvey, Marion and McPherson counties while seeking social change through awareness, education and prevention. From a 24-hour help line to supportive services to professional training, SafeHope offers crisis intervention, advocacy and support to address the needs of victims and their children. Learn more at www.SafeHope.net.

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