



Franklin County
LOSS

Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors

A Community of HOPE

Every suicide loss leaves behind an average of 135 family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers to navigate the unique grief and trauma that often comes with suicide loss. Last year, over 25,000 people in Franklin County joined this community of loss.

Luigia shares her story of her dear brother Danny:

I lost my beloved brother, Danny, twice. He was as spunky as the color of his hair: bright red. He struggled over his 18 years, but by his senior year of high school, I thought he'd finally started finding his way. Danny was looking forward to being captain of the volleyball team during his senior year, and was proud knowing that college scouts had their eyes on him.



Luigia and her brother Danny

But in February of 2005, Danny disappeared. This was the first time I lost him. My parents filed a Missing Persons report and, as each day passed, the nauseated pit in my stomach grew stronger, while hope grew weaker. For the next 12 years, I was stuck in limbo. I'd lost Danny, but it was an ambiguous loss: should I mourn him as though he'd died, or not? Should my parents keep his things, or not? There was no funeral, because everyone hoped that he might still be alive. And then, in February 2017, a hiker discovered his remains in a forest just behind my parents' home. My world instantly spun into a cyclone of panic and shock. I could not function. I had lost him again--and this time, it was a permanent loss.

Somewhere along the way, a card appeared in our mailbox from Franklin County LOSS, with the gentle offer of resources and support. But hope and healing felt unreachable, so I soon forgot about the card. Although I could recognize that I was being sucked into darkness, I was helpless to pull myself out of the suffocating pit of quicksand called "grief." After several months, I remembered the card from LOSS, and signed up for their support group.

Finally, I was not alone anymore. These kindred spirits had walked through their own personal tragedies, yet had fought to find healing and had discovered a way to live again. The resources LOSS gave me, along with loads of genuine care that was demonstrated through honest but gentle conversations, started to rekindle the embers of hope within me that I thought were permanently gone.

I became thirsty for the opportunity to come alongside others in crisis, and to speak the powerful words, "You are not alone, because I've been there too." This is what the LOSS volunteers had done for me, and I was eager to pass along their message of hope and healing to others. I completed training and am now honored to visit those who are newly bereaved and don't know where to turn for help.

No one can ever "fix" the loss of my brother Danny. But I can, and will, honor him by helping others right here in Franklin County, and LOSS is the perfect conduit for such service. LOSS has truly been "an instillation of hope" in my life, and for that, I will be eternally grateful.

Will you please consider supporting loss survivors, like Luigia, with a financial gift? Your donation will go towards turning this community of loss into a Community of Hope.

Sincerely,

Denise Meine-Graham, Executive Director

We can't change what happened, but we can comfort and help those left behind. Your donation will provide care baskets, grief support, referral materials, and other items to help those struggling with a tragic loss.

YES! I want to help a survivor of suicide loss.

Please accept my gift of:

\$250

\$30

\$100

Other _____

\$50

Please keep my gift confidential

My gift is in honor of _____

Please charge my gift on my credit card Visa Mastercard AMEX

Card number _____ Security Code _____ Check # _____

Signature _____ Expiration Date _____ Please make checks payable to:
Franklin County LOSS

Thank you for standing as a source of support for so many people in our community personally impacted by the loss of a loved one to suicide.

In **2018**, your support allowed us to provide:

- Immediate outreach to families with peer support, care baskets and crucial access to resources
- Financial support for funeral expenses to those in hardship situations
- Free family meals to survivors in partnership with local Donato's restaurants
- **Three** ten-week adult support groups facilitated and hosted by LOSS
- A Day at the Zoo for survivors, LOSS volunteers and their families
- Professional training for six loss survivors on how to tell their loss story using safe and hopeful messaging
- 150+ local community members were trained on suicide prevention by LOSS using evidence-based tools

In **2019**, your support will provide:

- Increased outreach possibilities with the continued expansion of current services
- More learning opportunities for loss survivors
- Six ten-week adult support groups facilitated and hosted by LOSS
- Support opportunities for clinicians who have lost a patient to suicide
- Greater focus on postvention in faith communities
- Equipping of communities throughout Ohio to provide postvention services

Our Community of Hope is grateful for your support!

Your support touches the lives of THOUSANDS of people bereaved by suicide. THANK YOU for being a part of the Community of Hope.