

# Postvention as Prevention: The work of a LOSS Team

Kathleen Ratcliff & Chelcee Hill

*Upstream Prevention & ATLAS*

October 3, 2024

# Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors – LOSS Teams



# Why does this matter?

- 135 individuals are exposed for every death
  - 53 have short term disruption in life
  - 25 have a major life disruption
  - 11 have devastating effects on their life
- Losing a loved one to suicide **increases the risk of suicide for those exposed**
- Without support loss survivors can and often do use unhealthy coping skills – isolation, substance misuse, thoughts of suicide

# The Story of ATLAS



Reached 160+  
Survivors at 37  
Sites, for 54 deaths  
by suicide



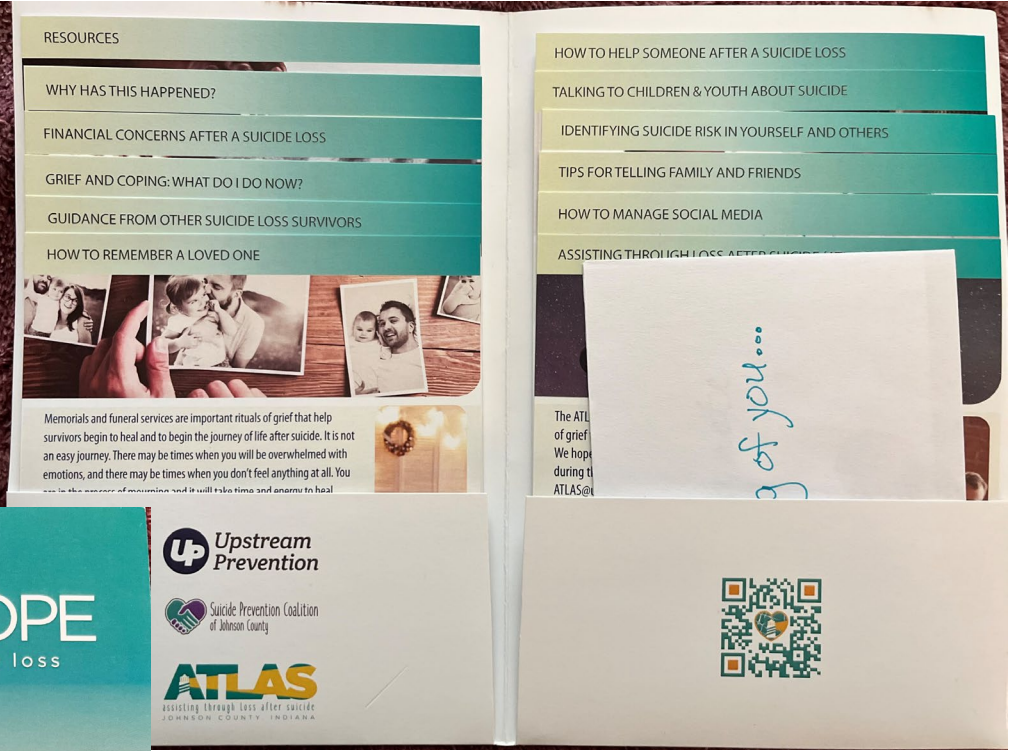
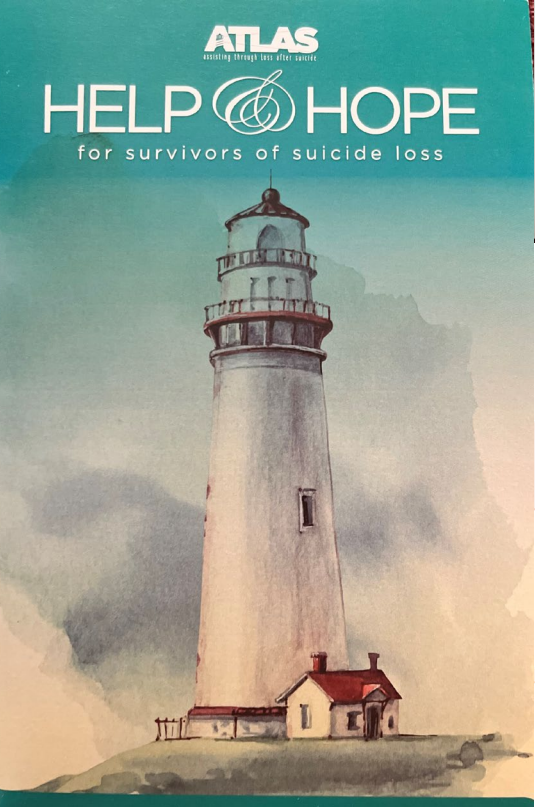
**Dec. 21, 2010**

# Assisting Through Loss After Suicide

ATLAS (*Assisting Through Loss After Suicide*) is a volunteer response team designed to support individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide through ensuring loss survivors are not alone and help connect loss survivors to resources and ongoing support.

*ATLAS seeks to be a shining light through the darkness of grief for loss survivors to promote healing and connections.*

# ATLAS Response



**IMHAC**  
INDIANA MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION CONFERENCE  
THE 2024 SERIES

# ATLAS Partnerships & Funding

- Response & Support Team volunteers
- Coroner's Office – Coroner, Chief Deputy, & Deputy Coroners
- Law Enforcement Officers
- Chaplains
- Garrett Lee Smith Grant (MHAI/DMHA) seed money
- Johnson County Community Foundation seed money
- Drug Free Johnson County ongoing operations support
- Upstream Prevention operations support



# **LOSS Teams do not support a suicide crisis or with suicide ideations**

If you are or someone you know is thinking about suicide and seeking emotional support please use the below crisis lines, available via phone, chat, or text:

- **Suicide & Crisis Lifeline:** 988
- **Veterans Crisis Line:** 988, press 1
- **Youthline:** 877-968-8491 or Text: teen2teen to 839863
- **Trevor Project Lifeline** (confidential suicide hotline for LGBTQ+ youth) 886-488-7386 or Trevor Text: Text START to 678-678

# Resources

- Indiana's LOSS Team Efforts: <https://www.iaprss.org/loss-team/>
- Ohio's Guide: <https://losscs.org/launch-a-loss-team/>
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention – I've Lost Someone: <https://afsp.org/ive-lost-someone/>
- ISOSLD: <https://afsp.org/international-survivors-of-suicide-loss-day/>
- AFSP's "Blue Book" (i.e., Surviving a Suicide Loss): <https://aws-fetch.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/flipbooks/survivingASuicideLoss/index.html?page=1>

# Thank you!

Kathleen Ratcliff & Chelcee Hill  
Upstream Prevention  
[atlas@upstreamprevention.org](mailto:atlas@upstreamprevention.org)



**IMHAC**  
INDIANA MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION CONFERENCE  
THE 2024 SERIES