



Hotline (631) 751-7500  
Office (631) 751-7620  
Fax (631) 751-7420  
[www.ResponseHotline.org](http://www.ResponseHotline.org)  
P.O. Box 300  
Stony Brook, NY 11790

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## **For Immediate Release**

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Contact:

Lisa Maldonado  
Special Projects Coordinator  
RESPONSE of Suffolk County  
(631) 751-7620  
[lmaldonado@responsehotline.org](mailto:lmaldonado@responsehotline.org)

### **Become A Fan Of Response Hotline on Facebook and Help Spread The Word About Suicide Prevention!**

#### **“Ten Thousand Voices” Awareness Campaign in Recognition of National Suicide Prevention Week**

Stony Brook - Response of Suffolk County, a nationally accredited agency providing crisis intervention/suicide prevention services announces “Ten Thousand Voices”, an awareness campaign launched in recognition of National Suicide Prevention Week.

“Ten Thousand Voices” is aimed at educating the community about Response Hotline and the programs and services they provide. Response Hotline is available 24/7 to anyone going through a difficult time and who needs to talk, or to those who are worried that a friend or loved one may be suicidal. “Each year Response receives over 10,000 calls to the hotline and yet there are still thousands of others who do not know where to turn in times of emotional crisis,” said Meryl Cassidy, Executive Director of Response. “With the knowledge and awareness of available community resources people can be better equipped to help a friend get help.”

In the United States more people die by suicide each year than by homicide, with one suicide occurring on average every 16 minutes. Suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death among 15- to 24-years-olds, and although the elderly make up 12.4% of the population, they comprise 16% of all suicides. Experts believe that most suicidal individuals do not want to die, they just want to end the pain they are experiencing. When suicidal intent or risk is detected early, lives can be saved.

September 6 through September 12 is National Suicide Prevention Week. Please join Response of Suffolk County in supporting suicide prevention. Find them on Facebook and help spread the word about “Ten Thousand Voices.”

RESPONSE of Suffolk County is a private non-profit that provides a free hotline available to anyone who needs to talk. Founded in 1972, RESPONSE is a community based agency whose mission is to develop and implement programs and services designed to meet the area’s need for crisis intervention and the primary prevention of self-destructive and suicidal behavior.

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