

# STRIVING FOR ZERO EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Striving  
for  
Zero

## INVOLVING THE WHOLE COMMUNITY – EVERYONE CAN PLAY A ROLE IN SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Network (LASPN) Annual Summit Los Angeles County

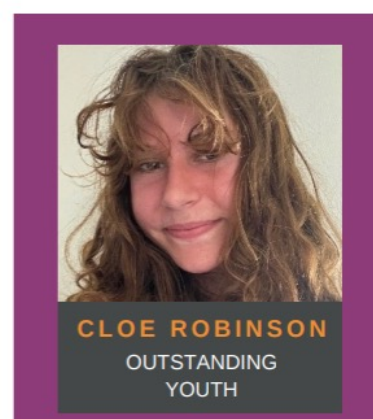
Each year, the Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Network (LASPN) hosts the annual LASPN Summit, a free conference for anyone affected by suicide from clinicians to community members to loss survivors. The summit has continued to grow in attendance and scope over the past 14 years. The summit not only provides an opportunity for individuals working to prevent suicide to network, share best practices, highlight new and promising initiatives, provide collective support, engage in therapeutic art and well-being demonstrations but also hear from some of the most groundbreaking advocates, academics, service providers/organizations, loss and attempts survivors, and many more. Each year the summit also holds a day co-hosted with CalVETS to address suicide prevention, resources and needs for our military personnel, veterans, first responders and their families. Our goal is to present talks that foster hope, demonstrate the pathways of hope, support, and connection, and continue to demonstrate understanding the role we all play in suicide prevention. We want individuals to leave our Summit with real skills they can implement in their practices and new ways of connecting with individuals. We will be hosting our 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Network (LASPN) Summit on September 10 and 11, 2024 at the California Endowment Center, hosting over 300 people each day. Our theme this year is “Shining Our Light Together: Destigmatizing and Preventing Suicide”.

### 2023 LASPN HERO AWARD WINNERS



**Laura Abbasi** (she/hers) is an Associate Regional Field Director with Everytown for Gun Safety, the largest gun violence prevention organization in the country. She works to elevate suicide prevention and awareness in support of the efforts of Moms Demand Action Chapters across the country and also manages the California Chapter. She holds a Bachelor's degree in journalism from Hofstra University and a Master's degree in Political Science from the New School for Social Research. Laura is a passionate community organizer, honoring with action her brother Jeffrey Banish, who died by suicide. Laura lives in Thousand Oaks with her husband Siddique Abbasi and their three young children, Aamina, Elijah, and Rayah.

I'm **Cloe Robinson** (she/they), a teen advisor for Teen Talk App. Mental health has always been an important factor in my life, whether it be my own, or that of a loved one. I am so fortunate to have been able to work with Teen Talk and JBBBSLA for the last three years to make a tangible difference in my community. I've been able to support myself, and to make meaningful connections with users and people in my life who are struggling. This fall, I am attending UC Davis to study animal science on a pre-veterinary track. I hope to continue my work with Teen Talk and the topic of mental health during my college career.



**Susan Oriente** (she/hers) is a High School Specialist and classroom instructor with an B.A. from Wesleyan University and a M.A. from California State University Dominguez Hills. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband, daughter, and beagle. Susie joined a New Hope Suicide Grief Support group after the suicide loss of her baby brother in 2019. She went on to become a facilitator who led many groups before co-authoring the New Hope Suicide Grief Support Handbook. Along with this leadership in the adult Survivors After Suicide (SAS) community, she created curriculum and facilitated New Hope's first on-campus teen SAS group following a suicide loss on campus. Susie has now joined the New Hope SAS Training team and was able to train over 30 community health workers in LAC DMH to facilitate groups throughout LA.

The Hero In Each of Us  
www.LASuicidePreventionNetwork.org

LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
MENTAL HEALTH  
Hope. Recovery. Wellbeing.

SAVE THE DATE  
SEPTEMBER 10 & 11

**2024 LOS ANGELES  
SUICIDE PREVENTION  
NETWORK SUMMIT**

SHINING OUR LIGHT TOGETHER:  
DESTIGMATIZING AND PREVENTING SUICIDE

AT THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT

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Scan me to learn more!