

Rethink The Conversation[®]

Creating Unique Programs That Shift Perspective

A black and white photograph of a person with long hair, seen from the back, sitting on a wooden bench. They are looking out a window. The scene is dimly lit, creating a somber and reflective mood. The person is wearing a light-colored jacket and dark pants. A water bottle is visible on the floor next to them.

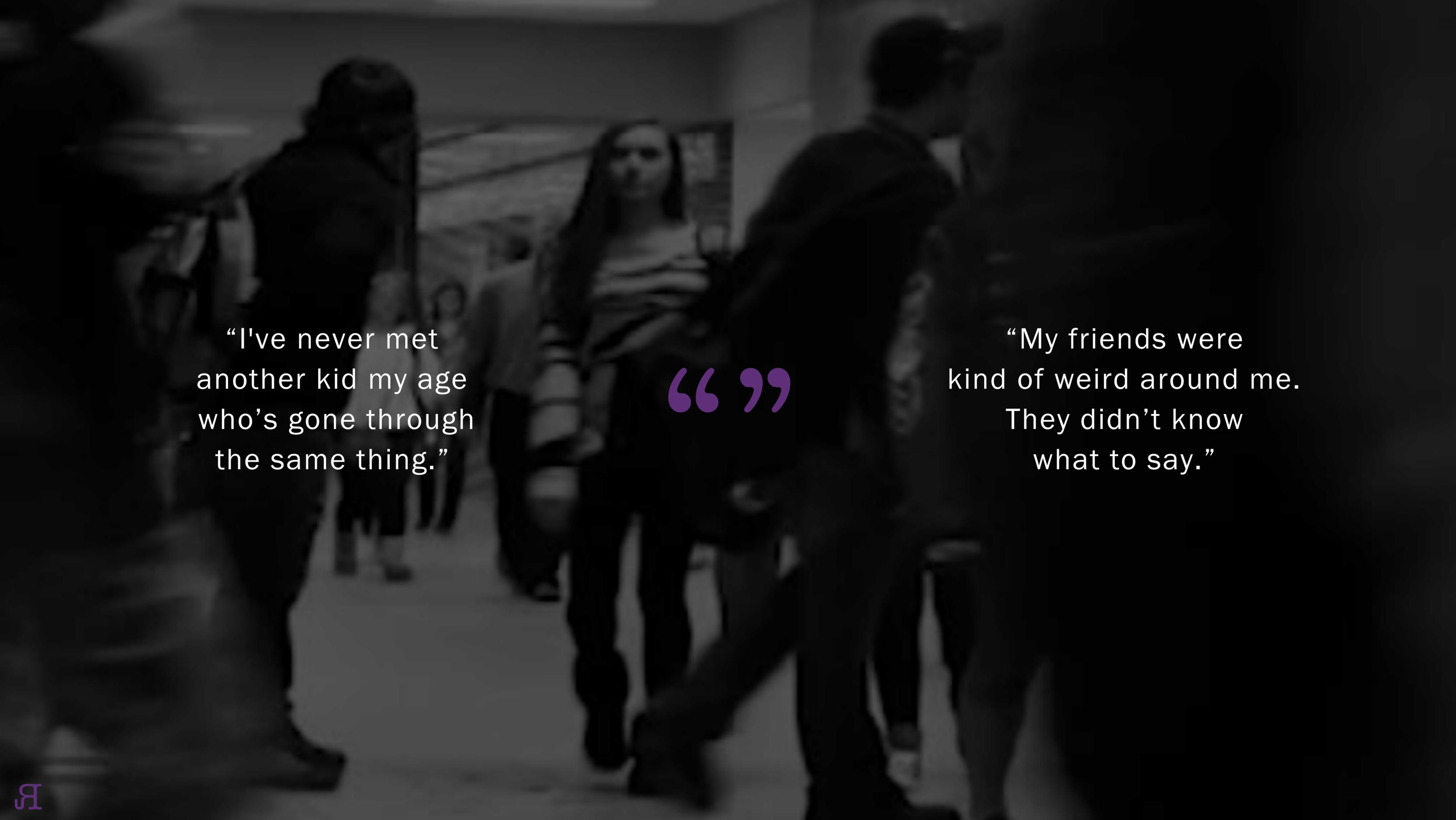
Talking OutLOUD

Teens & Suicide Loss: A Conversation

The Need

Every year, nearly a million teenagers
lose someone to suicide.

Most of them will deal with it alone.



“I've never met
another kid my age
who's gone through
the same thing.”

“ ”

“My friends were
kind of weird around me.
They didn't know
what to say.”

The stigma that clings to suicide sends a message to those left behind: because your loved one died this way, there is somehow something wrong with you.

Teens grieving a suicide are more likely to feel shame, guilt, and anger than if the death was from something “normal,” like cancer or a car accident...

...and right now, absolutely nothing exists that speaks to teens about suicide loss in their own voice.

It doesn't have to be that way.

The Project

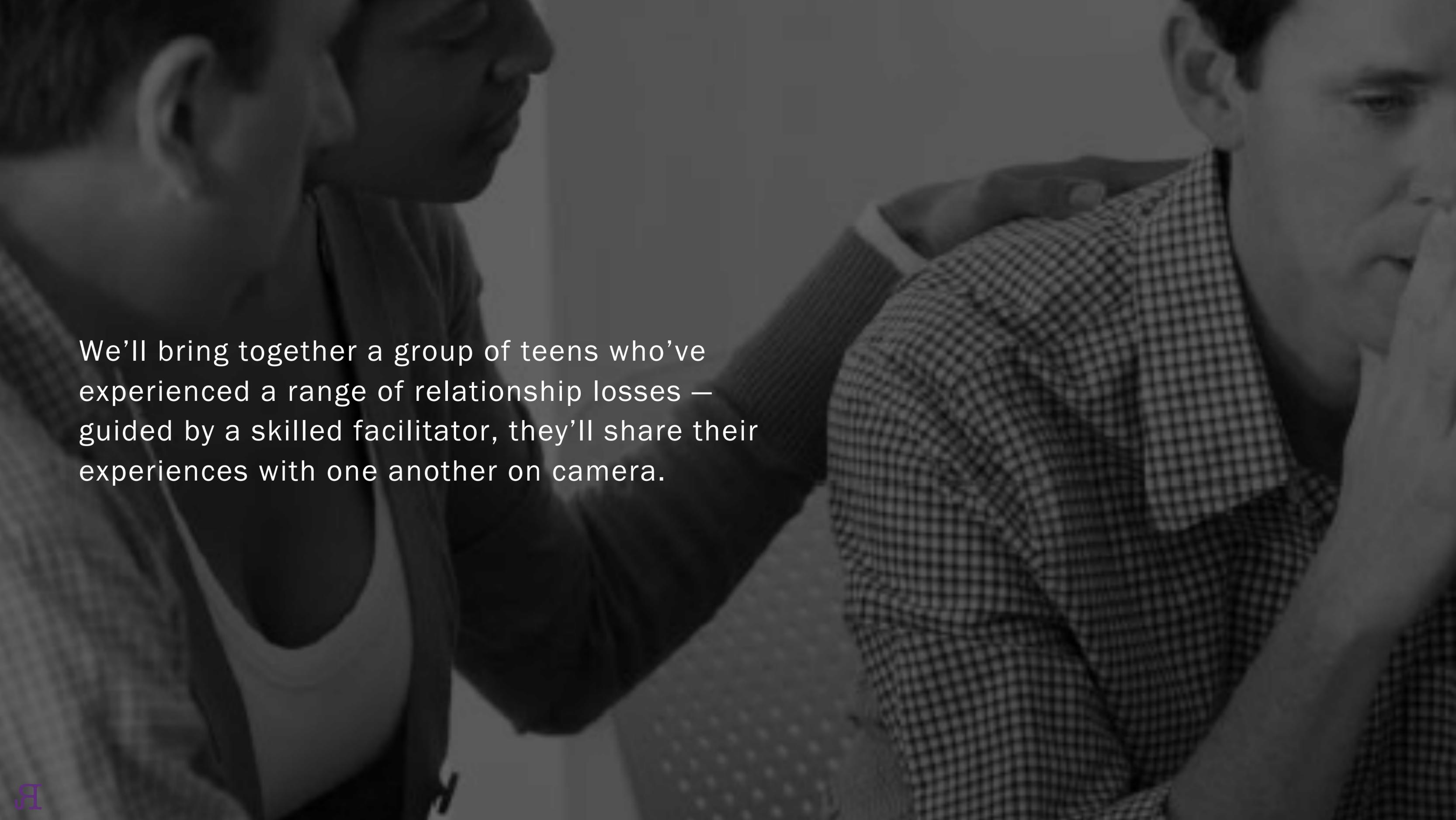
Talking OutLOUD

will be the first time teens will hear how people just like them cope when someone they care about takes their own life.





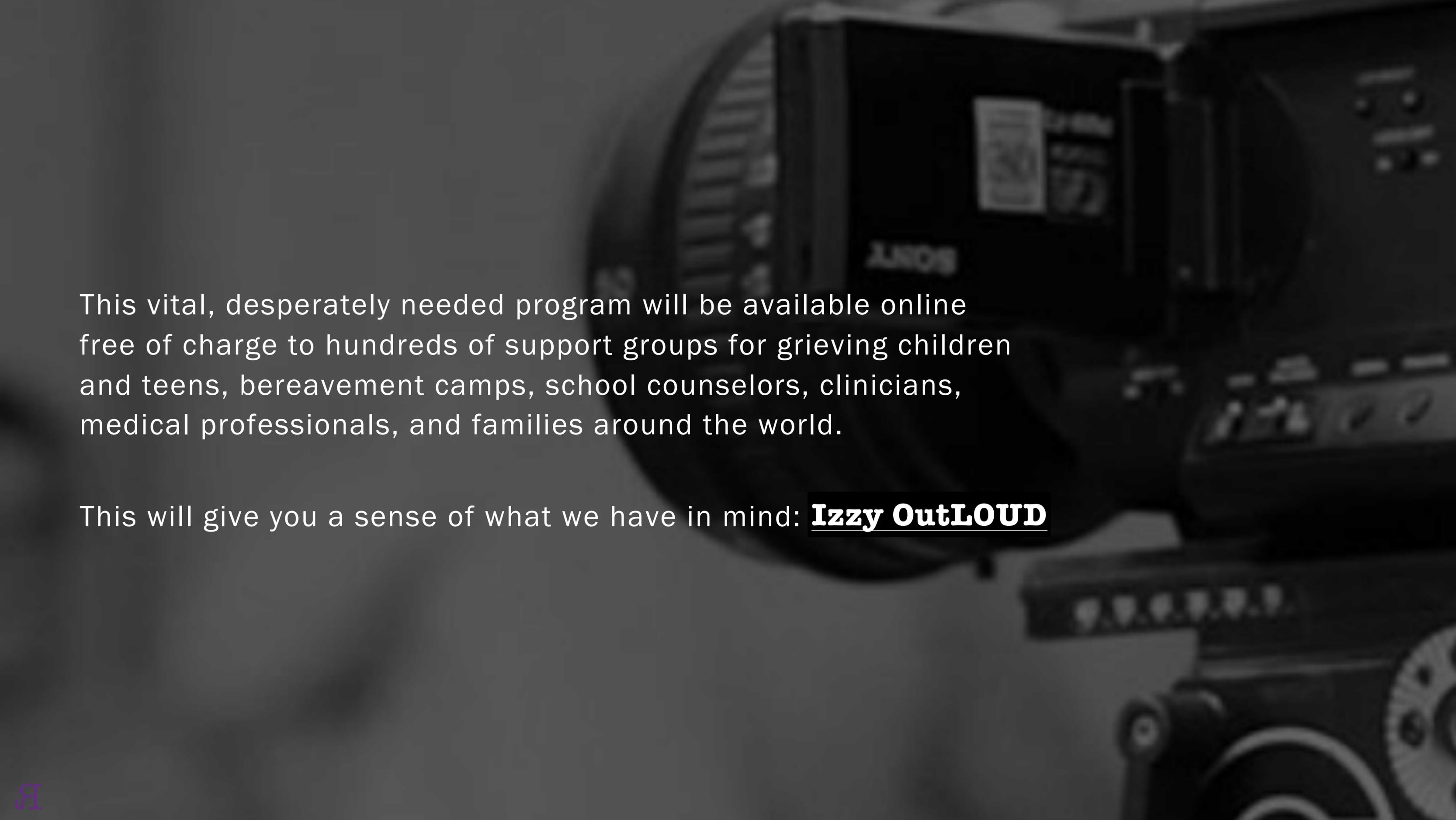
It will reach them where they are, delivering a message of hope and healing through the familiar medium of online video.



We'll bring together a group of teens who've experienced a range of relationship losses — guided by a skilled facilitator, they'll share their experiences with one another on camera.



We'll also film family members' reactions as they watch in real time, and then join the conversation with a new, candid, and unfiltered glimpse into their kid's world.



This vital, desperately needed program will be available online free of charge to hundreds of support groups for grieving children and teens, bereavement camps, school counselors, clinicians, medical professionals, and families around the world.

This will give you a sense of what we have in mind: **Izzy OutLOUD**

Evidence-informed companion materials, such as professional guidance for talking with teens about suicide and research on complicated grief will also be made available.

The Team



Joanne L. Harpel, MPhil, JD

FOUNDER, PRESIDENT & CEO
RETHINK THE CONVERSATION®
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

[LINK TO WEBSITE](#)

Joanne is an international authority on suicide bereavement and postvention, with over 20 years of experience. The survivor of her own brother's suicide, she is also the President of Coping After Suicide, and the former longtime Senior Director for Public Affairs and Postvention for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), the largest suicide prevention organization in the world. Joanne co-chairs a National Suicide Prevention Lifeline advisory committee, was a founding co-lead of SAMHSA's National Action Alliance Task Force on Survivors of Suicide Loss, and co-authored *After a Suicide: A Toolkit for Schools*. She has spoken at the United Nations and on Capitol Hill, and is the recipient of the American Association of Suicidology's Survivor of the Year Award.

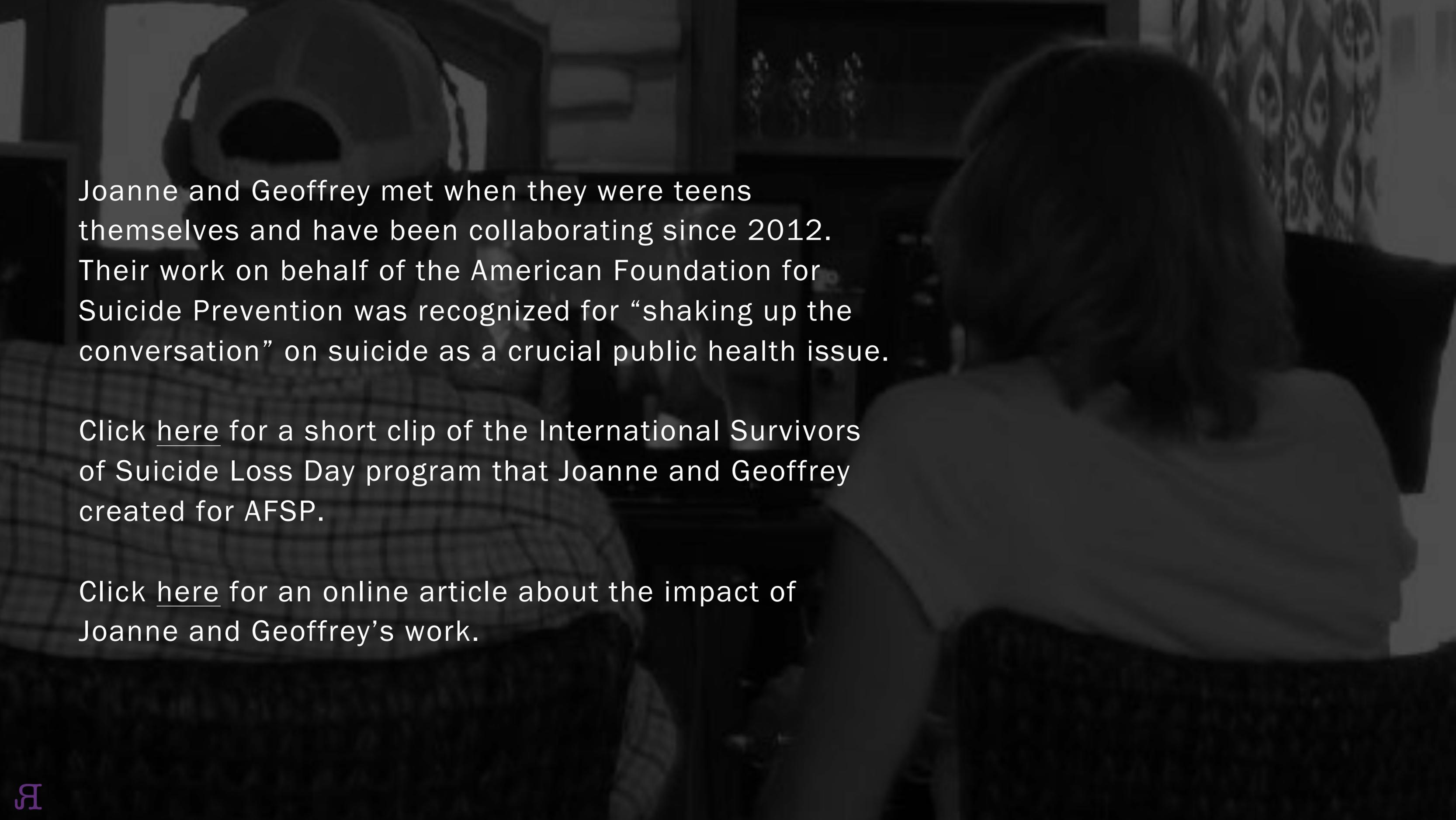


Geoffrey Cantor

CHIEF CREATIVE CONSULTANT
RETHINK THE CONVERSATION®
PRODUCER, DIRECTOR

[LINK TO WEBSITE](#)

Geoffrey's skill set is drawn from the unique combination of his background as a social worker and his extensive experience in every aspect of media production, from on-air performance to strategic communications. Best known as Ellison in Marvel's DAREDEVIL, he is a classically-trained actor, having studied at the Royal Central School in London, with over 100 television, film, and theater credits. Geoffrey was on the creative team of London Weekend Television's THE NIGHT NETWORK and founded the prestigious play-reading series READINGS AT ONE in London's West End. A creative consultant and director, he created a diverse media campaign for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, produced a workplace sensitivity training video series for Goodbye Harassment®, and has completed a short film about a woman's triumph over breast cancer.



Joanne and Geoffrey met when they were teens themselves and have been collaborating since 2012. Their work on behalf of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention was recognized for “shaking up the conversation” on suicide as a crucial public health issue.

Click [here](#) for a short clip of the International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day program that Joanne and Geoffrey created for AFSP.

Click [here](#) for an online article about the impact of Joanne and Geoffrey’s work.



Celia Williams

EXECUTIVE CONTENT PRODUCER

[LINK TO WEBSITE](#)

Celia is currently the Director of Content Production at The Marketing Arm/Chicago, managing the team producing the lion share of State Farm live action content. With close to 38 years of experience in producing commercials, content, and production team oversight, her past staff positions have included mcgarrybowen, The Martin Agency, Arnold NYC, DDB New York, DDB Chicago and Endless Noise. Freelance clients have included Virtue/Vice, Ogilvy & Mather, Hudson Rouge, FCB NYC, Y&R NYC and Strawberry Frog. She opened the New York offices of Freefolk, a UK based post-production company. Serving as both office manager and executive producer of in-house projects, she led them to profitability in the first year, overseeing sales and marketing in the saturated environment of film and television production. Celia was crucial to the production of the proof of concept for Talking OutLOUD



Steven J. Karaiskos, PhD

FACILITATOR

Steven J. Karaiskos, PhD, is a veteran educator and emotion scientist, trained in research-based programs such as Responsive Classroom and RULER from the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. The Senior Director of Community Education and Outreach for Samaritans, Inc., a Boston-based suicide prevention and grief support organization, Steven also served as the All-School Well-Being Coordinator for the Brooklyn Friends School in New York. He facilitates the Coping After Suicide® national Teens and Twentysomethings Groups, and is a board member of Camp Kita, a summer program for 8-17 year-old suicide loss survivors. Steven earned his PhD in Psychology with a research focus on positive psychological approaches to suicidal ideation following the loss of his partner, David, to suicide in 2009.

Several of the nation's leading authorities and organizations on teen bereavement have expressed their support for the need to shed light on this important subject and are available to assist with outreach and dissemination, including:

The Dougy Center for Grieving Children and Families (www.dougy.org)

Joan Schweizer Hoff, former Program Director of The Dougy Center for Grieving Children and Families

Phyllis Kosminsky, PhD, LCSW, FT, former President of the Association for Death and Counseling (www.adec.org)

Elena G. Lister, MD, Columbia University Department of Psychiatry and author of "I Will Remember You: A Guidebook Through Grief for Teens"

Andy McNeil, MA, former CEO of the National Alliance for Children's Grief, and **Pamela Gabbay, Ed.D, FT**, co-authors of "Understanding and Supporting Bereaved Children" and former interim Executive Directors, The Compassionate Friends (www.compassionatefriends.org)

National Alliance for Children's Grief (www.childrengrieve.org)

Amy Liebman Rapp, MEd, CT, co-founder of the National Alliance for Children's Grief

Dr. Victor Schwartz, former Medical Director of The Jed Foundation, and Chief Wellness Officer of the CUNY School of Medicine

Your support of

Talking OutLOUD

will give hope to the millions of teens who
mourn the loss of someone they love to suicide.

[Donate](#)

Rethink the Conversation[®]

Rethink The Conversation[®] harnesses a unique blend of lived experience, strategic thinking, evidence-base, and innovation to create programs that shift perspective around issues that have been tinged by stigma, misinformation, lack of attention or indifference.

WWW.RETHINKTHECONVERSATION.ORG