

Contact: Sandra Baldi
Phone: (508) 872-3291 x 4873
Fax: (508) 875-8862
Email: Sandra.Baldi@uwotc.org

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2017 Leadership in Suicide Prevention Award Goes To..... United Way of Tri-County's President and CEO, Paul Mina

Framingham, MA - On Monday, March 6th at the State House in Boston, Paul Mina, President and CEO of the United Way of Tri-County (UWTC), was presented with the 2017 Department of Public Health Leadership in Suicide Prevention Award from Senator Karen Spilka. Mr. Mina was honored by The MetroWest Coalition for Suicide Prevention and The Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide Prevention for his vision and leadership in supporting the creation of Call2Talk, and his support of suicide prevention and mental health initiatives across the Commonwealth.

"I am honored to have been selected to receive this award," said Paul Mina, UWTC President and CEO. "We are very grateful that programs like Call2Talk are being recognized. Kudos to Call2Talk Director, Eileen Davis, who is the driving force behind this program. Call2Talk has realized an exceptional level of service due to Eileen's passionate determination to provide more mental health services to those in the community and across the Commonwealth."

Three years ago, Paul had the vision to support a new service, Call2Talk, a suicide prevention and emotional support crisis line to 34 communities within the MetroWest/495 region. Call2Talk now answers over 28,000 calls per year and is an accredited National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL) center. According to NSPL Call2Talk has increased the answer rate of calls in MA from 28% to almost 50%, while they continue to answer 98% of their own incoming calls. In addition, Paul worked with the United Way's Mass2-1-1 board to merge Call2Talk under this umbrella and has provided funding and oversight to implement computerized phone answering and data collection systems, and provides support and resources for the MetroWest Coalition as well as supporting Call2Talk's sub programs of TeleCheck, a telephone check-in service for older adults living at home to provide support and friendly conversation; and the LOSS Team, where teams of trained volunteers provide postvention services at the scene of a suicide.

Call2Talk, a direct service of the United Way of Tri-County, is a confidential mental health and emotional support call line that assists individuals and families through stressful times in their lives. Trained call takers offer compassionate, non-judgmental support to callers with feelings of hopelessness, isolation, and suicidal ideation.

The United Way of Tri-County is a community building organization that brings people together to care for one another. We provide programs and services, connect volunteers, strengthen agencies, teach social responsibility, and meet the critical needs of the community with the help of people like you. For more information visit the United Way Website at www.uwotc.org

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