



Press Release

Lake County Sheriff's Office
www.sheriffdunlap.org

Daniel A. Dunlap
Sheriff

Press Release December 6, 2013

When Correction Officer Keith Parsons got an alarm in one of the jail cells last evening he attempted to contact the inmate on the other end of the intercom. When no response was obtained he immediately had officers investigate. Responding Officer Michael Gladding found an inmate with a bed sheet tied around his neck, and turning purple. Fellow responding officer Martin Bontrager assisted officer Gladding in cutting the sheet free from the prisoner's neck thus preventing his suicide attempt.

While it is a daily vigil by the Corrections Officer at the Lake County to be aware of and actively check for suicide attempts among the 400+ inmates in the jail, it is a vigil they are particularly aware of around the holidays. People who are incarcerated often face increased depression and desperation given the fact that they are in jail. Unfortunately some see suicide as a way out of their plight. During times like Christmas the separation from family, sentimental memories of this holiday time, and anguished feelings over loss of jobs, family and facing the difficult issues of their pending court case dramatically increase feelings of depression, isolation, and loss of hope that make the taking of one's own life a viable option in their minds to deal with their problems that they feel are insurmountable.

The many members of the Lake County Sheriff's Office deal with these issues with increased frequency during the holiday season. From the 9-1-1 dispatcher who takes the desperate call for help, to the Deputy Sheriff responding to a citizen in trouble or under duress, and the Corrections Officers and staff charged with protecting the lives of those incarcerated, it can be a daunting responsibility.

Anytime if you feel down, isolated, or desperate to find a solution to the difficulties you are facing, especially during this Holiday Season, Sheriff Dunlap and the members of the Lake County Sheriff's Office want everyone to know there is help. There are many agencies and groups right here in Lake County who are ready to work with you to resolve the difficulties you are facing.

If you're in crisis or you need "immediate" help please call 9-1-1, or call the Lake County Crisis Hotline at 440-953-8255, 440-357-7300, or 800-411-0103. Someone is available 24 hours a day, 7 days to immediately help you, or connect you up with groups such as Chrysalis, a support group for our Lake County neighbors who are dealing with the grief, anger, guilt, and confusion.

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2-1-1 is another resource available that helps people in need of finding housing, keeping their utilities connected, job training and employment resources, as well as information on access to medical services. Anyone can dial 2-1-1 from any landline phone to speak with an information and referral specialist who can help you find answers to a wide range of questions and connect you with area resources that may be able to offer assistance. Or call (440)354-2148 Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

If you think you are unique, know that you are not. Many people have been and are in similar situations. In 2012 Lifeline's Community Services Office served 798 Lake County households, which included 1,592 Lake County individuals.

- During the 2012-2013 HEAP Winter Crisis Season, nearly 1,500 Lake County households received assistance keeping their heat on.
- During the 2012 HEAP Summer Crisis Season, over 1,000 Lake County households received assistance with cooling during the hot summer months.
- There are 1,121 Community Action Programs in the United States.
- There are 52 Community Action Agencies in Ohio.

In short the Lake County Sheriff's Office wants to make everyone aware that you do not have to go it alone when facing difficulty personally or as a family, especially during this holiday season. Reach out and call, your community is here to help!

Frank Leonbruno

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