

Hope Squad Founder visits TCH campus

The Children's Home was pleased to welcome [Hope Squad](#) founder Dr. Greg Hudnall to our campus today. Dr. Hudnall founded Hope Squad 16 years ago while he was working in the Provo City School District office in Utah, which at that time



was struggling with an average of one or two youth suicides every year.

Dr Hudnall founded the peer-to-peer organization soon after and Hope Squads were subsequently implemented in every school in the district. Suicides in the area dropped exponentially.

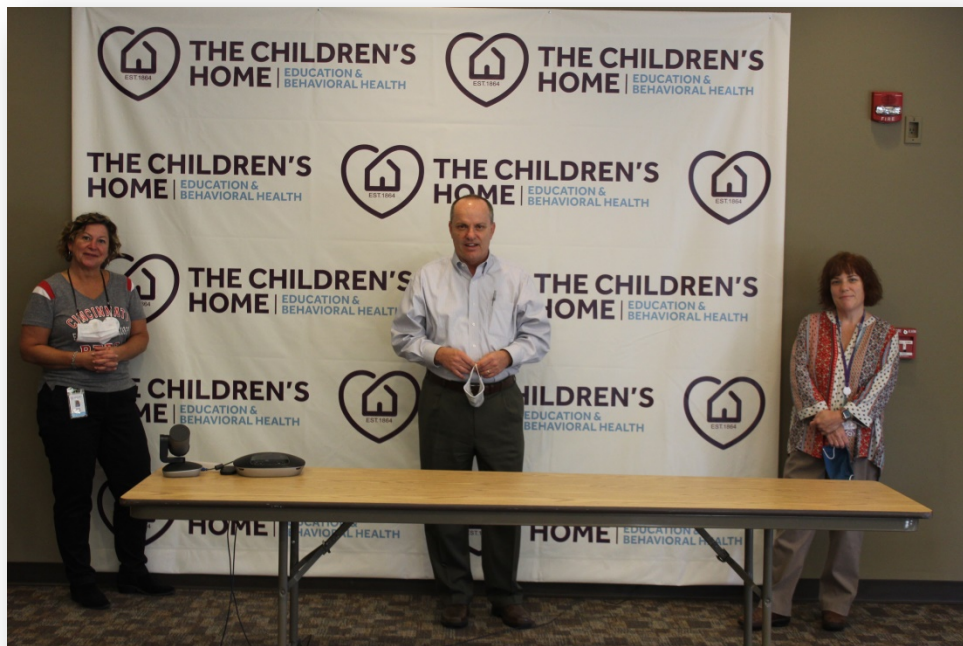
Since then, Dr Hudnall has provided testimony to the United States Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, on suicide in Utah and the Hope Squad program. Because of this presentation, he was invited to present to the U.S. Department of Health and asked by President Obama's team to present with Dr. Richard McKean from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, or SAMHSA.

Hope Squads are now in over 900 schools across 28 states and Canada.

“We’re working alongside Hope Squads in many of our partner schools and are planning to bring Hope Squads to the Children’s Home,” said Pam McKie, chief operating officer. “The mental health awareness and suicide prevention facet is obviously critical, the peer to peer foundation of the program is an asset by itself and combined, the results speak for themselves. **[story continues]**”

“We know that students/clients are often the best alerting medium when a peer needs significant help,” McKie continued.

“I’m excited to see where our planning process takes us next and how we can better serve our vulnerable populations.”



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