

Franklin Mayor Ken Moore's Blue Ribbon Task Force (now Find Hope Franklin) was created and is committed to increasing awareness of emotional health issues, suicide and substance use disorder and removing any perceived stigma through collaboration and education outreach efforts throughout our community. The Task Force was created to maximize the collective expertise of professionals and other leaders in Franklin and Williamson County to improve the overall emotional wellness of our community. As the Committee Chair for the Crisis Stabilization Unit Committee, and Executive Director and Co-Founder of the lead agency (The Refuge Center for Counseling) for Find Hope Franklin, Amy Alexander dedicates her time and resources to assuring this project is completed with thorough research and care. Since December 2019, Amy has dedicated more than 110 hours to the community through Find Hope Franklin. Find Hope Franklin and The Refuge Center work tirelessly to reduce the stigma associated with mental health and/or reaching out for help.

With the launch of FindHopeFranklin.com, our community now has 24/7 access to mental health care resources. The website is just the start. Suicide rates in our community are alarming and calls to the Franklin Police for mental health related issues continue to rise, especially with the added stressors of COVID-19. The initiatives of Find Hope Franklin, with the leadership of Amy Alexander, will have far reaching positive outcomes for our community. Building on current initiatives, QPR trainings for residents will be such as asset as they teach how to respond to someone dealing with a mental health crisis. "QPR is a proven suicide preventative response to people that you are concerned about they may be experiencing suicidal thoughts, and help you understand how you can help them," Franklin Mayor Ken Moore has stated. With the rise in substance abuse, anxiety and mental health issues in our community, the need is ever present and Amy Alexander and The Refuge Center are prepared to lead the charge as our community begins to accept mental health as an issue and work to improve resources available.

In conjunction with Find Hope Franklin Initiatives, Amy, in addition to carrying out The Refuge Center mission, is dually representing the mental health community as a strong advocate within the Williamson County and Middle Tennessee area. With multitudes of speaking engagements throughout the community, word of Find Hope Franklin initiatives and The Refuge Center are heard simultaneously. You can visit www.findhopefranklin.com to see the website in its

entirety. We look forward with great anticipation the ripple effect Find Hope Franklin will bring to our community.