

SAN FRANCISCO
SUICIDE
PREVENTION



Felton
institute

OUR HISTORY

In 1962, San Francisco Suicide Prevention opened its hotline service in a basement apartment below a tattoo parlor on Polk St. with six volunteers, all personally trained by founder Bernard Mayes. To publicize services, they distributed matchbooks in the bars of the Tenderloin. Thirty calls were received during the first month alone. Now the hotline receives approximately 200 calls a day, saving lives phone call by phone call.



Our mission is to provide emotional support, education, assistance, and intervention as necessary to all persons in crisis and those impacted by them, with the goal of reducing suicides and self-destructive behaviors.

The **HIV/AIDS Nightline** remains the only line of its kind in the country offering 24/7 emotional support for those living with, caring for and affected by HIV/AIDS. Today we continue to work with community partners to provide 24/7 support to ensure callers receive referrals, information and emotional support to over 2,836 people across the United States.

Our **Youth Risk Reduction Program** provides in-person training and discussions to young people and school and program administrators on the warning signs of suicide and the tools to help those in crisis. SFSP has provided this training to over 6,000 middle and high school aged youth in the SF Unified School District as well as for participants in youth focused community programs.

Our **Community Outreach & Education Program** visits businesses, schools, hospitals, mental health agencies, community centers and more to raise awareness about suicide and provide training in crisis intervention and de-escalation. We also hold continuing education classes for our volunteers to provide them with updated information, current issues, and practices to empower them with the most up-to-date tools to provide quality care to our callers.

The **Grief Support Program** provides no-cost, in-person counseling to those grieving the loss of a loved one to suicide and other types of death. Services include an 8-week Support Group. Participants also have the option to drop in as needed after the cohort ends. Throughout the year, the program provides a safe nonjudgmental space for up to 5 cohorts of people.

For more information on our services, programs and how to become involved with San Francisco Suicide Prevention (SFSP) please visit www.sfsuicide.org.

About San Francisco Suicide Prevention

Founded in 1962, San Francisco Suicide Prevention is the oldest community-based telephone crisis hotline in the United States.

Our trained volunteers offer emotional support and crisis intervention, answering over 200 calls to the hotlines every day.

We have trained countless community members, nonprofit organizations, universities, middle and high schools and for-profit companies in the warning signs of suicide and risk-reduction tactics.

We have helped community members process the loss of loved ones, ensuring that all members of the community are empowered with tools to help each other through moments of crisis.

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 **CRISIS HOTLINE**

(415) 781-0500

