



CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE POUR LA SANTE MENTALE  
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY BRANCH

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 2, 2011**

Hope is the message at Suicide Vigil

WINDSOR – Loved ones lost to suicide will be remembered tomorrow night at a special vigil hosted by the Canadian Mental Health Association Windsor-Essex County Branch (CMHA-WECB).

“We come together each year to honor the lives that have been lost and to offer support to the friends and family members that have experienced this loss,” says CMHA-WECB bereavement specialist, Christine MacMillan.

The suicide vigil is an extension of the agency’s suicide bereavement support group. MacMillan says the group offers a safe and nurturing place for those bereaved to deal with their incredible losses.

The bereavement support program offers clients hope and support during very dark, difficult times. The vigil is an extension of this support.

The service will include the reading of the name of each person who lost their life to suicide, lighting of candles to honor them and a keynote speaker who will share the story of their grief journey.

Studies show that more than 90 per cent of suicide victims have a diagnosable psychiatric illness and suicide is the most common cause of death for people with schizophrenia. The CMHA-WECB helps those with a serious mental illness as well as supports families and loved ones through bereavement.

The vigil will take place tomorrow, Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church at 1921 Cabana Road West in South Windsor.

The CMHA-WECB has a vision of “mentally healthy people in a healthy society”. The adult bereavement group is part of the agency’s prevention services. This program is supported by community fundraising.

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For more information about the upcoming vigil, please contact:

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[www.cmha-wecb.on.ca](http://www.cmha-wecb.on.ca)