

**1. Urbana Daily Citizen, (OH)
September 12, 2008**

Headline: Local event aims to prevent suicide
Breanne Parcels

Despite the gray day, about 40 people turned out to a ceremony Friday afternoon at the First Presbyterian Church, sponsored by the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Logan and Champaign counties.

Molly Fairchild, chair of the coalition, said there were five suicides recorded in 2007 in Champaign County.

Fairchild said Champaign County is also at risk because while it is a rural area with a small population, it ranks 13th out of Ohio's 88 counties for the number of suicides committed compared to the population.

"Suicide is also the third leading cause of death for those between the ages of 15 and 24," she said.

Fairchild said the coalition's efforts to prevent suicide have included the "**Teen Screen**" program, which has helped identify mental illness for students at seven schools in both counties, and a survivors of suicide peer support group, which started in July and meets the first Tuesday of every month at Oak Grove Mennonite Church near West Liberty.

"The idea is to educate people .. so they can recognize symptoms in friends, students and co-workers and prevent it," said David Higgins, chairman of the Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Service Board of Logan and Champaign counties.

Debra Copeland, of the Ohio Suicide Prevention Coalition, who served as a Family and Children First coordinator in Champaign County several years ago, said local efforts have given inspiration to other county-level coalitions.

"This community is near and dear to my heart," she said. "Ohio currently has 63 coalitions serving 69 counties, and yours has shown others what it's possible to do."

Copeland said grant funding provided the revenue to offer the "Teen Screen" program to approximately 25,000 students and their families across the state, including 3,000 in Logan and Champaign counties.

<http://www.urbanacitizen.com/main.asp?SectionID=3&SubSectionID=5&ArticleID=149112&TM=86171.95>