STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Madison & Matthew Kelley



The Kelley siblings of Norfolk, MA are leading the way to bring awareness to mental health and suicide prevention in a variety of ways at both the high school and college level. Madison is a sophomore at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York, and a graduate of King Philip Regional High School in Wrentham, MA where her brother Matthew is currently a junior.

Stunned by the tragic loss of their 28-year old cousin to suicide in August of 2019, Madison and Matt soon realized the breadth and depth of mental illness all around them, and they set out to make a difference for students who might be dealing with mental health issues such as anxiety and depression.

With a steadfast goal and a lot of perseverance beginning in the spring 2020, the Kelley siblings have worked tirelessly with King Philip School District Wellness Director Dorothy Pearl, school district leadership, Norfolk Police Sergeant Michelle Palladini, and others to advocate those in authority to print suicide prevention hotline phone and text lines on the back of all student ID cards at King Philip High School. “Students are often with others and aren’t able to talk for fear that someone will hear them. Having the ability to text is really great.” says Matthew. This fall their vision is becoming a reality!

School ID photography company Lifetouch has been very willing to help, and the Kelleys hope to expand their ID card concept to as many schools as possible. Ideally, with the help of State Representative Shawn Dooley, Madison and Matt may soon be pushing for a state mandate that all Massachusetts high schools be required to print hotline numbers on their students’ ID cards as well. “Having hotlines on the back of ID cards gives students immediate resources to get help”, says Madison.

KyleCares commends the Kelleys for their courage and willingness to help others as a response to the heartbreaking situation they’ve experienced, and we’re proud to recognize them in this quarter’s Student Spotlight!