



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Today is National Survivors of Suicide Day**

**Vancouver nonprofit reaches out to Palo Alto, a community in crisis**

**Vancouver, WA – November 21, 2009** – Saturday, November 21 is National Survivors of Suicide Day, a day that will resonate with several communities still reeling from the recent loss of multiple teens to suicide - the most prominent being Palo Alto, California.

Over five months, four youths from Gunn High School ended their lives by stepping in front of commuter trains.

A local nonprofit dedicated to addressing America's teen depression and suicide epidemic is intervening in the crisis. Unite 4 Life will participate in a community forum in Palo Alto to support the community's efforts to address the crisis, heal, and prevent further suicides. Unite 4 Life is working with community leaders to bring its suicide prevention program into local schools, beginning with Gunn High School.

In the current economic climate, crisis hotlines in Portland are seeing an increase in suicide calls. For every suicide completion there are approximately 200 attempts that follow, a serious concern for communities where "suicide clusters" are happening. This concern is all too familiar to Clark County, where 10 years ago several teens died by suicide.

In 2008 Unite 4 Life moved its headquarters from Livermore, California to Vancouver, Washington. Since relocating, the organization has presented its message to several Vancouver classrooms and many communities throughout Washington and Oregon. Unite 4 Life plans to take its school-based program nationally.

National Survivors of Suicide Day is a day to remember those who have lost someone to suicide. It was created by a U.S. Senate resolution in 1999 through the efforts of Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, who lost his father to suicide.

Depression happens. Suicide doesn't have to. To find out more, visit [www.unite4life.com](http://www.unite4life.com)

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### **About Unite 4 Life**

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Unite 4 Life is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2006 to address the epidemic of teen depression and suicide in the United States. Based in Vancouver, Washington, Unite 4 Life exists to create an atmosphere in schools and communities where every hurting young person is getting the help they need. Unite 4 Life offers a comprehensive youth depression awareness and suicide prevention program designed to be implemented on school campuses and in communities. The program was developed through a collaboration of youth organizations, mental health professionals, local police, and concerned members of the community. Depression happens. Suicide doesn't have to. Visit [www.unite4life.com](http://www.unite4life.com)

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