



County Coroner Mike Pruitt talks about the affects of suicide on loved ones. Pruitt has been the County Coroner since 2020. Keyara Johnson photo



Greenwood Community members listen to speakers at the walk. Juniors Paige Glynn and Kara Ennis and senior Isabelle Reynolds were the program organizers. Keyara Johnson photo



Senior Isabelle Reynolds speaks on how mental health has had an affect on her life. Reynolds has been planning the walk since summer. Kenzie McAtee photo



Light in the Darkness

By Dom Williams & Makena Cruse
editors-in-chief

On Nov. 9, approximately 80 students and community members gathered in the Student Activity Center for Light in the Darkness, a suicide prevention program.

This year marks the third GHS awareness walk for mental health. The first mental health walk was organized by graduates Lilli Vaziri and Ava Smith. This year senior Isabelle Reynolds and juniors Kara Ennis and Paige Glynn continued the tradition.

The event is geared toward raising both awareness and money to support the American Suicide Foundation. The students offered t-shirts, bracelets, stickers and pins to raise additional awareness of mental health, and Johnson County coroner, Mr. Michael Pruitt, spoke to the group about suicide and urged them not to suffer alone if they are depressed.

Reynolds shared her connection to the cause with students before kicking off the start of the walk, and all participants walked around the indoor track and played games, such as cornhole and spike ball.

Reynolds talked about the speech she gave at the event.

“When I was there, I told a story about someone close to me who had attempted suicide. Luckily, they survived, but I blamed myself, and ever since then, mental health has been a huge thing for me,” Reynolds said.

She also talked about what went into planning the walk.

“We put a lot of time into planning the event. I had to find a date and time that worked, Kara contacted the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and got a website for donation. We also had to make decorations and games,” Reynolds said.



Students gather and socialize at the mental health awareness walk. This year marks the third event in a row for mental health at GHS. Leah Beaman photo



GHS students play Spikeball at the mental health awareness walk. Spikeball was one of the many events and games offered at the event. Kenzie McAtee photo



Juniors Atley Jacks and Juney Jones play cornhole. Different games were set up at the walk in order to entertain those in attendance. Waveland Goodrich photo



Sophomore Lola Trent buys a t-shirt as she is leaving the event. All proceeds from the walk went to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Keyara Johnson photo



Sophomore Maryn Zaborowsky writes down an encouraging message. A banner filled with these messages hangs in the hallway. Addy Rogers photo



Greenwood Middle School students set up games. Many community members helped to set up the walk. Leah Beaman photo

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