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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER DETROIT LIONS QB ERIC HIPPLE TO TALK ABOUT SUICIDE PREVENTION WITH PARENTS APR. 23

Suicide Prevention Coalition Annual Conference Apr. 23-24 open to public

Stark County, OH (April 13, 2015) – Former Detroit Lions quarterback Eric Hipple will present “Yes, It Could be Your Child” at Parent’s Night, 6-8:00 p.m., on Apr. 23 at Malone University’s Johnson Center as part of Stark County Suicide Prevention Coalition’s two-day annual conference. Hipple, who lost his 15-year-old son to suicide in 2000, is outreach representative for the University of Michigan’s Comprehensive Depression Center. The public is invited to attend conference events at no charge.

Youth are invited to hear Hipple present on the second day of the conference from 10:45 until noon, Apr. 24, about suicide prevention and resiliency. Local behavioral health professionals, educators, safety forces, parents and youth will present panel discussions, keynotes and breakout sessions from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the second conference day, themed “Saving Lives: A Message of Hope.” The event is sponsored by the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Stark County.

Please register for the event online at www.starkmhrs.org by Apr. 17. The two-day event is free and includes lunch on Apr. 24.

Stark County’s suicide rate of 14.9 persons for every 100,000 individuals is higher than the national rate according to Carole Vesely from the Crisis Intervention & Recovery Center and Stark County Suicide Prevention Coalition coordinator.

In addition to Hipple, second day conference presenters are Rick Shepler, Ph.D., Marcie Girdlestone, M.A., PCC-S, Bobbi Beale, Psy. D., Eric Hipple, Outreach Specialist, Christine Hammond, M.A., Steve Thomas, LISW, ACSW, Jon Coventry, LPCC-S, CDCA and Janice Houchins, LISW-S (members of the Resiliency Committee of the Stark County Family Council). Information will include recognizing and engaging youth in crisis, utilizing resiliency to help youth bounce back from adversity, and understanding how stigma can impact the recovery process.

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About Crisis Intervention & Recovery Center

The Crisis Intervention and Recovery Center (CIRC) is a not-for-profit agency, certified through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS), American Association of Suicidology, and the Joint Commission. CIRC is staffed by caring, licensed professionals who are here to assist members of the Stark County community resolve their problems and resume a healthy, productive life. CIRC is funded by the Mental Health Recovery Services Board of Stark County, the United Way of Greater Stark County, as well as fees, donations, grants and foundations.

About Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Stark County

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Stark County is a multi-faceted organization of expert professionals, dedicated volunteers and concerned community leaders close to mental health and addiction needs right here at home. MHR SB is responsible for planning, funding and monitoring public mental health and addiction prevention, early intervention and treatment services delivered to the residents of Stark County. It is one of 53 Boards coordinating the public behavioral health system across Ohio. The Board also advocates for residents with behavioral health issues at both the local and state levels and provides educational opportunities for local providers and other community stakeholders. For more online about the work of the Board, visit www.starkmhrs.org.