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PRESS RELEASE:

Gifts for Holiday Grieving Event

Madelia, Minn. – The holiday season can be a difficult time for anyone dealing with the loss of a loved one, but it is particularly difficult for those who have lost someone to suicide.

The Madelia Community Based Collaborative is holding a “Gifts for Holiday Grieving” event on Sunday, December 6th from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Amberfield Place Dining Room to help. Anyone who has been touched by a suicide – parent, co-worker, sibling, friend, neighbor, spouse - is welcome to attend. Three survivors of suicide will share their helpful tips and resources during the event:

Marlene Buker is the co-facilitator of the Survivors of Suicide Support Group in Mankato. Her oldest son, Cory, died by suicide in May, 1998 at the age of 25. Many people reached out to Marlene to offer hope and encouragement after Cory’s death, and now she gives back.

Karen Dahl was widowed after 30 years of marriage when her husband, Joe, died by suicide on Christmas Eve, 2009. Joe’s father had also completed suicide in 1975. She has a mission to not let history repeat itself in her two sons and to learn all she can about suicide and the grief process.

Jen Withrow lost her seventeen-year-old son, Andrew, to suicide in March of 2012. His death left a hole in the hearts of his family and friends. This loss is especially painful during the holiday season because Andrew was so fond of Christmas. Jen is co-facilitator of the Survivors of Suicide Support Group in Mankato with Marlene.

Amberfield Place is located at 227 Drew Ave SE in Madelia, Minn. Refreshments will be served. The event is free, but donations are appreciated.

MCBC is a local community group that includes broad community representation consisting of members from the Madelia Community Hospital & Clinic, Madelia School District, Tony Downs Food Company, Glen Taylor Nursing Institute for Family and Society, Minnesota State University, Mankato Nursing Program, Luther Memorial Home and Watonwan County Vision for Families and Children.

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