



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
**Panhandle Health District**

## Panhandle Health District

*Healthy People in Healthy Communities*

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### NEWS RELEASE

#### Children's Village Receives Grant from Suicide Prevention Action Network Panhandle Health District – May 10, 2024



Suicide Prevention Action Network members present check to Children's Village staff

As a part of their ongoing efforts to support mental and behavioral health resources in the community, Panhandle Health District's (PHD) Suicide Prevention Action Network of north Idaho (SPAN) provided The Children's Village a \$10,000 grant. The funds were generated

from SPAN's annual fundraising 5k event focused on remembering those lost to suicide, supporting those struggling with mental health and raising awareness.

"Children's Village is deeply honored to receive the \$10,000 grant from Panhandle Health District through their Suicide Prevention 5K event," said Vanessa Moos, Children's Village CEO, in an acceptance letter sent to SPAN. "This grant serves as a crucial endorsement of our ongoing efforts to provide a trauma-responsive safe haven for children who are facing abuse, neglect, or homelessness in our community."

In 2021, Idaho had the 9<sup>th</sup> highest suicide rate in the United States and claimed the lives of 387 Idahoans. According to the American Psychological Association, more than twenty percent of teens have seriously considered suicide and nine percent have made a suicide attempt. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among high school youth between ages 14-18.

"Identifying warning signs of suicidal ideation or depression, whether in ourselves or others, is vital for early intervention and seeking timely assistance," said Valerie Leal, Suicide Prevention & Youth Education Specialist at PHD and SPAN Chair. "We recognize the important work that Children's Village does for suicide prevention within their daily operations, and we want to support that work."

This year's SPAN 5K will be held on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at Riverstone Park. Participating is free and all are welcome. Funds raised in sponsorships for the event will be redistributed to community organizations that support mental health and suicide prevention.

PHD's SPAN of North Idaho has chapters based in Kootenai and Benewah counties and an affiliate group based in Bonner county. While suicide and non-fatal suicidal behavior are major public health problems across Idaho, they can be preventable. SPAN is dedicated to suicide prevention through work hosting trainings and events, providing gun locks and resources, working towards zero suicide initiatives with the state.

**If you or someone you know is experiencing a crisis, help is available.** Suicide Prevention Lifeline Text or Call Line: **988** or Chat [988lifeline.org/](https://988lifeline.org/)

**Register for the free SPAN 5K or Sponsor the Event here:**  
<https://panhandlehealthdistrict.org/behavioral-healthcare/suicide-prevention/>

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**Panhandle Health District** provides over 40 different public health programs to families, individuals and organizations in northern Idaho. From food and drinking water safety to health education and disease control, public health services are critical to ensure our community is a safe and healthy place to live, work and play.

The PHD team is made up of nurses, nutritionists, environmental health specialists, health educators and many other dedicated professionals with a common goal to deliver vital public health services.

Panhandle Health District is one of seven health districts in the state of Idaho.