

"I honest to God was afraid that my granddaughter would commit suicide. My daughter makes just over \$10 an hour – she can barely make ends meet. Second Wind has truly been a life-saver under the circumstances."

– Grandmother of a ninth-grade sexual abuse victim who is 'doing much better' after regular counseling sessions

Second Wind Fund thesecondwindfund.org



From an initial turnout of 66 people in 2002, the Second Wind Fund's annual Walk/Run/Ride event drew 1,900 participants in 2006, making it the largest youth suicide prevention fundraiser in the nation.

Objective: To decrease the incidence of teen suicide by making treatment possible for uninsured or underinsured at-risk youth.

Impact: Over the course of the 2001-2002 school year, four students at Green Mountain High School in Lakewood took their own lives. "We wanted to show solidarity with the school," says Jeff Lamontagne, who was a congregant at a nearby church. Lamontagne and others organized a walk/run that raised \$4,000 in September 2002. Grateful school administrators asked that the money be used to provide mental-health services for students. Soon after, Lamontagne fielded a call from another school

asking if they could access the funds. "We couldn't say no," says Lamontagne, who later left a career in environmental law to co-found the Second Wind Fund with Scott Fletcher and Dr. Marjorie Laird. The organization now makes licensed therapists available for students from every school in the Denver metro area. More than 600 youth have been helped since the program was founded, with more than 300 referrals expected in 2007. Rose Community Foundation has granted the organization \$15,000.