

Search

- NEWS
 BLOGHOUSE
 BUSINESS
 COLUMNISTS
 FRONT PAGE
 LOCAL NEWS
 Colorado Sunday
 Digital News Team
 Legislature
 Lottery
 Rocky Mt. Ranger
 MULTIMEDIA
 NATION/WORLD
 OBITUARIES
 PODCASTS
 POLITICS
 SEASON TO SHARE
 SPECIAL REPORTS
 WEATHER

- FEATURES
 CALENDAR
 BOOKS
 COLUMNISTS
 COMICS
 ENTERTAINMENT
 FOOD & DINING
 HEALTH
 LIFESTYLES
 MOVIES
 TRAVEL
 TV LISTINGS

- OPINION
 COLUMNISTS
 EDITORIALS
 LETTERS
 PERSPECTIVE
 KEEFE CARTOON
 MESSAGE BOARDS
 WRITE FOR US

- SPORTS
 AVALANCHE / NHL
 BRONCOS / NFL
 COLLEGES
 COLUMNISTS
 CRUSH / AFL
 EXTREMES
 LACROSSE
 NUGGETS / NBA
 OLYMPICS
 PREPS
 RAPIDS / MLS
 ROCKIES / MLB
 SCORES
 SNOW SPORTS
 OTHER SPORTS

- SERVICES
 ABOUT US/HELP
 ARCHIVES
 CONTACT US
 E-MAIL NEWS
 INTERNSHIPS
 PERSONALS
 READ & WIN
 SUBSCRIBE
 TRAFFIC

- ADVERTISING
 AUTOS
 FANTASY SPORTS

[Link To Article](#) [Print Article](#) [Email Article](#)

Article Launched: 02/07/2006 1:00 AM MST

denver & the west Keeping hopes aloft on Second Wind

Youth suicide-prevention program spreading in schools in several counties

By Ann Schrader
 Denver Post Staff Writer

A fence separates Green Mountain Presbyterian Church from Green Mountain High School in Lakewood, but that hasn't stopped neighbors from reaching out to help prevent suicides among youths.



Lakewood therapist Cheri Kretsch meets with a teenager who was referred to her as part of the Second Wind Fund. Kretsch is one of several private therapists participating in the youth suicide-prevention program who have agreed to provide counseling at reduced cost. (Post / Kathryn Scott Osler)

The Second Wind Fund slowly evolved from church members seeking to ease heartache created when four Green Mountain High students committed suicide during the 2001-02 school year.

"Originally, we wanted to just raise money for the high school, but we found out there was no program," said Scott Fletcher, who is on Second Wind's board.

The nonprofit program has spread from Green Mountain and other Jefferson County schools - from high school to even elementary school - to those in Park, Douglas, El Paso, Mesa and Boulder counties.

In the past year, Second Wind has referred about 240 youths identified as being at risk to therapists and has picked up the bills for those who are uninsured or underinsured.

Second Wind pays for up to eight sessions and, if needed, can extend counseling support.

OTHER LOCAL NEWS STORIES

- Memorial for slain Springs officer
- Owens: Iraq rage a sign of progress
- Natural-gas tank ignites
- Health care agendas lacking
- Survivors sharing strength
- Briefs, 2/27
- Spencer: Owner needn't be frozen out of home
- Brand-new tag for James Brown bridge
- Growth debated; schools too full
- Iraqi leaders inspire politician
- Harsanyi: Custody case inequities
- Top kid: Scott Cochran
- Police disbelieve dog story
- Region report, 2/26
- 2 accused of home swindle
- SUV driver injured by runaway semi on I-70 off-ramp
- Naked ambition
- Science fair goes under microscope
- GOP counting on comeback
- Post wins honors in 2 state contests
- Health boom tracks profit
- Skiers leave disabilities in the dust
- 3-week-old puppy tossed by teens dies of injuries
- Silencers in the woods?
- Scientifically speaking, 2/26
- Health calendar, 2/26
- Carman: Divided on policy, united in respect
- Wastewater spills into S. Platte
- Cañon City asked if it can supply water to prison site
- Metro / region briefs

Football? Hockey? Soccer? Basketball?



GLOBAL CAREER MANAGEMENT

EXECUTIVE Advantage

Call for a **FREE** Consultation

"We are dedicated to provide quality service and guidance to executives and professionals so as to empower them to achieve their career objectives for today and the future."

Colorado's Premier Career Management Firm

Denver Metro South
 Phone: 303-694-1998
 Fax: 303-694-1669

World Trade Center
 Phone: 303-623-1770
 Fax: 303-623-1775

Denver Metro North
 Phone: 303-280-9757
 Fax: 303-280-1398

Fort Collins
 Phone: 970-377-8386
 Fax: 970-377-8365

HOMES
JOBS
MARKETPLACE
MEMORIALS
NEWSPAPER ADS
SPORTS CHALLENGE
WEDDINGS
YELLOW PAGES

HOME
ETHICS POLICY
Privacy Policy

SEARCH

Google™

9NEWS.COM

REAL
Cities

"It's been a huge success with kids who went and said, 'I need a little help,'" said J.C. Cox, president of the Second Wind board.

Cox's son, 17-year-old Jonathan, was the fourth Green Mountain suicide.

"He hurt so many people - his family, his friends, his teachers," Cox said. "I don't want anyone else to go through that."

Recently, Denver started to plug into the Second Wind Fund. The first referrals have been made in Adams County, thanks to a grant from the Carson J. Spencer Foundation, which was formed last year to support programs and services to intervene and treat bipolar disorder.

The Jefferson Foundation, a nonprofit organization that supports Jefferson County Public Schools, provides marketing for the fund.

The students "frequently lack coping skills,"

Advertisement

said Cheri Kretsch, one of several private therapists who have agreed to provide counseling at reduced cost. "It's amazing what just a few sessions can do."

Word of Second Wind has traveled across the nation, with calls seeking information coming from Massachusetts, Georgia and Nevada. The need is particularly acute in Colorado, which has a suicide rate that ranks seventh nationally.

"People don't know where else to turn, and they see our website as a link to resources," said Jeff Lamontagne, who has given up half of his environmental law practice to devote time as Second Wind's executive director.

Lamontagne said a preliminary assessment indicates the fund is making a difference. Of 85 Jeffco students referred in the 2004-05 school year, 50 followed through and met with therapists.

Of the 50, 43 reported improvement, six have not provided enough information and one said he was neither better nor worse.

Said Lamontagne: "We haven't lost anyone."

Staff writer Ann Schrader can be reached at 303-278-3217 or aschrader@denverpost.com.

Second Wind's major fundraiser, a walk/run in Lakewood, will be held Sept. 24. Last year's event drew 1,400 people and raised \$80,000. For more information, call 303-988-2645 or go to www.thesecondwindfund.org.

Verizon Online DSL

The best value in
broadband just
got better!

Now as low as
\$14.95/month
for up to 768K

Get your first
month **FREE**

[CHECK AVAILABILITY](#)

Related Advertising Links

Lower Blood Pressure

Lower Blood Pressure up to 36 Points with no drug side-effects!

Affordable Medical Career Training

Short-term training; Long-term success. Get the skills that get the jobs at PMI!

Jupiter Lending, LLC

Hey, Denver fans!!!!!! We are Colorado's Wholesale Lender! Take advantage of our 4.99% 30 Year Fixed program! Click here to find out more.....

BUY A LINK IN MARKETPLACE 

DENVERPOST.com

All contents Copyright 2006 The Denver Post or other copyright holders. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed for any commercial purpose.

[Denver Post Ethics Policy](#)
[Terms of use](#) | [Privacy policy](#)

marketplace

jupiterlending.com

Denver Mortgages

Find Denver Area Mortgage Rates and Mortgage Lenders
SuperPages.com

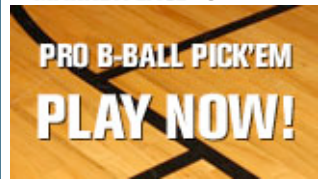
Lower Blood Pressure

Lower Blood Pressure up to 36 Points with no drug side-effects!
resperate.com

Affordable Medical Career Training

Short-term training; Long-term success. Get the skills that get the jobs at PMI!

BUY A LINK IN MARKETPLACE 



Sponsored Links

- . [Colorado Real Estate & Homes for Sale](#)
- . [Speaker Wire](#)
- . [Cadillac](#)
- . [Compare Prices](#)
- . [Home & Auto Insurance Quotes](#)
- . [Business Cards](#)
- . [Executive Chairs](#)
- . [Reverse Osmosis Water Filters](#)
- . [eCommerce](#)
- . [Credit Card Consolidation](#)
- . [Cabin Kits & Building Cabins](#)
- . [Find Electronic Components](#)
- . [Denver Home Equity Loans](#)
- . [Internet Marketing Firm](#)
- . [Auto Insurance](#)
- . [Sexy Lingerie Gifts](#)
- . [Herbal Slimming Patch](#)