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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LONGTIME SUPPORTER AWARDED FOR HIS EFFORTS IN YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION**

The Jason Foundation Presented Coach Keith Otterbein with the *Grant Teaff "Breaking the Silence" Award*

(Hendersonville, TN – January 20, 2016) Every year, the *Grant Teaff "Breaking the Silence" Award* is presented by The Jason Foundation (JFI) at the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Convention to honor a coach that has exceeded expectations as a National Awareness Ambassador. These coaches have been involved in activities that further the mission to spread awareness of the problem of youth suicide and help prevent it. Recipients of the award have shown outstanding leadership in youth suicide prevention.

On January 12th, JFI was honored to present the award to Keith Otterbein, Head Football Coach at Hillsdale College. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for our nation's youth ages 10-24, the age groups that AFCA Coaches impact. Coach Otterbein and his efforts in youth suicide prevention and awareness are remarkable and highly valued by The Jason Foundation.

Hillsdale College and Coach Otterbein have been donating money raised from their annual football camp to The Jason Foundation for 9 years. Besides the monetary donation, the information that attendees and Hillsdale players receive during the event can prove to be invaluable. Coach Otterbein has been one of the longest and staunchest supporters of The Jason Foundation.

"It is an honor to have Hillsdale College and our football program recognized for our association with such a worthy organization as The Jason Foundation," said Coach Otterbein. "I am proud to accept the Grant Teaff 'Breaking the Silence' Award on behalf of our players and coaches and coaches across the country at all levels who have given their time to make a difference in youth suicide prevention."

Clark Flatt, JFI President said, "The Jason Foundation is grateful to have coaches such as Keith Otterbein in communities across the nation. He exemplifies everything that we look for in our AFCA Coach Ambassadors. Our coaches have a tremendous opportunity to touch thousands of young lives and Coach Otterbein has done that."

**About the Organization:**

JFI is a non-profit organization dedicated to fighting "The Silent Epidemic" of youth suicide through educational programs for young people, educators, parents, and other community groups. JFI, headquartered in Hendersonville, TN, was founded in 1997 after the tragic death of Jason Flatt, the 16-year-old son of Clark Flatt. For more information, please visit JFI's website, <http://www.jasonfoundation.com>

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