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**THE JASON FOUNDATION AND CENTERPOINTE HOSPITAL OF COLUMBIA
ANNOUNCE NEW EDUCATION AND AWARENESS COLLABORATION TO
HELP PREVENT YOUTH SUICIDE**

HENDERSONVILLE, Tenn., March 1, 2019 – The Jason Foundation, Inc. (JFI), a youth suicide prevention and awareness organization, and CenterPointe Hospital of Columbia announced today that they have entered into an affiliation to help fight the “silent epidemic” of youth suicide. CenterPointe Hospital has become a Jason Foundation Pillar Affiliate and will establish a Pillar Affiliate Office at its center located in Columbia, MO. The Pillar Affiliate Office will serve as a hub where parents, teachers, guidance counselors, students, churches and other community organizations can obtain educational materials and learn about training programs available through JFI. All programs and materials are offered to the public at no cost.

“The Jason Foundation is thrilled to begin working with CenterPointe Hospital of Columbia,” said Clark Flatt, President of JFI. “As a Pillar Affiliate, CenterPointe will help supply young people and families in and around Columbia with the tools and resources to potentially save a life. Suicide is preventable.”

“CenterPointe Hospital of Columbia is proud to announce our affiliation with The Jason Foundation,” said Mike Talmo, CEO of CenterPointe Hospital of Columbia. “With suicide as the 3rd leading cause of death in Missouri among young people ages 10-14, it is imperative that we work together to end the silent epidemic of teen suicide. The suicide prevention training, tools and resources provided to our staff and community by The Jason Foundation will empower youth, parents and educators to recognize when young people are in pain and know when to get professional help as soon as possible. CenterPointe is committed to taking an active role in eliminating youth suicide in our communities and to providing compassionate and effective behavioral health treatment for youth and families in crisis.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth between the ages of 10 and 24, resulting in approximately 6,700 lives lost each year. Four out of five young people who attempt suicide exhibit clear warning signs prior to the attempt. Knowing the warning signs associated with suicide, and how to help, can save young lives.

About the Organizations:

The Jason Foundation 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, Tenn., was founded in 1997 after the tragic death of Jason Flatt, the 16-year-old son of Clark Flatt. For more information or locations, please visit JFI’s website, www.jasonfoundation.com.

Located in the beautiful and historic city of Columbia, Missouri, CenterPointe Hospital is a new, state-of-the-art, 72-bed behavioral health hospital providing inpatient and outpatient mental health and substance use treatment for adolescents and adults. CenterPointe has established itself as a leader in mental health and addiction treatment services and maintains a reputation for providing a comprehensive continuum of quality care. www.centerpointehospitalcolumbia.com

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