



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Brett Marciel**

Chief Communications Officer

[brettmarcie@jasonfoundation.com](mailto:brettmarcie@jasonfoundation.com)

**The Jason Foundation Celebrates its 23rd Anniversary**

(HENDERSONVILLE, Tenn., October 1, 2020) Twenty-three years ago, The Jason Foundation, Inc. (JFI) officially became a non-profit organization by incorporating in the State of Tennessee on October 1, 1997. With no full-time staff, a \$2,500 first-year budget, and an office address of a kitchen table in an insurance agency, a small group of family and friends focused their grief and passion to form The Jason Foundation. From the tragic suicide death of 16-year-old Jason Flatt, JFI's mission is to raise awareness about the "silent epidemic" of youth and young adult suicide and to provide resources to help prevent this tragedy.

Today, twenty-three years later, The Jason Foundation is a nationally recognized leader in youth and young adult suicide awareness and prevention. The 2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention noted the founding of JFI in 1997 as one of the "National Milestones" in suicide prevention, dating back to 1958. The Jason Foundation, headquartered in Hendersonville, TN, is one of the nation's largest and oldest non-profits that addresses youth and young adult suicide prevention. Through their national network of 126 Affiliate Offices located in 35 states, they provide programs and services to all fifty states. JFI is the leading non-profit provider of In-service/Professional Development Training on suicide awareness and prevention for educators in the nation.

"One of the aspects of JFI that I am most proud of," said Clark Flatt, President of The Jason Foundation and Jason's dad, "is that since 1997, we have never charged a school, church, youth organization, community or even a state for any of our programs and resources provided. A big reason for our success lies with our National Community Affiliates – our FIVE STONES! JFI's 'Stones' are (in order of affiliation) Acadia Healthcare, HCA Healthcare, Signature Health, Springstone, and Strategic Healthcare. The Jason Foundation's National Network of Affiliate Offices are comprised of these organizations and they ensure that our 'no-charge policy' is possible."

As it was in 1997, suicide remains a leading cause of death for youth in our nation. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth ages 10 – 24, only surpassed by the group of "unintentional injuries" which includes auto accidents and accidental drug overdose deaths. We average losing approximately 130 young people each week to suicide. In the state of Tennessee, suicide is listed as the third leading cause for youth ages 10-24, with 19.2% of high school youth stating that they have seriously considered suicide in the past twelve months.

Suicide is considered a leading cause of "preventable death" in our nation. Prevention is built upon awareness and education. We can make a difference by having the information, tools, and resources to help identify someone who may be struggling with thoughts of suicide and knowing how to assist them in getting help. This is the drive and mission for The Jason Foundation.

To find out how you can help prevent this tragedy, more about The Jason Foundation, and how to obtain their programs, visit [www.jasonfoundation.com](http://www.jasonfoundation.com).