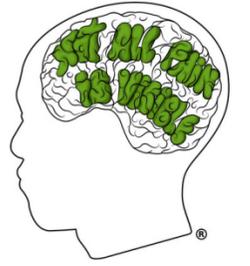




**DARREN CLARK JR
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**





About Darren



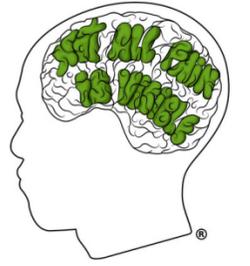
Darren Clark Jr., born on December 25, 1993 in Paterson, NJ. Even when still in the womb, Darren's silly character already showed. He would stick one hand out and when I would push it back, Darren would stick it out further up or down. We would go back and forth until one of us got tired.

Throughout Darren's school life, his friends could not help but to see how amazing a human being he is. He had an incredible heart, full of love, gentleness and kindness that always overflowed with whomever he interacted with.

There hasn't been a person who met Darren and didn't take to him. The magnetic aura he had, immediately had you care for his wellbeing. Aside from being kind and generous Darren was also quite a character. He always had a sense of humor that showed in the pictures he took. He was always smiling. "His smile is contagious" his friends would always say.

Even if there were people who wronged him, that never stopped him from giving them the shirt off his back. His heart was incredible, it had not room for malice. He always forgave.

Darren sometimes tended to be introverted. Would keep everything bottled in and never wanted to burden anyone with his problems or concerns. Always wanted to handle it on his own. And there sometimes is where his struggle lay. Darren would instead express himself through his art. So, in 2017 he joined a program as a tattoo artist apprentice to fulfill his goal of being a tattoo artist. Whether it would be in his drawing, making T-shirts or hats, Darren's incredible artistic talent always showed in his creations.



Mission & Vision

We are a Mental Health Foundation

Darren Clark Jr. Memorial was founded on April 5th, 2018 in memory of Darren Clark Jr., Darren passed away on January 7th, 2018, as a result of suicide due to mental illness. The mission of this foundation is to carry out the wishes of Darren to “help thousands of people” and provide resources to those in need and their families. We do this through our programs, events, and community outreach. Specifically, we are focused on tackling the youth mental crisis affecting our children. Our vision is a decrease in the number of loved ones we lose to mental illness.

Youth Mental Health: Trends and Outlook

Mental illness is more prevalent in young people and may persist throughout their lifetime.

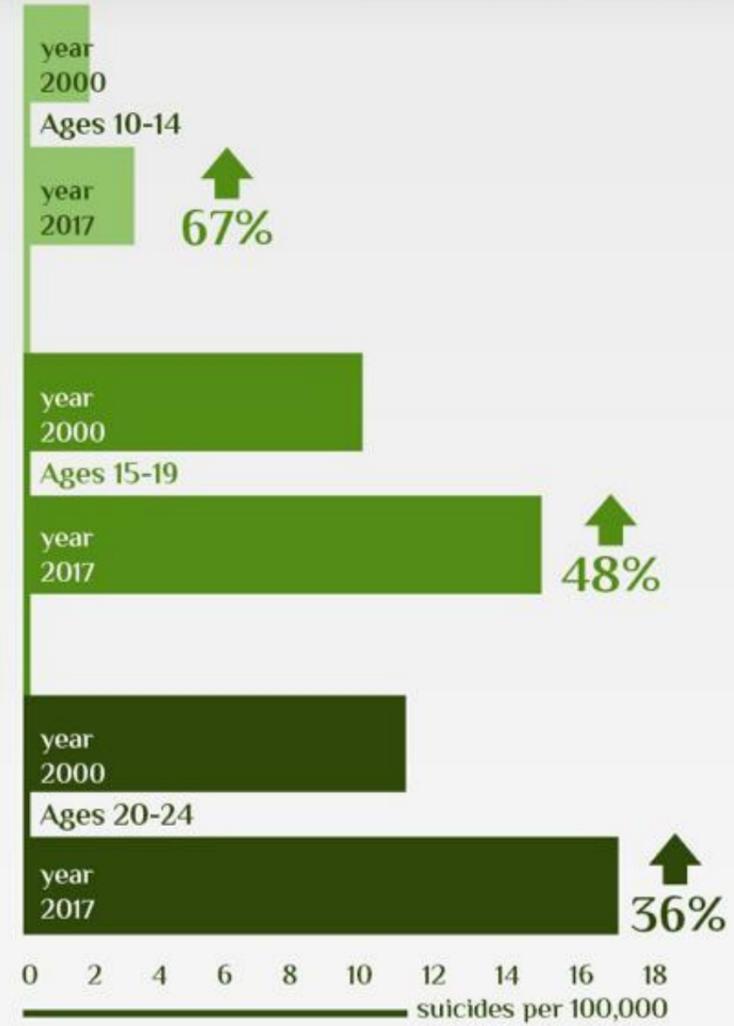
Mental illness is a risk factor for suicide, which is also increasing among **young people**

Suicide impacts some communities more than others, including **LGBT youth**

Suicide is **the 2nd** leading cause of death among 10 to 24 year olds



NIHCM: Data Insights



SUICIDE RATES increased among youth, teens and young adults from 2000 - 2017:

We provide these tools to help fight depression



Mental Health Resources



Supporters' Yoga



Support group

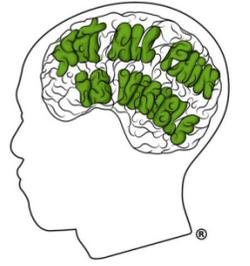


Advocacy



Therapist match

Programs



Therapist Match

Darren Memorial staff works with a network of caring providers and we will work with the family to find a therapist that is covered by insurance and a fit for the family's needs.



Yoga

Yoga is a proven method of self care and healing for our body, mind, and soul. Our yoga instructor will guide the family through gentle meditation and full body stretch and breathing.



Darren's Gallery

Darren's Gallery is a monthly support group on mental wellness. During each session we discuss a different topic on whole body wellness. Darren's Gallery is a safe non judgment place to share, vent, cry and give advice without feeling alone. There is also a Q & A time towards the end of the group and at times with a licensed therapist. In honor of Darren's passion for art, we use a variety of techniques to interact with attendees including art therapy.

INVISIBLE PAIN DAY

January 7, 2023

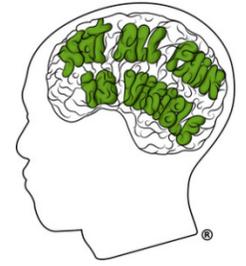
<https://invisiblepainday.org/>

*Come together to bring awareness to mental illness
and remind the world that our loved ones may be
gone, but they will never be forgotten*



ESSEX NEWS DAILY

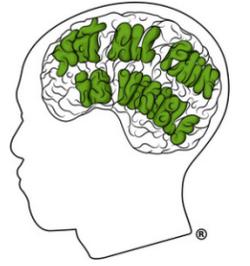
September 4, 2022



Mental Health Day in East Orange provides skills, supplies to students

EAST ORANGE, NJ — The Darren Clark Jr. Memorial foundation hosted a Back-to-School Mental Health Day at Watsessing Park in East Orange on Saturday, Aug. 27. The event served more than 100 underserved students from Essex County, providing backpacks or messenger bags filled with age-appropriate school supplies to students who participated in the four activities meant to help them learn more efficient mental health coping mechanisms.

Key Aspects of Donor Development Program



Major Donor Program

We are currently seeking 5 major donors to become our Founding Partners. These individuals will invest in the core mission and become advisors. As we grow, we will continue to seek individuals and businesses who wish to support our work through sponsorships opportunities.



Grants & Foundations

We are currently doing research and audit of available funding through grants and foundations for this work. We plan to have that information available during Q3 of 2023 and will then begin the process of seeking additional funds.

Partnership Levels



Premier Sponsor \$25,000 - \$100,000

- Email Blast to all subscribers with Statistics.
- Social Media Posts on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.
- Logo on Partnership page with Link.
- Thank you banner.
- Blog post.
- Certificate of Recognition.

Gold Sponsor \$10,000 - \$25,000

- Social Media Posts on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.
- Logo on Partnership page.
- Blog post.
- Certificate of Recognition.

Silver Sponsor \$5,000 - \$10,000

- Logo on Partnership page.
- Blog Post.
- Certificate of Recognition.

Bronze Sponsor \$1,000 - \$5,000

- Logo on Partnership page.
- Certificate of Recognition..

Testimonials

"The Darren Clark Jr Memorial foundation has helped me tremendously particularly the time when I was dealing with the effects of spousal abuse, and I couldn't see a therapist because of covid pandemic. The foundation provided an avenue where I could share my experience with people who were going through the same situations in life. More importantly the therapist who occasionally joined us during our monthly zoom meeting advised me on ways of dealing with effects of domestic abuse and exhorted me to seek professional help specifically anxiety and panic attacks.

Also, the foundation enabled me to open up and narrate my experience pertaining to abuse. Before, I joined the foundation, I used to be an introvert who kept mostly to myself and didn't share my problems. This has been possible because Darren Clark Jr Memorial family members are nonjudgmental, and everything is treated with confidentiality.

Moreover, my interactions with other members of Darren Clark Jr Memorial foundation have taught me that my problems are not terminally unique. Many other people are going through the same things and have the same mindset as I do which I really found comforting.

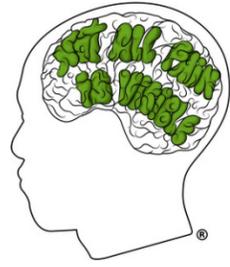
Furthermore, the foundation has taught me that I should stop worrying about things that I cannot control but I should appreciate and enjoy the small things that are going on around me every day.

Finally, through the foundation, I have learned that mental health is just as important as physical health. Therefore, I need to listen to what my body is telling me. This has helped me to cope with anxiety attacks especially through breathing exercises, walking, exercises, yoga, and meditation. The foundation has been like a family to me, and I will always be eternal grateful to its leadership." - **S.F.**

Testimonials

"I had struggles, even regrets of my past but Darren memorial foundation made me feel that these were not my own struggles and that I was not alone. In Darren memorial I found the hearts that showed care at my worst and arms that held me at my weakest." -D.O.

"The Darren Memorial Foundation....has assisted my family and myself with help locating trusted therapists. (I have two children with emotional sickness.). They have been an integral part of our lives. Without this foundation I am quite sure I would have needed services myself. With all the love I have inside, I say thank you for your kindness, love, support and never-ending selflessness in the help and attention that you provide children, women, and families in need. May you continue to be Blessed and a Blessing." -T.D.



<http://darrenmemorial.org/>



Join the Fight

Ending the stigma against mental health, increasing advocacy for access to care, caring for families who have experienced the trauma associated with suicide and mental illness are the mission of Darren Clark Jr Memorial Foundation. The need is great and we are seeking partners to join this fight. Sign up for our newsletter, like us on Facebook, and become a sponsor - together we can make a difference. Email us at deirdre@darrenmemorial.com