

focus on Health

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OUR ANNUAL SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY ISSUE



A Special 24-Page Insert

**COUNTY EXPERTS TAKE A LOOK
AT THE ISSUE OF HOUSING IN
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**

**COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT PROJECT
SPECIAL REPORT ON HOUSING SOLUTIONS**

YEAR **13**

YOUR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING HAVE BEEN OUR MISSION FOR MORE THAN 65 YEARS



Dominican Hospital's mission and values mean that your community hospital goes beyond healthcare to serve Santa Cruz County



Dominican Hospital
A member of CHW



A panel of experts leads the discussion on self-injurious behavior at the 2007 Jon E. Nadherny/Calciano Youth Symposium.

Now, the annual Jon E. Nadherny/Calciano Memorial Youth Symposium is held at the Cocoanut Grove in Santa Cruz, and last year sold out with more than 450 attendees. Coordinated by Dominican Hospital's Behavioral Health Services, a planning committee identifies current community needs and organizes the event. It provides continuing education units that wouldn't otherwise be available locally to those who attend, and is also aired on Community Television of Santa Cruz County, to reach out to families who may desperately need the information provided by experts from around the country.

"Our topics have always centered on issues around adolescents, and we try to select topics of current interest," said Joshua Nadherny-Calciano, Jon's younger brother. "We want to share the most cutting-edge information possible."

Mr. Nadherny-Calciano, a local Realtor, feels his involvement in this community event is very therapeutic for the family in dealing with their tragic loss. Over time, the memorial fund has added an endowment component with Dominican Foundation, and plans are for the seminar to continue uninterrupted. Each year, more than 100 community members attend a fundraiser to support the Jon E. Nadherny-Calciano Youth Symposium. Held at the Calciano family home in Aptos, it's the main fundraiser for the event.

"It's a foundation on which to build further endeavors, as in the methamphetamine symposium of 2006," said George Jarrow, RN, director of Dominican Hospital's Behavioral

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Dominican partners with families to reach out to troubled young adults

Annual Nadherny/Calciano symposium fits with Dominican's mission and values of collaboration, dignity and justice

Drugs, self-injury, anxiety, violence, aggression, suicide. Navigating the waters from adolescence to adulthood has never been more difficult.

It's been 12 years since 23-year-old Jon Nadherny committed suicide, exposing his family, friends and community, first-hand, to the extreme difficulties faced by teenagers and young adults.

After the tragic, early death of their son and brother, the Calciano family of Aptos turned to Bob Semas, director of the Dominican Hospital Foundation, for help. Working with Dominican came naturally as Anthony Calciano, MD, is a long-standing member of the Medical Staff, Linda Calciano is a member of the Dominican Foundation Guild, and Jon had been treated at the Behavioral Health Unit at

Dominican before he died.

"There was an opportunity for the family to rail against the system but instead they turned that energy around and asked, 'How can we help other families avoid this kind of tragedy,'" said Mr. Semas. He suggested creating a memorial fund to advance the community's ability to address adolescent mental health issues, and the family got to work. The result was the Jon E. Nadherny/Calciano Memorial Youth Symposium. Mr. Semas remains on the symposium's advisory committee.

The first seminar for healthcare and mental health professionals, financed by the Jon E. Nadherny Memorial Fund, was held in 1998 and focused on adolescent suicide. More than 200 professionals attended. Over the years, interest skyrocketed.

Health Services. Driven by the momentum of that symposium, a multi-agency county task force recently completed a study on the impacts of the drug on Santa Cruz County. The group is now seeking financial grants to address the problem in the area.

"But in some cases, it's simply providing education in areas that people need, around issues of youth suicide and other subjects," said Mr. Jarrow. "And it's not just for the 450 people in attendance, but for the community at large who are watching TV at any given time, and can see a 90-minute presentation with an expert that

can be useful in dealing with the problems the viewers face in their day-to-day lives."

The urgency of the issue and the commitment of the Calciano family are what drive many of the volunteers to produce the symposium, including Mr. Semas.

"It's unusual that I get involved in the hands-on details of projects funded by the Foundation," he said. "But I'm involved in this because of my admiration for the Calciano family and my respect for what they're doing."

This year's Symposium will feature world-class speaker

Dan Siegel, MD. The event will be held Feb. 29, 2008, at the Cocoanut Grove in Santa Cruz. For more information about the symposium, visit www.calcianoyouthsymposium.org.

As for the family itself, the symposium helps them deal with the pain of their loss.

"These symposium's are a wonderful legacy and give a real sense of purpose to Jon's life," said Mr. Nadherny-Calciano. "If these symposiums can help just one person, then we've done our job." ♣