



Clash of the Contractors

August 20th 2022 – 11am to 7pm
NECA Electricians Local 8 Shelter Pavilion
727 Lime City Road, Rossford OH 43460

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: Clash of the Contractors – Union Construction Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness Fundraiser

ROSSFORD, OHIO JUNE 10th 2022 – In an effort to bring awareness to the on-going need for mental health advocacy, 2Tuff2Talk, Northwest Ohio's only Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness program dedicated to NWO Union Construction Workers, is proud to announce its inaugural public fundraiser event, Clash of the Contractors which will be held in Rossford, OH August 20th 2022 from 11am to 7pm.

On August 20th during the Clash of the Contractors, teams comprised of local union construction workers will be competing against one another in multiple tournaments including Wiffleball, Volleyball, Cornhole, and Tug of War to raise funds and awareness for suicide prevention and mental health advocacy.

Funds raised from the “Clash of the Contractors” through sponsorships, team signups, and food/beverage sales will support 2Tuff2Talk's programing which funds our boots on the ground initiatives including mentorship, advocacy, education, and guidance for contractors to include mental health as a significant part of their training and orientations.

The event will also feature local bands Madison Ave and East River Drive rocking out for the cause, as well as a kids area for family fun, food trucks, beer tent, and 50/50 raffles.

In addition to support from our industry partners, contractors, and unions, we're grateful for our presenting sponsor Harness Health Partners Powered by Mercy Health, as well as our supporting sponsors Laibe, and Foundation Steel.

Suicide Prevention for Construction Trades in Northwest Ohio

According to CIASP, there are approximately 5,500 suicides among construction workers per year, at 15 suicides a day this is 3.5 times greater than the national average.

The union construction trades are strong and resilient in Northwest Ohio, and due to the high numbers of suicides in our area, we have united in our efforts to raise awareness and educate our industry. Babette Burnett, President of 2Tuff2Talk, shares her personal experience with Suicide in the workplace and how it inspired her to pursue creating 2Tuff2Talk with fellow safety colleagues.

“In 2019, 1,061 construction workers died from work-related injuries, while about 5,500 workers died of suicide, Babette Burnett, director of health and safety for the Spieker Company, a general contractor in Northwood, Ohio “In 2016 I had a female carpenter apprentice commit suicide,” Burnett said. “I watched how it affected my crews in field, the cost and finance of it, the emotional part of it,” she said. That led her to help form the 2 Tuff 2 Talk program through the Associated General Contractors of Northwest Ohio Inc. It's finally getting off the ground after being delayed by the pandemic.

About 2t2t:

2Tuff2Talk is a voluntary organization that helps union construction workers and their families in NW Ohio navigate mental health issues by educating front line supervisors, providing resources, and guiding them through the roadblocks in the mental health system using a boots on the ground approach. ###