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Crisis Center recalling teen's suicide, catalyst for agency

By Times Staff

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GARY | The Crisis Center, Inc. will remember the Lake County teenager who was the catalyst for the creation of Crisis Center at 2 p.m. today by presenting her picture to her mother and family members.

In 1970, 17-year-old Karen Leshk's suicide led to the creation of one of the nation's earliest crisis lines in 1971, then called Rap Line.

Today Crisis Center services include Crisis Contact, formerly called Rap Line; Alternative House, an emergency shelter for youth; Safe Place outreach; Teen Court delinquency prevention; counseling services; Youth As Resources; and Reassurance Contact.

"Through the tragedy of this girl's death, thousands of other lives have been saved through the services of the Crisis Center. Her death counted for something," Executive Director Shirley Caylor said in a statement. - By Times Staff

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