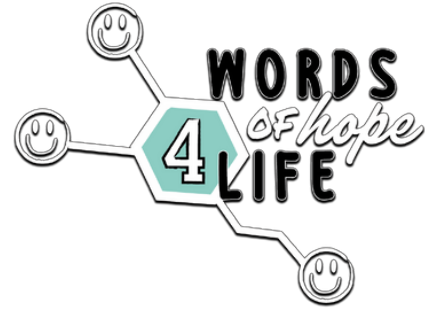


# A LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Dear Supporters and Friends of Words of Hope 4 Life,

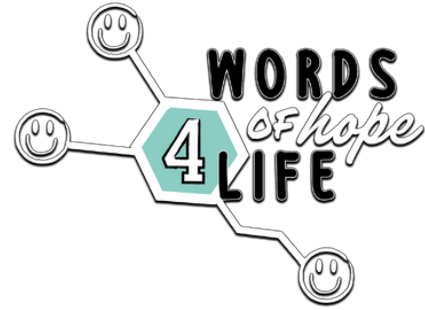
As we approach the holiday season and end of 2024, we reflect on the past year, it is with immense gratitude and pride that I share the incredible progress we've made together at Words of Hope 4 Life. This year has been transformative for our organization, and the growth and impact we've experienced are a testament to the dedication, collaboration, and passion of our community, supporters, and partners. Our shared mission to promote mental health awareness, prevention, and support has never been more relevant or more vital.

Before highlighting our year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest and most heartfelt thanks to every individual, past and present, who has made these efforts possible. To our volunteers, whose time and passion fuel our programs and initiatives; to our sector representatives, whose guidance and expertise ensure we stay focused on our mission; to the community members, whose stories and commitment inspire us every day; and to every sponsor, donor, partner, and friend who has supported us along the way—thank you. Without you, none of this would be possible. That said, here are just a few of the highlights from this remarkable year:

## **ViewFest2024: Mental Health Walk and Celebration**

This year's **ViewFest2024** was a truly extraordinary event that brought together over 160 community organizations and attracted thousands of attendees. The highlight of this event was our groundbreaking achievement: setting the official world record for the largest number of individuals trained in Narcan administration. This was a monumental moment in our efforts to combat the opioid crisis and promote mental health awareness. We are incredibly proud of this accomplishment, which highlights both the power of collective action and the urgency of mental health and substance abuse prevention.

# A LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



## **New Collaborations and Partnerships**

This year, we have significantly broadened our network of partnerships with several prominent organizations. We are pleased to collaborate with a variety of national entities to enhance our outreach and impact. At the county level, we undertook comprehensive surveys to assess opioid use and the associated challenges encountered by middle and high school students. The valuable insights gained from this research will inform our ongoing efforts to develop more effective support systems for youth. Furthermore, our partnership with one of our collaborators resulted in the establishment of community gardens, where we engaged in practical activities while disseminating essential health and mental wellness information.

## **Doubling the Usage of "The Rail"**

We are thrilled to share that our physical facility, "**The Rail**," saw its usage more than **double** this year. This increase in engagement from community organizations, school administrators, and local business leaders has helped foster stronger collaboration among stakeholders. Together, we have been able to share valuable information about mental health, prevention awareness, and community support in ways that truly make a difference.

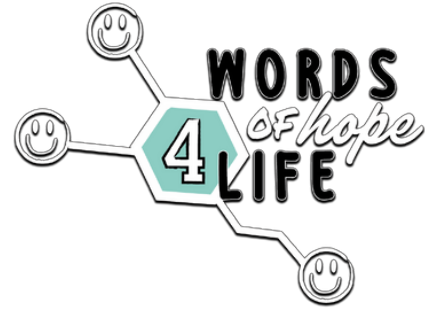
## **Educational Outreach and Medication Safety**

Our dedication to educational outreach has resulted in proactive measures aimed at improving safety and well-being within our community. This year, we provided hundreds of medication lock bags, Deterra drug disposal kits, and Narcan, assisting local families in securely storing prescription medications and mitigating the risks linked to misuse.

## **Blasting into 2025**

As we look forward to the exciting opportunities that await in 2025, we embark on a new chapter filled with challenges, hope, and determination. This coming year, we will continue to fulfill our mission working hard to address the pressing issues of drug use and mental health within our community. The road ahead may not always be easy, but we are confident that our collective efforts will lead to meaningful change. The challenges are great, but our resolve is stronger than ever.

# A LETTER FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



One of the most anticipated events of 2025 will be **ViewFest2025**, set for **July 13, 2025**. This year, we will focus on the theme of "**Living in the Moment**"—a powerful reminder of the importance of mindfulness and presence in our mental health journey. With this focus, we promise ViewFest2025 will be our most extensive, engaging, and impactful event yet. It will be a celebration of resilience, community, and the importance of mental health, bringing together even more organizations and individuals to support this important cause. We can't wait to see what we accomplish together as we make lasting memories and inspire change.

In addition, we are launching several new initiatives in 2025, all designed to enhance mental health support and prevention outreach. These initiatives will expand on our current programs, address new challenges, and continue building the foundation of hope, health, and healing in our community.

Thank you to everyone. Have a very happy, safe and enjoyable holiday.

*Glen Schwartz*

President

Words of Hope 4 Life