



In 2007, our Lake County Suicide Prevention Coalition approached Mentor Schools about partnering on a pilot program where older teens would deliver vital messages about depression and suicide to younger teens. The result of that collaboration is GAHTAH — an acronym for Give a Hand Take a Hand.

Eight juniors and seniors comprised the GAHTAH team at Mentor last year. Led, encouraged and coaxed by adult supervisors from both the Suicide Prevention Coalition and the high school, the students developed a performance-based strategy for delivering the core messages to their younger peers at the school.

The program was so successful that our team has been invited to present to the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation's annual conference in December. The GAHTAH advisors plus several students will tell conference attendees from throughout the state about the planning, recruiting, training, writing, rehearsing, marketing, and organizing that went into their effort.

The Lake County Suicide Prevention Coalition is an initiative funded by the ADAMHS Board. We're proud of the work they do, and we're especially proud that GAHTAH has been recognized at the state level!