



THE Carson J Spencer  
FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Hope Illuminated: Annual Statewide Suicide Prevention Training for Mental Health Providers  
on September 17<sup>th</sup> in Ridgefield, CT**

**Denver, Colorado. September 15, 2015.** As a clinical psychologist, mental health advocate, faculty member, consumer of mental health services, and survivor of her brother's suicide, Dr. Sally Spencer-Thomas sees issues of suicide prevention and mental health promotion from many perspectives. Spencer-Thomas will be speaking **The Leir Conference on Depression and Suicide Prevention September 17, 2015 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at The Leir Retreat Center in Ridgefield, CT.** She will be addressing an estimated 100 mental health service providers on how the suicide continuum impacts communities, and what communities can do to make suicide prevention a health and safety priority. The presentation will also assist participants on how to respond should a suicide tragedy strike. For more information on the event contact Laurie Kuhn 203-438-6074 or [info@leirretreatcenter.com](mailto:info@leirretreatcenter.com).

Dr. Sally Spencer-Thomas is currently the CEO of the Carson J Spencer Foundation, a Colorado-based national organization dedicated to leading innovation in suicide prevention. She is also the past Director of the Survivor of Suicide Loss Division with the American Association of Suicidology, and is the Co-Lead of the Workplace Task Force with the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention.

"Born and raised in Glastonbury, Connecticut, it's an honor to come back and help build suicide prevention capacity in my home state," said Spencer-Thomas.

Within her role as CEO of the Carson J Spencer Foundation, Dr. Sally Spencer-Thomas has established and founded Working Minds, the nation's first comprehensive suicide prevention program exclusively dedicated to suicide prevention in the workplace; founded the FIRE Within program for youth and social entrepreneurs; and, was the principal partner on the award-winning Man Therapy social marketing campaign.

Dr. Sally Spencer-Thomas has received wide recognition for her work and has been an invited guest to the White House Briefing on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in DC and to the World Health Organization's World Suicide Report Launch in Geneva. As a professional speaker, Dr. Sally Spencer-Thomas has presented around the world and for organizations such as the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Department of Energy and the FBI.

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**About the Carson J Spencer Foundation - Sustaining a Passion for Living**

The Carson J Spencer Foundation ([www.CarsonJSpencer.org](http://www.CarsonJSpencer.org)) is a Colorado nonprofit, established in 2005. We envision a world where leaders and communities are committed to sustaining a passion for living. As leaders in innovation in suicide prevention, our mission is to elevate the conversation to make suicide prevention a health and safety priority. We do this by:

- Delivering innovative and effective suicide prevention programs for working-aged people
- Coaching young leaders to develop social enterprises for mental health promotion and suicide prevention
- Supporting people bereaved by suicide