


THE BLACK POSTER PROJECT

CATHERINE RYDER, LCPC, NCC, MS
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC
INITIATIVES
SPURWINK
207-415-1226
CRYDER@SPURWINK.ORG



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Dee Gillen – Founder of Black Poster Project

BURYING ONE OF OUR BABIES WAS NEVER IN OUR PLAN . . .
UNTIL IT WAS.


The purpose of this project is not to make you sad. It is to help you understand what addiction is, how it happened to our family, how it can happen to you or your family, what to look for and where to get help. At each event, we come with arms wide open to answer anything you may want to ask. We are grieving parents, family members, friends, people in recovery and we are here to talk or listen.

Yes, it is a very emotional experience.
 But ... if you have the opportunity to attend a Silent Memorial, I promise you will leave with more than you came with.

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AN OVERVIEW

- HOW IT STARTED** ... The Black Poster Project was created by **DEE GILLEN** after losing her son, Scott, to an overdose. While preparing for an overdose awareness event in 2019, she felt it would be an impactful visual to have posters of lost loved ones displayed behind the event speakers. And impactful it was. So much so, that the project grew. And grew. And sadly, continues to grow. What started out with 50 awareness posters is now 900+ posters. Each poster that enters the display is made at the request of the grieving family and at no cost to them. The posters are collectively used in a very moving exhibit entitled **SILENT MEMORIALS** that travels throughout New Jersey and New York.



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IMPACT



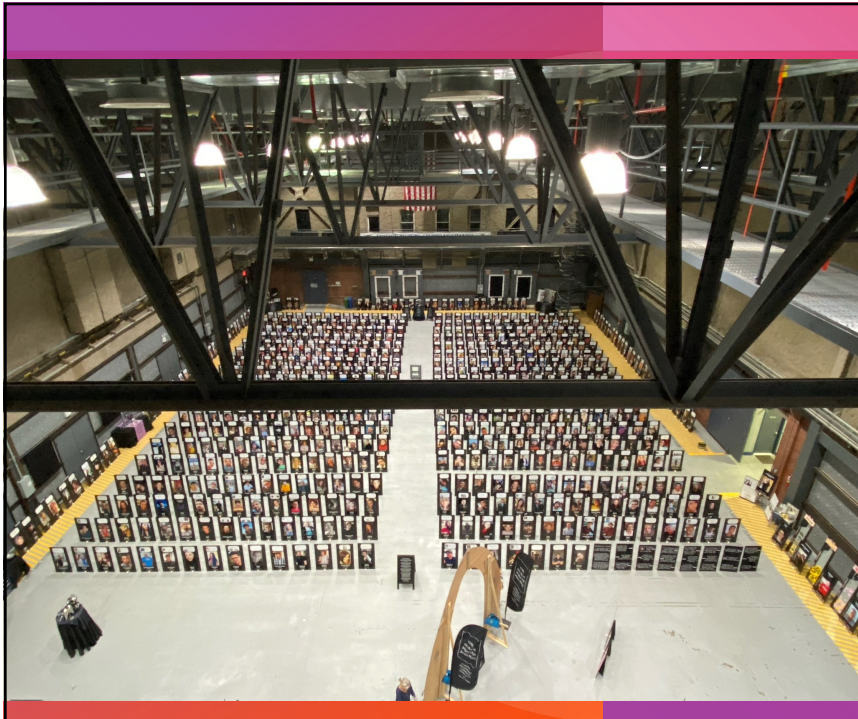


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PUTTING FACES & NAMES TO NUMBERS...

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What's In a Number?


<https://www.theblackpostproject.com/videos>

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MEET KRISTOPHER AKERLEY ...



DESCRIPTORS ABOUT KRISTOPHER WOULD INCLUDE **KIND, PASSIONATE, THRILL-SEEKING, INTENSE, OUTGOING, FUNNY AND ATHLETIC.**

HE WAS HAPPIEST WHEN HIS INTERACTIONS INVOLVED CHILDREN AND ANIMALS. HE HELD A VARIETY OF POSITIONS IN HIS LIFE, BUT THE ONES THAT BROUGHT HIM THE MOST JOY WERE WHEN HE WAS WORKING WITH CHILDREN WHO HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS OR WITH ANIMALS IN NEED OF RESCUING.

HE WAS IN SO MANY WAYS BIGGER THAN LIFE, BUT SIMULTANEOUSLY HE ALSO STRUGGLED WITH MENTAL HEALTH BALANCE. KRISTOPHER NEVER GAVE UP FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE AND HAPPINESS UNTIL HE COULDN'T ANYMORE.

KRISTOPHER LEFT US WITH SO MANY MEMORIES. MOST IMPORTANTLY LEFT BEHIND THE VERY PART OF HIMSELF IN HIS SWEET DAUGHTER, NATALIA, WHO WAS THE TRUE LOVE OF HIS LIFE. SHE CARRIES HER DADDY'S SPIRIT AND REMINDS US ALL THAT WHEN WE ARE SAD TO LOOK UP TO THE BRIGHTEST STAR AND TALK TO HIM ... HE IS THERE.

WE LOVE YOU KRISTOPHER.


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MEET COLIN GALLAGHER ...

My PRECIOUS SON,


FROM THE TIME YOU WERE FIRST PLACED IN MY ARMS, AFTER A LONG AND DIFFICULT LABOR,
I HAVE LOVED YOU WITH MY WHOLE HEART AND SOUL.
YOU WERE EASY TO LOVE...A LITTLE CHERUB WITH SOULFUL EYES AND THE KINDEST HEART.

BUT TIME WAS WICKED AND YOUR HEART BECAME HARDENED THROUGH THE DISEASE OF ADDICTION,
AND WHILE I HATED "THE OTHER" I LOVED "YOU" WITH EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING.
I PRAY THAT YOU FELT THAT LOVE, AND THAT YOU ARE NOW AT PEACE IN
OUR FATHER'S ARMS WHERE HE CAN TOUCH YOUR HEART AND
HEAL YOUR PAIN.




I HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO MY KNEES WITH GRIEF AND KNOW
THAT ONLY TIME, AND FAITH, WILL HEAL THIS TORTURED HEART.

WHILE YOUR FOOTSTEPS NO LONGER FILL
THE HALLS OF MY HOME,
THEY WILL FOREVER FILL THE HALLS OF MY HEART.



LOVE,
MUMMA

UNITED STATES ARMY



**COLIN TIMOTHY
GALLAGHER**

06.16.86 - 12.21.21

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LOGISTICS

Where:

Pathway Vineyard Church
12 Foss Rd, Lewiston

When: September 19, 2026

Time: 9am-4pm

Formal Program - 11AM

Speakers:

Catherine Ryder, Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives, Spurwink
Gordon Smith, Director of Maine's Opioid Response
Dee Gillen, Founder & CEO of The Black Poster Project
Stephanie Gelinis & Ray Dumont - Family Members

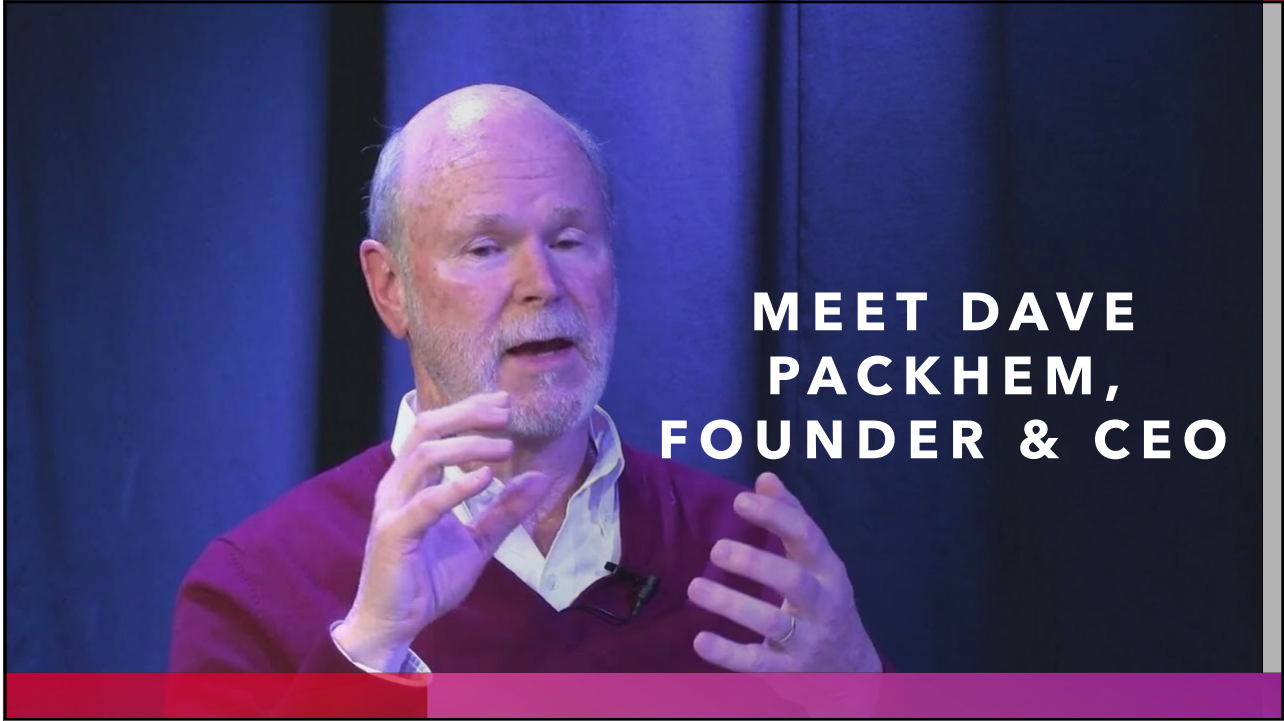


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https://youtu.be/n5_6EVbvzb0



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