

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **My Ascension documentary screening on May 5th in Stroudsburg is a suicide prevention event to give education and hope for local parents and youth**

**Stroudsburg, PA - [April 29, 2022]** – [Magellan Health, Inc.](https://www.magellanhealth.com) today announced that Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Magellan), in collaboration with the Carbon Pike Monroe Mental Health and Developmental Services Program, Stroudsburg Area School District, and the Pocono Family YMCA, will host a special screening of the My Ascension documentary ([myascension.us](https://myascension.us)) to give education and hope for local parents and youth during the first week of Mental Health Awareness Month. ***The event is scheduled for May 5, 2022, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Stroudsburg High School Auditorium (1100 West Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360), and the event is free and open to the general public.***

The documentary film is about a suicide attempt that left 16-year-old varsity cheerleader, Emma Benoit, paralyzed, and propelled her on ***a mission to use her painful experience to help others find hope and stay alive.*** My Ascension is a feature length documentary that chronicles Emma's inspiring journey and quest to walk again, and also highlights the stories of two remarkable young people who tragically did not survive their attempts. The film gives first-hand accounts from family members, friends, school officials, and suicide prevention experts ***about the devastating effects of suicide and what can be done to prevent it.***

Special note for parents: Due to the film's subject matter, the event organizers recommend that children under age 10 do not attend unless their parents have seen the film previously and are ok with having their child view the film.

#### ***The My Ascension documentary event screening will include:***

- Meet/Greet with Emma Benoit and Greg Dicharry from 5:30-6:00 p.m.
- 90-minute feature length documentary from 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 60-minute panel discussion from 7:30-8:30 p.m. to include Emma Benoit, filmmaker Greg Dicharry, local mental health advocates, and students
- Resource tables hosted by community stakeholders and behavioral health/substance use providers will be available from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

"We are so grateful to Emma and Greg for traveling from Louisiana to share their message of hope with our community, and we believe this event will be a unique and impactful opportunity for parents and youth to better understand how suicide can be prevented," said Cos Curry, Superintendent of Schools for Stroudsburg Area School District. "This event on May 5th is an important educational opportunity at the start of Mental Health Awareness Month, and ***on behalf of the event committee, we want to extend a community-wide invitation to everyone in Stroudsburg to attend this event.*** It's an unfortunate reality that the issue of suicide can affect people of all ethnicities, ages, genders, geographic regions, and socioeconomic levels. For example, in our recent Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS), the average responses from students as related to mental health

indicated the following for students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12: 33% of students in these respective grade levels are depressed, over 19% have considered suicide, over 16% have put a suicide plan together, and over 10% have attempted suicide. These numbers are alarming! This event is pivotal in sharing information to families to assist themselves and others in this mental health crisis. Please make time to be at this event with you family. Our students need us now more than ever.”

***One of the key goals for this event is to share important educational resources with parents, youth, and the regional community.*** Exhibitors will be available inside Stroudsburg High School starting at 5:30 p.m. on May 5th to share helpful information, and a resource flyer with additional resources will also be available at the event. The current exhibitors scheduled to attend are: A Better Today; AEVIDUM Student Clubs; American Foundation for Suicide Prevention of Eastern Pennsylvania; Carbon Monroe Pike Drug and Alcohol Services; Carbon Monroe Pike Mental Health and Developmental Services Program; Carbon Monroe Pike System of Care; Center for Community Resources; Children’s Service Center; Community Care Behavioral Health; Devereux; Faith Hope & Charity Foster Care Agency; Gay-Straight Alliance Club; IU 20; Matrix Behavioral Solutions; NAMI – Northeast PA; Pocono Family YMCA; Preventive Measures; Resources for Human Development/New Perspectives Crisis; Salisbury Behavioral Health/RHA Health Services; Stroudsburg Area School District; Suicide Prevention Coalition of Monroe County; Youth Advocate Program.

For more information on Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, go to [www.MagellanofPA.com](http://www.MagellanofPA.com).

**About Magellan Health:** [Magellan Health, Inc.](http://MagellanHealth.com), is a leader in managing the fastest growing, most complex areas of health, including special populations, complete pharmacy benefits and other specialty areas of healthcare. Magellan supports innovative ways of accessing better health through technology, while remaining focused on the critical personal relationships that are necessary to achieve a healthy, vibrant life. Magellan’s customers include state and county governmental agencies, health plans and other managed care organizations, employers, labor unions, various military and third-party administrators. For more information, visit [MagellanHealth.com](http://MagellanHealth.com).

*Disclaimer: There are no PA HealthChoices members shown or mentioned within the documentary, My Ascension.*

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