



Ryan's Story

School Presentations by his father.

John and Kelly Halligan lost their thirteen year old son, Ryan, to suicide on October 7, 2003. At the time of his death, Ryan was a student at a middle school in Essex Junction, Vermont. It was revealed in much greater detail after Ryan's death that he was ridiculed and humiliated by peers at school and on-line.

In memory of his son, John spearheaded the Vermont Bully Prevention bill which was signed into law (ACT117) in May 2004 and only a few months after Ryan's death . He also successfully led the passage of the law pertaining to mandatory suicide prevention education in public schools (ACT 114) in April 2006.



John has been outspoken about the need for more education and prevention of bullying, cyber bullying and teen suicide throughout the United States and Canada. His son's story and his accomplishments in response to this tragedy have been told world-wide by print, radio and TV including:



- CBS Morning Show
- CNN Anderson Cooper 360
- Good Morning America
- BBC World Radio
- Primetime with Diane Sawyer "Cruel Intentions."
- PBS Frontline "Growing Up On-line"
- The Oprah Winfrey Show "Bullied to Death"

His student presentation begins with video of home movie clips and pictures of Ryan as a very powerful way of introducing his son. John then begins to tell the story of Ryan's life and the factors that led up to his son's suicide. The audience gains a unique perspective from inside a family of a child who is a victim of bullying and cyber bullying. They also gain a deeper understanding of the devastating impact of a teen suicide on a family. There are many powerful life lessons imparted, including forgiveness and finding ways to turn a tragedy into hope for others.



John has been to over 200 schools since 2005 using his spare time. But due to overwhelming demand from schools across the country, John decided to end his 23 year engineering management career at IBM in February 2009 to focus on telling Ryan's story full-time. John has been told by principals after every presentation that they have never witnessed before a speaker who captured and held their students' attention so completely and had such a lasting impact too.

For his work in Ryan's memory, he has received community services awards from United Way of Vermont, Children Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS) of New York, Kids Safe Collaborative of Vermont and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Vermont.

Please visit <http://www.RyansStory.org> for more information and see a calendar of available dates. You may also contact John at johnhalligan@inbox.com. References can be furnished upon request.