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## PRESS RELEASE

TO: Marquette County Media

FROM: Sarah Derwin, Health Educator (906-315-2621)

DATE: 08/20/2020

SUBJECT: Annual Marquette County Suicide Prevention Virtual Walk

During the Week of September 28th-October 4th, the Marquette County Suicide Prevention Alliance, along with several community organizations, businesses, and community members, will be walking virtually for the annual **Marquette County Suicide Prevention Walk** to benefit local suicide prevention/postvention programming in Marquette County. The annual walk is typically held in Ishpeming at Al Quaal. This year is unprecedented for community events. The Walk Committee feels it is still vital to honor the spirit of the event and recognize suicide prevention, suicide loss survivors, attempt survivors, and family and loved ones of those who struggle.

A virtual walk will include many elements of our annual walk (t-shirts, fundraising by walkers, and our Alliance) but participants can complete their walk at any time during the week. Community members are encouraged to pre-register which will ensure they have a walk t-shirt prior to the walk week.

This year is also ushering a change that the annual walk will be locally facilitated, meaning 100% of profits raised will go directly into suicide prevention/postvention initiatives and activities throughout Marquette County.

The Walk Committee appreciates any news/radio/print stories and/or interviews that would like to be conducted so community members have a chance to pre-register. Sarah Derwin can be reached at (906) 315-2621 or [sderwin@mqtco.org](mailto:sderwin@mqtco.org).