



Attitudes in Reverse®
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**Attitudes In Reverse® Honors Police, Educators for Mental Health Focused Initiatives
Awards to Be Presented at OPEN AIR™ Walk Event, May 22, 2021**

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY (May 18, 2021) – During its annual Miki & Friends OPEN AIR™ event, Attitudes In Reverse® (AIR™), a Princeton-based nonprofit whose mission is to save lives through mental-health and suicide-prevention education, will present AIR Hero Awards to Chief Robert Garofalo and Sergeant David Jelinski of the West Windsor Police Department and Dr. Thomas Smith, Superintendent, and teachers from the Hopewell Valley Regional School District (HVRSD). The event will be held on May 22, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at West Windsor Community Park.

“Police Chief Garofalo and Sergeant Jelinski have contributed tremendous support to AIR over the past several years. They have conducted fundraisers, assign officers to ensure everyone’s safety at our events and helped build awareness of our organization, our mission and the importance of mental health education,” said AIR Co-Founder Kurt Baker, YMHFA, CFP®.

“Dr. Smith reached out to AIR in 2019 to have us train him, several teachers and their dogs to be AIR Therapy Dog Teams so that at least one therapy dog is at every school throughout the district. We are currently training the second group of HRVSD educators and their dogs, who will graduate in June,” AIR Co-Founder Tricia Baker, YMHFA, CPDT-KA, stated. “The program is clearly having profound, lasting benefits on students, as well as the staff.”

“We look forward to honoring our AIR Heroes during our annual walk, which is always an enjoyable, memorable and impactful event,” the Bakers added.

Event Also Features 5K Walk and Live Music

The event will also feature a 5K walk for families, including dogs, with social distancing guidelines in place and live musical performances by New Jersey teens [KD’s Music](#) and [Kyler St. Phard](#) and students from [Fusion Academy of Princeton](#).

Registration to participate in the event and to have loved ones honored during the butterfly release ceremony is available at www.walkforair.org.

More

AIR Honors Police, Educators for Mental Health Focused Initiatives/Page 2 of 2

This event is sponsored by the law firms of [Stark & Stark](#) and [Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Blader, P.C.](#); [PerformCare New Jersey](#), a full-service behavioral health managed care company, supporting members in the public sector; [Princeton Brain and Spine](#); and [Oaks Integrated Care](#).

Other supporters and donors include [Iggly Bragg Design, Ltd.](#), [EASEL Animal Rescue League](#), [Home Care Vets](#) and [VCA Twin Rivers Animal Hospital](#).

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Attitudes In Reverse® (AIR™) was established by Tricia, Kurt and Katelyn Baker of Plainsboro, NJ, in 2010, soon after their son/brother Kenny died by suicide following a long battle against severe depression and anxiety. Their mission is to save lives by educating students about mental health, related disorders and suicide prevention. Since January 2011, they have presented to more than 95,000 students in middle and high schools and colleges in New Jersey, New York, Vermont, Missouri, Texas and Arizona. AIR also offers Youth Mental Health First Aid instruction and includes the AIR Dogs: Paws for Minds™ program, bringing dogs into schools to help students de-stress and engage in the conversation about mental health. In addition, AIR trains and certifies Emotional Support Animals and offers a lunch-and-learn program for businesses. For more information about AIR, please visit www.air.ngo or call 609-945-3200.