



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ERIKA'S LIGHTHOUSE IS A FINALIST FOR THE 2020 COMMUNITY BUILDER AWARD FROM THE CHILD MIND INSTITUTE

Winner determined by online voting from February 25 through March 15

February 25, 2020 – Winnetka, Ill. – [Erika's Lighthouse](#), a non-profit organization that is dedicated to educating and raising awareness about adolescent depression, encouraging good mental health, and breaking down the stigma surrounding mental health issues, announced today that it is one of six finalists for the 2020 Community Builder Award from the [Child Mind Institute](#) as part of its annual Change Maker Awards. The winner will be decided as a result of online voting which is open to the public from February 25 through March 15 at [childmind.org/vote](#). The winner will be announced in late March and will receive the award at a ceremony hosted by NBC News veteran journalist Cynthia McFadden at Carnegie Hall in New York City on Tuesday, April 28.

“We are honored to have been nominated to receive the Community Builder Award from the Child Mind Institute, which shares our goal of improving the lives of young people struggling with mental health challenges,” said Brandon M. Combs, the executive director of Erika's Lighthouse. “Erika's Lighthouse was founded 16 years ago by Ginny and Tom Neuckranz after their daughter Erika lost her life to adolescent depression. Since that time, they have been dedicated to providing free depression education programming to students around the country. Today, our programs are impacting the lives of students, parents and school professionals in more than 424 schools spread across 39 states.”

The Child Mind Institute is a national, independent nonprofit organization that is dedicated to transforming the lives of children and families struggling with mental health and learning disorders. Their annual Change Maker Awards celebrate individuals and organizations who raise awareness and dispel stigma, help children and families directly, or work to transform the way we understand and treat mental health and learning disorders. More information is available at <https://childmind.org/>.

Erika's Lighthouse is A Beacon of Hope for Adolescent Depression and develops and provides free teen depression awareness programs and resources to middle school and high school communities around the country. Erika's Lighthouse continues to make improvements and make it easier for school partners to access its programs and resources. In 2018, a new website and resource portal was introduced that provides all of Erika's Lighthouse resources in one place, including additional teen empowerment activities. Erika's Lighthouse free depression education program has impacted more than 170,000 students since the beginning of the 2019 school year.

More information on bringing Erika's Lighthouse programs to middle schools and high schools is available at www.erikaslighthouse.org/contact/.

About Erika's Lighthouse

Erika's Lighthouse: A Beacon of Hope for Adolescent Depression is a non-profit organization committed to raising awareness about teen depression in middle school and high school communities at no cost to

schools. Erika's Lighthouse works to eliminate the stigma surrounding depression and empower young people to take ownership of their mental health. Core programs include the video-based, teacher-led depression awareness classroom programs—The Erika's Lighthouse Program: Depression and Suicide Awareness for High School Students and The Erika's Lighthouse Program: Depression Awareness for Middle School Students. Erika's Lighthouse also provides countless other web-based resources. To learn more, visit www.erikaslighthouse.org.

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