

# Wounded Warriors

*By Rev. Dr. John Schleup*

The war hysteria that followed in the wake of the attack on the United States on September 11, 2001 set in motion an inevitable course toward a sorrowful reality; the loss of life and the destruction of our families and the effects of war for years to follow.

Although we can care for the body and mind through traditional medical practices, the soul damage of war remains untouched through conventional treatments. The wounded or lost soul sends tremors throughout the ground of the individual's being. As many veterans have

spoken in our healing circle, "I'm just another crazy f\*\*\*ed up vet who lost his family and can't keep a job. I'm really worthless." Suicide becomes an option either quickly or slowly through drugs, alcohol, or pseudo-suicidal behaviors. Hope, purpose and healing have been lost.

In 2006 I founded **Warriors Journey Home Ministry: Listen – Speak – Heal** through First Congregational Church of Tallmadge. The ministry honors all beliefs and avoids politics. This community based group of veterans and civilians provides a safe crucible to hold the trauma of war truth. The veteran finds companionship as they walk the path of healing. The circle uses the ceremony of soul and spirit where the wounds are cleansed and

restoration of the soul can begin. Suicide may still be an option, but it is not the best or the only option as the mending of the heart begins and the soul is restored.

I have found that the veteran who begins this process has the support of the healing circle and can heal more quickly integrating his or her life's war experiences to discover an emergent new understanding of who they are becoming.

For more information about Wounded Warriors go to [www.warriorsjourneyhome.com](http://www.warriorsjourneyhome.com). You can reach Rev. Schleup at 330-633-4931 or [jschleupfcc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jschleupfcc@sbcglobal.net). If a veteran needs help, they or you can call the Lifeline at (800) 273-TALK (if you are a veteran, press "1"). If you are interested in becoming a part of the Summit County Suicide Prevention Coalition, call (330) 762-3500 or email at [preventsuicide@admboard.org](mailto:preventsuicide@admboard.org).

## Portage Path Behavioral Health's SUPPORT Hotline

Call 330-434-9144 or 1-800-273-TALK  
for 24-hour assistance.

## The Summit County Suicide Prevention Coalition

[preventsuicide@adm.org](mailto:preventsuicide@adm.org)

