In 2018, LifeAct launched the GeneratioNEXT initiative, an Endowment Fund that will provide a continuous source of financial support, serving generations to come. By pledging a gift, donors will have the lifesaving opportunity to help secure LifeAct’s future, allowing us to continue to educate teens well into the next generation.

“ar organization is self-funded – school systems are not required to compensate us for our services, but they certainly relate to this important need and welcome our intervention,” states Bill Wortzman, Chairman of the LifeAct Endowment Committee.

If you would like more information about the many ways you can support LifeAct, please contact Jack Binder by email at EacDr@LifeAct.org or by calling 216-464-3471.

2018-2019 Lifesaving Society

2018-2019 Community Impact Report

** confines are present within the provided text. These confinements include images, figures, and tables that are not transcribed into the natural text representation. Please refer to the original document for more detailed information.**
The summer after Elaine retired from teaching, she was invited with depression. In the wake of this loss, Elaine enrolled in a healing process. “I’m very thankful to be part of the LifeAct instructor Elaine Myers has spent a large part of her life in classrooms, including the 35 years she taught for the Berea City Schools. During this time, Elaine’s adult son tragically lost his battle with depression. In the wake of this loss, Elaine enrolled in a course to better understand depression and suicide. “I heard that with an open mind and heart you often can find a gift in a tragedy. LifeAct has been my gift,” she remarks.

The summer after Elaine retired from teaching, she was invited to help organize LifeAct’s first into the Light Walk. In the following years she became a co-chair for the event and still volunteers her time for the walk each year. During Elaine’s time on the walk committee, she was asked to temporarily fill in for one of LifeAct’s instructors who was out on maternity leave. Now, 15 years later, she is still one of LifeAct’s most dedicated instructors.

Currently, Elaine works with middle and high school students throughout Northeast Ohio presenting LifeAct’s programs. The LifeAct curriculum allows instructors to provide resources and empower young people to get the help they may need for themselves or others who are struggling with mental health issues. “Each school, each classroom, each student takes what they need from the presentations. The data clearly shows that we are making a difference; students are getting help,” says Elaine.

There are also stories that don’t show up in the numbers. One took place a few years ago, Elaine recalls: “After class a student went on to explain to Elaine that her father had died by suicide when she was only four years old. “With a stray tear slowly slipping down her cheek, she explained that she thought he had been afraid that when she started school she would embarrass him. That she had let him down by not being as smart or pretty as the other kindergarten. She was blaming herself for his death.

This young lady had carried those horrible thoughts in her heart for 12 years!” Elaine walked the young woman down to the guidance office, helping her to finally get the assistance she needed. Elaine returned to the school the next semester and checked in to see how the girl was doing: “The guidance counselor couldn’t say enough about what a difference LifeAct had made in this girl’s life,” she says.

It’s because of dedicated, caring instructors like Elaine Myers that LifeAct’s programs are so impactful in students’ lives. Although Elaine and her family have been touched by suicide, she has chosen to dedicate her time to helping others struggling with these issues. “I’m very thankful to be part of the healing process.”

How did you become involved with LifeAct?

Suicide has been a part of my life from a very young age. Suicide first touched my life in sixth grade when my classmate died by suicide. It shook our entire school and small community, leaving a mark that has stayed with me over the years. Then, in 2012, my uncle also died by suicide. His death brought back many of the feelings and thoughts I had as a young child about depression, mental illness, and suicide, and I felt a strong desire to turn those feelings into action. So, the following year, through the Business Volunteers Unlimited Board Placement Program, my interest in aligning myself with this cause brought me to LifeAct.