

On April 20, 2012 our founder Ann Ganley and executive director Grace Carricarte presented on behalf of the Ganley Foundation at the International Order of the Golden Rule Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.



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Our presentation entitled *Supporting Survivors of Suicide* allowed the hundreds of participants to gain a deeper insight into how they can best serve those who have lost loved ones to suicide.

The attendees of this conference included international and national funeral directors who are members of the Order of the Golden. Funeral directors are among the primary first responders following a death. Their interactions with friends and family of the deceased can help direct the healing of those they serve. Losing a loved one is never easy. The complex grief process of losing a loved one to suicide often presents additional challenges during the bereavement process. Providing the important perspective of a survivor and that of a mental health specialist, we aimed to help our audience better understand and respond to deaths by suicide.

The Ganley Foundation is grateful to Bill and Linda Brock who invited us to participate in this special conference. Our objective was to educate funeral directors about suicide and to better equip them in their preparation of such funeral proceedings. In addition to the professional information shared with them, it is our hope that this presentation may assist them on personal levels as well.

The International Order of the Golden Rule (OGR) is a not-for-profit membership organization of independent, family-owned funeral homes located throughout North America and overseas. Founded in 1928, OGR's mission is *to make independent funeral homes exceptional*. They do this by building and supporting member interaction, information exchange and professional business development through a wide range of programs, services and resources. They Standards of Ethical Conduct guide their members' business practices and philosophy, allowing them to provide unsurpassed care to families "by the Golden Rule."

For more information on OGR please refer to their website at www.ogr.org .