



mhca's e-Newsletter

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Bridge to the Other Side

The new, multiple-award winning film *Bridge to the Other Side* will be presented in person by the film's writer and director, KT Curran, during our [Spring Conference in Nashville](#). The award-winning filmmaker and educator will lead an engaging talkback after the screening on topics explored in the film - mental health, trauma, crisis response, and the impact of secondary trauma on first responders. KT wrote the film after interviewing 150 behavioral health leaders, therapists, counselors, teachers, first responders, parents, teachers, and community leaders across the country on how the pandemic has affected mental health in America.

KT was inspired to create the film as she delved into research on how the pandemic was negatively impacting the mental health needs, leading to gaps in service as mental health providers struggled to meet the increased demands. In a 2021 study by NIH COVID-19 Research, "nearly half of Americans surveyed reported recent symptoms of an anxiety or depressive disorder, and 10% of respondents felt their mental health needs were not being met. Rates of anxiety, depression, and substance use disorder have increased since the beginning of the pandemic." These statistics were clearly on display in KT's research and interviews.

Prior to the pandemic, first responders—including EMS and Fire personnel—were already facing a disproportionately high number of mental health issues and substance use disorders due to the traumatic nature of their jobs. According to The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, approximately 30% of first responders develop behavioral health conditions including depression and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), compared with 20% of the general population. Additionally, according to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, policemen and firefighters are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty and EMS providers are 1.39 times more likely to die by suicide than the general public.

Bridge to the Other Side shines a spotlight on these statistics in a compelling narrative that offers help for both personnel as well as clients, and helps reduce the stigma associated with reaching out for help and support. After the screening and talkback, KT will share talking points, a study guide and suggestions on how one might best utilize the film as a valuable mental health learning module with staff and clients.

Winner of BEST FEATURE FILM and BEST ACTOR at the Lady Filmmaker's Film Festival in Los Angeles, BEST FLORIDA FEATURE at the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival, and BEST FLORIDA FEATURE at the St. Augustine Film Festival, the movie is a must see for leaders interested in innovative ways to inspire and motivate staff on mental health issues and trauma response. The film has been touring film festivals and community agencies across the United States and is being requested for staff trainings for Crisis Response Teams, mental health organizations, and Behavioral Health Centers.

"Heart stopping.....this movie tells a powerful story about why Mobile Response Teams are essential to our nation's first responders. Kudos to the filmmaker for accurately depicting mental health crises and the importance of Mobile Response Teams to prevent deadly outcomes."

-Emmeline Hayes, LMHC, Mobile Response Team Supervisor St. Augustine Youth Services

Bridge to the Other Side is a powerful and moving film that will resonate with audiences long after the movie is finished. The story is a reminder that even in our darkest moments, there is always hope on the other side of the bridge. It is a film that will leave you feeling inspired, uplifted, and reminded that we all have the strength and resilience to overcome even the toughest of challenges. With its powerful performances, striking cinematography, and heartfelt story, *Bridge to the Other Side* is a film that is sure to leave a lasting impact on you.

View the Official Movie Trailer of *Bridge to the Other Side* <https://vimeo.com/721200116> And visit the website at bridgetotheothersidefilm.com.

VALERIE LEBLANC

CHASE GARLAND

BRIDGE TO THE OTHER SIDE



WINGSPAN PRODUCTIONS

DIRECTED BY KT CURRAN. CINEMATOGRAPHY BY RYAN DEAN. FOUNDING PRODUCER, DANIEL E. OFFUTT, III CHARITABLE TRUST/RICHARD ORENSTEIN, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, ROGER SANDT, GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, BARANCIK FOUNDATION, SHOW PRODUCER, JERRY CHAMBLESS. PRODUCERS-THE AMICUS FOUNDATION, SUSAN AND DAVID GORIN, PANASONIC, WES CARR, STARRING VALERIE LEBLANC, CHASE GARLAND, JOHN SCALZI, SAI PIÑA MUSIC BY ADRIAN WALTHER, COSTUME DESIGNER, TIGER CURRAN,

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