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2-Dooz Announces the Resilience Challenge 2022

Saratoga, CA—September 7, 2022—September is National Suicide Awareness Prevention Month; it brings focused attention to those who have been affected by suicide and to those who are currently struggling with thoughts of taking their own lives. Suicide is a leading cause of death. **Every other second, someone, somewhere attempts to take their own life.** And tragically, the CDC estimates that one suicide death occurs every 11 minutes.

Tony Clark, CEO of 2-Dooz noted, “Each suicide has a ripple effect beyond the immediate victim; permanently impacting family members, loved-ones, friends and colleagues.” Last year, the 2-Dooz team experienced this first hand with the inexplicable loss of our former medical advisor, Dr. Sofia Jalilie. Out of the tragedy, Mr. Clark added, “We were compelled to create something positive from our shared experience.” The idea for the Resilience Campaign™ was born. And, within the campaign, the Resilience Challenge 2022 “is an important first step in what is a lengthy process of healing.”

While deaths from suicide and deaths of despair are on the rise across all demographics, research reveals that certain groups, inclusive of current and former members of our military, fare much worse. Per the 2019 VA’s Suicide Prevention Annual Report, **veterans are more than 1.5 times more likely to die from suicide than members of the general U.S. population.** Because of this, the initial focus of the campaign and the annual challenge is to provide critical funding for the multi-year **Resilience Suicide Prevention Study™, which is being undertaken to discern how chronic stress punctuated by acute stress during a personal crisis can increase a military veteran’s risk of a death of despair.**

The funds raised during the [Resilience Challenge 2022](#) will be used for both Veteran remuneration (to compensate for their time commitment to the study) and for study equipment, which will be used to independently and objectively collect stress level information from VA veterans participating in the study. For its part, 2-Dooz has pledged to directly sponsor all of the research and analysis personnel required to perform the study.

The study is guided by the VASPAB, a newly formed VA suicide prevention coalition. VA Palo Alto Community Engagement Partnership Coordinator, LaShelle Burch, noted, “Suicide is a public health issue.” She continued, “We are located in the Bay Area; engaging the [Silicon Valley] tech community to align with the VA’s mission to prevent suicide makes sense.” Regarding the Resilience Suicide Prevention Study, the VASPAB is shaping the overall clinical design, inclusive of recruitment, safety, data privacy, screening criteria and participant remuneration.

The ultimate goal, of the Resilience Suicide Prevention Study, is to create technology-based solutions which help shift the emphasis from suicide prediction to suicide prevention—an objective that is shared with the objectives of the zero suicide programs at the state and national levels. It was in the pursuit of improving suicide prevention measures that San Mateo County Veterans Commissioner Hank Scherf forged the initial connection that culminated in the creation of the VASPAB and Resilience Suicide Prevention Study. Commissioner Scherf noted, “I saw an opportunity to bring together two communities that were separately and sincerely trying make a difference in veterans’ lives.” He added, “This is the type of private and public research collaboration that can meaningfully benefit veterans and their family members.”

About 2-Dooz

2-Dooz is a privately funded, socially conscious Silicon Valley based incubator, accelerator, independent biotechnology research lab and consultancy. The company’s mission is to foster affirming, technology-based products and services which aid in the discovery of purpose and wellbeing. 2-Dooz was founded by Tony Clark, President, CEO and Chairman, in May of 2006.

About CVSO

Established in 1946, the San Mateo County Veterans Services Office (CVSO) helps veterans access state and federal benefits that help veterans, their spouses and family members. The CVSO provides information and referrals to a wide range of services and connects veterans to programs such as the California Veteran College Fee Waiver for veterans and dependents.

About VASPAB

The mission of the Veterans Affairs Suicide Prevention Advisory Board (VASPAB) is to provide guidance on how technology might be used among Veterans to reduce the incidence of suicide and other deaths of despair, while improving well-being. The VASPAB was established by the VA Palo Alto Community Engagement Partnership Organization and 2-Dooz Inc. in 2022.

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