

## ONE FATHER'S STORY

I used to always keep a gun in my house to protect my family. That is something I will regret for the rest of my life.

My teenaged son shot himself in the head with my gun; the gun that was supposed to protect him.

I kept it loaded in my nightstand drawer. I never thought that he'd take it and use it on himself. He seemed so happy, always surrounded by family and friends. He and his girlfriend broke up the night before. I knew it would be tough for him, but I figured that he'd be fine—it's all part of growing up. But he wasn't. When I found out what happened, I felt like I was responsible for putting that gun in the house and leaving it accessible to him.

If I did not have that gun in my house, my son might still be alive. I think about that every day.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

[ Visit [suicideproof.org](http://suicideproof.org) ]

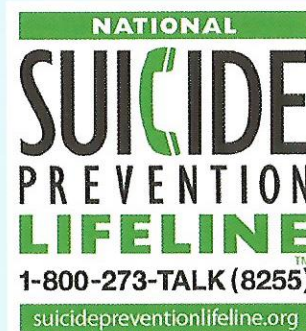
### WEB RESOURCES

To find out more about suicide prevention efforts in Tennessee, please visit:

- [tspn.org](http://tspn.org) • [tn.gov/health](http://tn.gov/health) •
- [tn.gov/behavioral-health/section/need-help](http://tn.gov/behavioral-health/section/need-help) •

### PARTNERS

Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network  
Tennessee Department of Health  
Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services



The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence is proud to continue this campaign, originally developed as a project of CPYV and the Rhode Island Department of Health.

# SUICIDE-PROOFING your home

The parent's guide to  
keeping families safe

