



**Rochester/Auburn Hills
COMMUNITY COALITION**

April 2021

It is indeed a pleasure to write a letter of support for Anthony Grupido and his Magic of Hope program. I have hired Anthony to present to both middle school and college aged students. Both presentations were engaging, inspiring and appropriate to the targeted age group.

Through magic tricks, Anthony is able to address head-on the sensitive and challenging issue of mental health, and more specifically – suicide. I can't think of a more relevant topic for our young people today. I invited some of my college students to join one of the presentations, and below are some excerpts from their feedback:

- “His approach of tying magic to mental health is clever and engaging.”
- “Anthony uses his passion for comedy, magic and mental health to create an inspiring presentation for young people. The magic and comedy helped cut through the awkwardness that can come with talking about such a serious topic.”
- “It was really inspiring when he said he wore the straightjacket and chain because that's how he felt during that time in his life, and then we saw him take it off. It was a visual representation that even people going through really dark times can overcome challenges and get through it.”

Anthony has a gift: the ability to make youth feel comfortable and safe enough to personally reflect and take an honest inventory of their own mental health. His vulnerability and humility are disarming. I encourage educators, coaches and others to consider getting Anthony in front of their beloved youth. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at m.a.najor@wayne.edu.

Sincerely,

Michele (Shelly) Najor, PhD

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