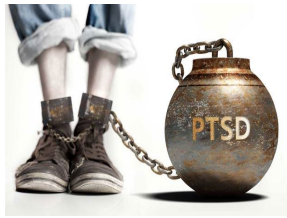




Frontline Employee

PTSD Awareness Month: Post-traumatic Stress Disorder Affects Millions



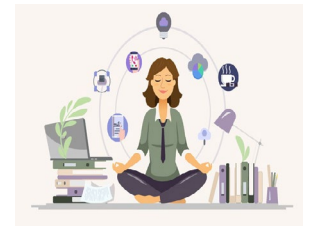
PTSD is commonly associated with war veterans, but anyone could suffer from the condition following a traumatic event. About 7%-8% of the population will experience PTSD at some point, and research shows millions of people who suffer symptoms years later may not associate them with a past trauma. Lingering symptoms of PTSD decades later may be blamed on other conditions, like stress, anxiety, or depression. Some of these may include being easily startled, having nightmares, fearing closeness in relationships, or engaging in negative thinking too often. But, it's a myth that traumatic events always cause PTSD. Likewise, you are not "in denial" if you claim to not experience PTSD following a traumatic event. For a full list of symptoms, visit the National Center for PTSD at www.ptsd.va.gov or contact your EAP to learn more.

Stay Calm Under Pressure



Staying calm under pressure is an acquired skill, but it is unlikely you were taught how to do it. Work deadlines, facing irate customers, family emergencies, and public speaking are all examples of where staying calm under pressure counts. Remain calm under pressure by replacing negative thoughts with positive affirmations. Say to yourself, "I've done this before and will do it again this time." Focus on action steps to solve the problem or situation. Don't dwell on the magnitude of what you face. This practice reduces panic and emotional stress, and it reinforces a feeling of empowerment to help you feel in control. While solving the problem, practice deep breathing to reduce anxiety. How-to hint: Regularly practicing mindfulness and meditation can help you more quickly switch from panic to calm mode when under pressure because it conditions the part of your brain associated with awareness and attention.

Tips from the Field: Mindfulness Meditation



One of the most researched and proven techniques for managing stress – yet one of the least known and least practiced – is "mindfulness meditation." Mindfulness meditation involves paying close attention to your thoughts, feelings, and bodily sensations in a calm and intentional way. Do it by sitting quietly, eyes closed, and gently bringing awareness to your breath. When distractions arise, acknowledge them, but gently redirect your attention. This practice cultivates mental clarity, emotional balance, and well-being. Regular practice may improve concentration, reduce stress, and build emotional resilience. Resource (book): "Deeper Mindfulness: The New Way to Rediscover Calm in a Chaotic World," May 2023. (2) www.mondaycampaigns.org [search "mindfulness introduction"]

Enhancing Your Relationship with the Boss: Share Personal Interests



These days, most bosses are aware of the risks associated with asking employees personal questions. Your boss may wonder about your personal interests outside of work but be understandably reluctant to probe. This is an opportunity for you. Tip: Consider sharing personal interests and hobbies with your boss in casual conversations. It sounds too simple, but it has a profound rapport-building effect because it helps your boss see you more as a whole person and builds a more personable relationship beyond just work-related interactions.

Understanding Cyberstalking: Steps to Protect Yourself and Stay Safe

Out of the blue, you receive an unwanted and intimidating text from an unknown phone number.



Cyberstalking involves repeated, unwanted, and threatening behavior over a period of time, but a single intimidating message can be serious and should not be ignored. While cyberstalking can affect individuals of any gender, statistics consistently show that women are disproportionately targeted and experience higher rates of harassment and intimidation online. Digital communication and online social media have increased everyone's vulnerability to cyberstalking. Stalkers can use fake profiles, invade privacy, and even threaten your safety. Here's what law enforcement, related associations, and other professionals recommend:

1) Don't respond to or otherwise engage with the harasser. Doing so can prompt continued harassment. 2) Block the number. 3) Take screenshots of the message as evidence for potentially legal purposes. 4) Although technically cyberstalking is repeated unwanted behavior, if you are concerned, contact the police for guidance and the next steps regarding prevention and safety. 5) Some cyberstalking events are initiated by locating someone's phone number or through public records; review your social media accounts and privacy settings to determine if personal information about you is too easily available. 6) Don't keep your experience a secret. Tell someone like a family member or friend. A single incident of cyberstalking can frighten you and cause you to lose sleep. Sharing your experience with a trusted friend can reduce the distress of the event.

**REMEMBER...
WE CAN HELP!!**



Employee Assistance Program
225.927.0160
1.800.448.4470

www.hidalgohealthassociates.com

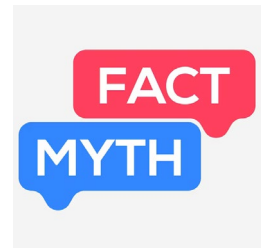
Life-Saving Health Tests Men Often Ignore

Some men avoid health tests due to a fear of diagnosis, the potential of bad news from a test, or anxiety about medical procedures. Others are just unaware of the



medical screening tests that could detect a health condition many years before it is too late to save their life. It's time to stop this practice. The leading causes of death for men for which there are medical tests for early identification and treatment include heart disease and hypertension, cancer, stroke, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, chronic lower respiratory diseases, diabetes and related kidney disease, and depression. Which one of these tests or health screenings could help you live a longer life?

Myths Keeping You from Psychotherapy Help



Mental clutter is

overpowering stress created by the daily demands of modern life, our multiple roles, to - emotions, responsibilities, and the constant influx of information. Enter the self-help concept of decluttering to reduce stress, improve concentration, enhance creativity, and cultivate a greater sense of well-being. Mental decluttering is about creating space for what truly matters and letting go of what no longer serves us mentally and emotionally. Signs indicating the need for mental decluttering include difficulty concentrating, experiencing a lack of creativity, and feeling disconnected from a positive sense of well-being. The practice of mental decluttering may involve various techniques, such as mindfulness meditation, journaling, prioritizing tasks, setting boundaries, and letting go of negative thoughts or emotions.

This month's Webinar:

The Power of Listening

June 12, 2024 @ 12:30pm CST

Click to register:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5803477893805816924>