

LOCAL EVENT PRESS RELEASE

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Hope Fest 2025
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hope Fest 2025 coming to Aransas Pass

Aransas Pass, Texas, August 2025 - Free Food, Live Music, and special guest speakers come to the Aransas Pass Civic Center for the first ever Hope Fest. On Saturday September 13th, 2025 from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM, this free event invites everyone to come celebrate hope. Special guest speakers Todd and Colton Burpo from the best selling book and major motion picture "Heaven is For Real" will share their amazing inspirational story. Free tickets and more information can be found on the event's website: www.hopefestcb.com

According to the latest information from the NIH, Aransas County has the 3rd highest suicide rate in the state of Texas. San Patricio and Nueces Counties are also above the state average. When local church leaders discovered this statistic, they felt compelled to act.

"This was a wake-up call for all the members of our Ministerial Alliance. We were already concerned because there were so many families in our communities in desperate situations. But when we saw these NIH stats, we knew we had to do something different. For many people, this simply boils down to a lack of hope. But, the Church has Hope in Christ. And, we wanted to share this hope with as many people as possible. We found Ron Watson, a native to Colorado but a winter resident in Fulton. In 2024, he and church leaders in Gunnison County Colorado developed a faith-based response to suicide prevention called Hope Fest. It was extremely successful. Suicides in their county went from one per month before the event to only three in a year after the event," said David Dear, Sr. Pastor First Christian Church Aransas Pass.

David Dear is a part of The Ministerial Alliance of Aransas Pass, Ingleside, Rockport (also known as WeCare). WeCare, along with other faith-based organizations, have planned and organized Hope Fest.

He continued, "We adopted the concept of Hope Fest to reach as many people as possible in the Coastal Bend area with a message of Hope. We connected with Todd and Colton Burpo to speak at Hope Fest. For millions of people, Colton's story of experiencing Heaven first-hand ignites a sense of hope. Statistics reveal that men are 30% more likely to commit suicide. And teens are also a growing demographic. We want people to know that God sees them and that we care about them individually. Hope Fest is a big part of that. But, we also have an online resource at wecaretxcb.net where anyone can chat with a real person who can help provide real hope. We also encourage anyone seriously considering suicide to call '988', the national suicide prevention hotline."

Hope Fest 2025 will be the first time coastal bend area churches have come together to host such an event. Tickets are free, but limited and required for a free meal. Those wanting to attend are encouraged to order their free tickets soon. No money is required for tickets and no money will be collected at this event.

To learn more or order tickets visit: www.hopefestcb.com