Recognizing and Coping with Trauma
After a Community Tragedy

Whether you’ve shopped or dined in Olde Town, taken your children to the library or school, or even work in the area, it might be difficult for you to make sense of this event and feel safe in a place that once brought you comfort and joy.

After an event like this, it is normal to feel anxious about your own safety, to picture the event in your own mind, and to wonder how you would react in an emergency. In the days and months to follow, it’s important to take care of yourself and recognize that these are all normal reactions in times of trauma and the way you process grief is valid.

Common Reactions to Traumatic Situations

After a community tragedy, it's okay to experience...

- Feeling emotionally “numb”, withdrawn, disconnected or different from others
- Recurring thoughts or nightmares about the event
- Trouble sleeping or changes in appetite
- Being on edge, easily started, or overly alert
- Feeling depressed, sad and having low energy
- Experiencing memory problems
- Feeling “scattered” and unable to focus
- Feeling guilty about having survived
- Feeling irritable, easily agitated, or angry and resentful
- Spontaneously crying, feeling a sense of despair and hopelessness
Jefferson Center’s doors are open for anyone in need of support. Whether you are experiencing a crisis, are seeking professional help, or if you just want someone to talk to, please reach out.

Call us 24/7: 303-425-0300

Walk-in: The Crisis and Recovery Center
4643 Wadsworth Blvd, Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

While you will always remember the event, the painful feelings will decrease over time, and you will come to understand that, in learning to cope with tragedy, you have become stronger, more adaptable, and more resilient.