A Social Work Buckeye You Should Know!

Lizzy Miles

COLLEGE: College of Social Work

DEGREE: MSW ’10

CAREER: Hospice Social Worker, Senior Independence

NOTABLE: As a hospice worker, Lizzy noticed that whenever she mentioned to strangers that she worked in hospice, they would immediately reveal personal stories about their own experiences with death. Lizzy recognized there was a community need for more conversations.

She read about a concept called “Death Café” in England and decided to bring the concept to the United States. A Death Café is a pop-up event for the community where people get together to talk about death and have tea and delicious cake. Lizzy raised awareness and funds via a successful Kickstarter campaign and hosted the first Death Café in the United States in July 2012 with the help of a former Ohio State MSW classmate and graduate, Maria Johnson, LSW.

Quickly, the concept caught on, and Lizzy has been a mentor to other Death Café hosts around the country and around the world. There are now more than 45 cities in the United States that have Death Café events, and Death Cafés have spread to several other countries including Italy, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Ireland. The Death Café has been featured by several local and national media outlets including the National Public Radio (NPR), Los Angeles Times, The Huffington Post, USA Today, The New York Times, Baltimore Sun and Chicago Tribune.