



# COMPASS MARK

SCIENCE-BASED ADDICTION PREVENTION



## Engage. Enlighten. Empower.

**Freedom Writers: Stories from an Undeclared War**

**Monday, October 7th, 2019**

**The Ware Center, 42 N. Prince St, Lancaster, PA**

**5:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Compass Mark's mission** is to prevent addiction through education, skill-building, and community mobilization. For over 50 years, our award-winning programs have guided thousands of youth and adults on a healthy and successful life path. On Monday, October 7, 2019, we will present *Freedom Writers: Stories from an Undeclared War* to the Ware Center.

By fostering an educational philosophy that values and promotes diversity, Erin Gruwell, the teacher who inspired the movie *Freedom Writers*, transformed her students' lives. She challenged them to re-think their beliefs about themselves and others, reconsider their daily decisions, and ultimately re-chart their futures. She engaged students in the learning process, enlightened them intellectually, and empowered them to achieve academic and civic success.

Two of her students, Tony Becerra and Sue Ellen Alpizar, fought their own battles while students in room 203. Both

were raised in families effected by addiction disorders and faced challenges inside and outside of their school experience. Sue Ellen Alpizar described a volatile upbringing marked by alcohol use disorder, divorcing parents, and through the difficult loss of her brother to a rare disease. "My home life was tumultuous," Sue said. "For a while, I was homeless and lived in a camper at a gas station." In the face of that struggle, Sue and her fellow *Freedom Writers* went on to make an impact in creating change through their personal testimonies.



*Sue Ellen Alpizar*

Join us for an evening of inspiration, empowerment, and resiliency. We will celebrate both the 20th anniversary of *The Freedom Writers Diary* as well as the successes of Compass Mark and all who've fought to overcome their personal wars.



*Tony Becerra*

### Freedom Writers: Stories from an Undeclared War Event Schedule

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM: Social Hour/Hors d'oeuvres

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM: Welcome & Original Freedom Writers, Tony Becerra and Sue Ellen Alpizar, Presentation

7:00 PM – 8:15 PM: Documentary Screening, "Stories from an Undeclared War"

8:15 PM – 8:45 PM: Q&A

8:45 PM: Book Signing

**Adult Tickets: \$20**

**Student Tickets: \$10**

Tickets and more information about the event can be found on the Compass Mark website: [www.compassmark.org](http://www.compassmark.org)