Building an Engaged Community to Prevent and Heal from Gun Violence: Lessons from the Southside

Presenters:
Deanna L. Wilkinson, Ph.D. – associate professor, OSU Department of Human Sciences;
Frederick V. LaMarr – pastor/ executive director, Family Missionary Baptist Church/ RHH4L;
Tammy Fournier Alsaada – lead organizer, People's Justice Project;
Cecil Ahad – president/CEO, Men for the Movement;
Dartangnan Hill – community activist/violence Interrupter, MFM
and Jerry Saunders Sr. – CEO, APDS
DISTINGUISHED PANEL
TODAY’S AGENDA

➢ Our panel will explain how sustainable partnerships require a common vision/spirit, mutual respect, built trust and effective communication.

➢ Our panel has been engaged in multiple partnerships and initiatives over the last 10+ years including: NSWG, Bicentennial Commission, CAYND program, OSU YVPAB, CeaseFire Columbus, Ministries 4 Movement, and more. Experience with short-term and long-term collaborations.

➢ We will share insights of our journey in translating gun violence research to practice. We have successfully engaged the community including those at the HIGHEST risk of being shot or shooting in evidence-based strategies with a holistic approach.
7 KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENT

(1) Find a community
(2) Find like-minded (or like-spirited) people
(3) Check your privilege
(4) Be prepared to be schooled
(5) Be genuine – mindful & open
(6) Stay committed for the long-haul (not grant cycle)
(7) Partnerships (Relationships) take time and evolve over time
Wilkinson Research Publications

Wilkinson’s Publication Outlets
I AM BECAUSE OF THEM
RISK DOMAINS FOR URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

Spatial and geographical

Systems of Surveillance and Control

Normative Codes and Status Hierarchies

Group Norms, Affiliations, and Processes

Cognitive and Socio-emotional

Event processes

Scripts

Concentrated Poverty & Hot Spots

Legal Cynicism

Attitudes & Beliefs

Network Liabilities

Anger, Trauma & Grief

Scripts
Youth violence is a serious public health problem that compromises the healthy development of youth and communities. Urban youth in high-violence neighborhoods are particularly at heightened risk for violence-related outcomes (Hengenheimer, Brennan, and Earls 2009). Criminologists have examined links between victimization, violent offending, and other outcomes from several interrelated perspectives, including lifestyle/routine activity theory, general strain theory, subcultural theory, and differential association theory. For example, some research argues that exposure to community violence (victimization and vicarious victimization) is a major source of strain or stress on individuals, which is linked to future involvement in violent behavior (Agnew 2002; Hille and Turner 2002; Kaufman 2008). While criminologists have focused on disentangling the temporal order issues, in terms of the relationship between victimization and violent behavior, they have focused less on the mechanisms involved in both types of experiences; less attention has also been placed on the potential cumulative and reciprocal effects of victimization and offending on other outcomes, such as compromised mental health.
NSWG & CAYND PROGRAM

Collective Action for Youth and Neighborhood Development

Collaborating Agency Report

Organization: [Blank]

CAYND Measurable Area Addressed: SAFETY-CRIME

Reporting Quarter (select one)

- June 1, 2007 – Aug 31, 2007
- March 1, 2008 – May 31, 2008

Please indicate the number of customers served by your agency who reside in the zip codes listed below, separated by age (21 and younger or 22 and older). Respond only for those measures addressed by your agency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safety-Crime Measures</th>
<th>Number of Customers Served by Zip Code &amp; Age</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21 yrs and younger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decreased violent crimes (enforcement)</td>
<td>43205</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INVITATION TO THE YVPAB BOARD

April 12, 2007
Dear potential board member,

Your name and professional background has been identified as ideal for a 15-month project on male youth violence prevention intervention. I am currently engaged in an Advocacy Board which will set in a “think tank” for assessing my and my team of researchers in translating what we can learn from our data to practical strategies for law enforcement, parents, and community groups. Let me introduce myself; my name is Donna L. Wilkinson, I am currently an associate professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Science. I joined the faculty at The Ohio State University in January of 2005. I have been actively engaged in community action research for nearly 20 years working with law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, grassroots community groups, offenders, victims, families of offenders and victims, medical/public health officials, and corrections/training personnel. My training and professional expertise is in criminology and criminal justice. I am very passionate about making research findings usable for real world problems although this task is often difficult. You can find more information about my career and interests on my website at http://lanc.ohio.edu/people/wilkinson. I currently serve on the board of directors for a local violence prevention program, Strategies Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE). I hope to get involved in other local prevention efforts as time permits.

The title of my project is Event Dynamics and the Role of Third Parties in Youth Violence. The study is funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, the National Institute of Justice. The study has 5 specific objectives that involve analyzing data collected from 417 violent offenders in East New York and the South Bronx, New York in 1995-1998. Using a life history approach, my team interviewed 417 offenders who provided 350 accounts of violence (event-based interviews) involving a variety of questions related to the life experiences of these men, as well as basic demographic information. The average age of those interviewed was 19.4 years old, all study participants were non-white minority with about half being African Americans and half Puerto Rican. The study participants provided detailed accounts of a wide range of violent incidents including many very serious gun events (44%). My research team has been analyzing these accounts to identify ways of learning from them to inform practice. We can take this task only if we were willing to benefit from the insights of others like you who are on the front lines dealing with these types of problems regularly.

The U.S. Department of Justice is very interested in our ability to make our research findings relevant to practice and inform policy. There is much to learn about violence from the data our group has collected and continues to analyze. The Advocacy Board will play a vital role in shaping the directions of this research project by providing a necessary dialogue so that your reactions, thoughts, suggestions, and feedback can be used to push our academic work beyond our capacity. This collaborative management will combine our developing understanding of the theoretical and practical underpinnings of youth violence events with your informed front line experience. It will be a unique model for researcher-practitioner collaboration that we hope will advance knowledge and practice. Ultimately, we hope to identify practical solutions that can be efficacious for making kids safe in urban neighborhoods.

We are hoping to convene the first “just to know you” Advocacy Board meeting on May 9, 2007 at 11:30-1:30 on OSU’s campus. In that first meeting, we will outline the specifics of our project, ask for your comments, reactions, and questions, and set the stage for future meetings. We anticipate hosting 5 meetings that will last approximately 3 hours each. A tentative schedule of the months will be meeting is listed below. Board members will receive a small travel honor of up to $200 as a token of our appreciation of your time and insights. Food and refreshments will be provided for our meetings.

Tentative Board Meeting Schedule

- April/MAY 2007 (just to know you meeting)
- June 2007
- August 2007
- November 2007
- March 2008 (final product development)

Hopefully, the description above will pique your interest. We hope the Advocacy Board will function as a working group and assist us in our efforts to translate research into practice in new and exciting ways. I look forward to any feedback you might have for other professionals who would have interest expertise to serve on the Advocacy Board. If you have any additional questions or concerns please contact me at any time. As a follow up to this letter you will be hearing from Ms. Janet Carter, a research assistant in my group. She will be coordinating the logistics for the Advocacy Board meetings as well as carefully documenting our discussions and progress. I look forward to meeting you soon and working with you over the next 15 months.

Sincerely,

Donna L. Wilkinson
Associate Professor

Printed Name
The author(s) shown below used Federal funds provided by the U.S. Department of Justice and prepared the following final report:

Document Title: Event Dynamics and the Role of Third Parties in Urban Youth Violence
Author: Deanna Wilkinson, Ph.D.
Document No.: 227781
Date Received: July 2009
Award Number: 2006-IJ-CX-0004

This report has not been published by the U.S. Department of Justice. To provide better customer service, NCJRS has made this Federally-funded grant final report available electronically in addition to traditional paper copies.

Opinions or points of view expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.
MOVING FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

Exposure to Violence (trauma, ecology of danger & trust)

Social Status or Identity

Situational Context Matters

Lack of Efficacy in Formal and Informal Social Control

Isolation

Individual and group risk, violence is normalized

Social norms supportive of violence

Violence is context-specific

System failure impacts social norms

Intensifies risk for select individuals and group
ASHLEY HICKS, OSU STUDENT
SHARING RESULTS
OSU YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION ADVISORY BOARD (2007-2013)

• AREA YOUTH AND ADULTS
• FAITH LEADERS
• NON PROFIT AGENCIES
• FOR PROFIT BUSINESSES
• ADVOCATES AND SURVIVORS
• GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
• SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES
• STUDENTS AND FACULTY

• Public Health leaders
• Physicians
• Mental health providers
• Housing Providers
• Criminal justice agencies
• Courts & Probation/ Parole
• Law Enforcement
• Youth Services
• Corrections & Rehabilitation

Together, We Can Prevent Violence!
THE YVPAB
2011
EXECUTIVE
TEAM
AS A COLLABORATIVE THE YVPAB GENERATED, CRITICALLY EVALUATED AND SHARE KNOWLEDGED!

In 2010-11, YVPAB members agreed, what was needed was...

A holistic evidence-based approach that gets results... thus, we developed the CeaseFire Columbus Initiative.
OUR PRODUCTS INCLUDED:

A Quarterly eNewsletter

AN ONLINE VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMUNITY:

Csiknowledgecenteratosu.ning.com

An Annual Conference
*SAVE the date*
Promoting Community Safety and Preventing Violence:

Integrating Lessons from Research and Practice

Dates:
June 17, 2011
July 23, 2010
June 26, 2009
Spreading Awareness

2011 Annual Conference - Keynote Speaker Dr. Gary Slutkin
Spreading Awareness

2011 YVPAB Awards
ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP AND ACTION RESEARCH CO-PRODUCER WITH PARTNERS

EARLY PROCESS (2009-2011)

- Analyze violence patterns
- Identify highest violence areas
- Map community assets and resources

- Build relationships with stakeholders
- Assess fit between model and community needs
- Start working with grassroots activists
THE GEOGRAPHY OF HOMICIDE IN COLUMBUS, OHIO 2000-2009

Map Prepared by Dr. Ola Ahlqvist & Ashley Hicks
<table>
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<td>Lowest Precinct</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>62,978</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
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<td>2.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
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<td>City-wide Average</td>
<td>711,345</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>28.4</td>
<td>1.52</td>
<td>115.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Highest Precinct</td>
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<td>12 (43205)</td>
<td>14,204</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>54.9</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>83.1</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>54.9</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>268.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd Highest Precinct 11 (43206)</td>
<td>24,936</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>49.7</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>59.8</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>200.5</td>
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</table>
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS -- EARLY FUNDING TO OSU TEAM

$25K Interdisciplinary Seed Project, Crime Mapping 2010

$23K Community Outreach & Conference 2011

$25K Knowledge Center Web Resource & Outreach 2010

$14,500 Conference 2010 & 2011

$50K Award for Community Outreach Project 2011

OSU YVPAB Capacity Building 2011
A strategic **public health approach** to prevent violence.

The Model **adapts to the local situation**, uses local practitioners, and a management structure that works at both the community and city/county levels.

Relies heavily on **public education** to change attitudes and behaviors toward violence.

Employs “credible messengers” to **reach high risk individuals**.

Community involvement helps **change norms**.

**Documented success** in multiple neighborhoods.
Is CeaseFire taking over or are we building something in the community
Relationship building
Tues at 11 am meeting

Get to the partnership what is M4M who is
What do we do

Nov 4 honor Pastor Lamar anniversary of the movement

Next meeting the March in Nov first Sunday anniver

Structure

What are we committing and building together
SOUTHSIDE, SO MUCH MORE THAN A PLACE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPuxtUuY4qU
“R” YOU AT THE TABLE?

RELATIONSHIPS
RESOURCES
REVIVING
REDEMPTION
CONCEPTION AS 1ST SUNDAY MARCH

FIRST SUNDAYS: is a concept that was envisioned when Brother Cecil Ahad, Dartangnan Hill and Pastor F.V. LaMarr came together at the death of Dominique Searcy to address the problem of crime and violence.

In an informal setting Pastor LaMarr shared that violence among African American males is a problem with epidemic proportions that can be traced to the roots of premature promiscuous relationship that leads to premature parenthood that is remotely connected to the lack of education which leads to poverty, public assistance and prison.

These frustration are escalate and perpetrated mainly in the inner city. This problem previously disregarded and ignored as long as it was contain in certain inner city areas but the federal changes in the public housing assistance has cause it to spread in a more widespread area causing many to take notice and actions.

Systematic oppression, People for Profit, Rough Riders,
Ministries 4 Movement & Men 4 Movement
M4M

- Therefore we saw the need to change from a March to a Movement. In the planning session it was noted to affect change we must create a movement that will address those life issues in the Neighborhood House, School House, Court House, State House and Prison House.

- As we engage the church and community to prayerful seeking the favor of God to change the paradigms of our community.
Ministries4Movement

Family Missionary Baptist Church
Spiritual leadership, serve as a safe haven, lead the community healing process, and provide support to youth and families.

Men For the Movement
Street outreach, mentoring, justice advocacy, and community mobilization

The OSU Research Team
Capacity building and crime and asset data analysis, evaluation, and strategic planning.

N.C.U.S.
Workforce development, employment and empowerment
A.U.S. Alternative high school for 16-22 year olds

N.A.B.C.J. Ohio Chapter
is a multi-ethnic, nonpartisan, nonprofit association of criminal justice professionals and community leaders dedicated to improving the administration of justice.
MAP 2. 2007-2012 HOMICIDES IN COLUMBUS, OHIO PRECINCTS 11 AND 12 (n=79)
**Table 2. Comparison of Shootings and Killings in CeaseFire Implementation Sites**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Columbus Near East</th>
<th>Chicago CeaseFire West</th>
<th>Baltimore SafeStreets East</th>
<th>Crown Heights, Brooklyn</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2009</strong></td>
<td>74</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2010</strong></td>
<td>86</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong># of Shootings</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong># of Killings</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
<td>26533</td>
<td>18877</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>19000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26533</td>
<td>18877</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>19000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gun Homicides 2007-2012
**Brief History:** FMBC, MFM, and community members held the first Homicidal Healing March on Nov. 1, 2009. The Ministries4Movement community has held 99 consecutive monthly marches since then.

- The OSU team and CeaseFire Columbus got involved in 2010 with funding from OSU Outreach & Engagement.
- They spread the stop the violence messages with street signs, buttons, stickers, newsletters, flyers, and porch conversations.
- Together, they have developed and distributed various public education messages and resource guides to community members.
8 core components

There are eight core components including:

1. **Community Mobilization and Prevention Education** [12 month marches and services; adult-youth allies; voter registration drive; community festival]

2. **Family Support and Education** [40-50 families per year: to consist of parenting classes; child and adult development classes; mother-to-mother support group; grief and trauma counseling; and homework heroes]

3. **Youth Development, Engagement, and Education** [cultural foundations trainings, drumming, dancing, & music enrichment; summer boot camp; safety training; substance abuse and violence prevention education; school partnerships, Homework Heroes]

4. **Public Safety Training for Community Residents** [6-12 trainings per year]

5. **Intensive Street Outreach to High Risk Individuals -- Mediation and Violence Interruption** [8-12 mediation per year, reach 40 HRI in our area]

6. **Criminal Justice Advocacy and Partnerships** [work with individuals who are systems involved to promote desistance, alternatives to incarceration and successful transitions out of justice control; continue working with criminal justice professionals to advocate for youth and families in our area.]

7. **Coordinated Resources and Referral Service Delivery System** [develop MOUs with organizations inventoried in the 43206 Community Resource Guide to provide services to M4M youth and families].

8. **Data analysis, Research and Evaluation** [document our work using multiple method; assess impact on crime patterns, use data to drive resource allocation].
Community Mobilization

MFM/FMBC Monthly Healing Marches and Service
Street Outreach and Conflict Mediation: Brother Cecil, Brother Dartangnan Hill, Brother Benny, Pastor LaMarr, Tammy Alsaada and others have devoted countless hours to street outreach and violence interrupter services to target area youth (14-26) who are at high risk of being shot or being a shooter. Although funding has been difficult to secure the team continues to engage the highest risk in an effort to save lives and promote community safety.
Faith Leader Involvement and Healing

Faith Leadership in this Peace Movement: Pastor LaMarr Co-founded Ministries 4 Movement and has co-lead the 1st Sunday march and service monthly since November of 2009. February will be the 100 consecutive march. Pastor LaMarr and FMBC provide spiritual leadership, open the church as safe havens, and works to spread awareness that violence is not acceptable in our community. Healing through Christ brings about process of redemption. Pastor LaMarr offers guidance to others interested in the M4M model.
Community Mobilization: Mobilize and empower the community to engage informal social control through collective responses to violence, participation in community events, block-level organizing and more. Celebrate non-violence! Celebrate life!
RESOURCES

M4M
M4M mobile tool brings together the Ministries 4 Movement resources in a new and revolutionary way! Stay engaged and informed. M4M is focused on Relationships, Resources, Reviving...
Core Components

PRIMARY PREVENTION
INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH
Public Education Campaign: Violence is preventable! We campaigned to spread strong anti-violence public education messages; implement anti-violence events and unify the community around prevention. Zari Carmona at JPS Print was our graphic designer.
M4M Public Education Campaign

Stop Shooting & Killing People, Especially your Family & Friends!

“I Want to Grow Up & Live!”

Get Involved in our Youth’s Lives, & our Movement
614-253-8865
Data Driven Solutions and Evaluation of our Efforts: Data Driven Solutions and Evaluation of our Efforts:

• Analyze changes in patterns of gun violence including hot spots and retaliatory homicides.

• Analyze state-wide data on gun offenders and victims.

• Build on real time intelligence gathering for street level intervention. Community asset mapping to build a strong network of support among community members.

• Partner with law enforcement to access data.
**M4M Initiatives**

**Contact Us:**
- Pastor Frederick LeMarr
- Brother Cecil Ahmad
- Dr. Deonna Wilmot
  - CSU research partner
  - 1787 Night Ave. CH 135
  - (614) 247-4004
- Bennie Price
  - M4M Street Outreach
  - (614) 649-8526
- Darlington Hill
  - M4M Street Outreach
  - (614) 952-0801

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**Stop Shooting & Killing People!**

Especially your Family & Friends!

**Ministries 4 Movement**

Office 996 Oakwood Ave.
Columbus, OH 43206

Phone: (614) 252-7488
MFM: (614) 253-8865

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**Ways to Get Involved:**

1. Attend the 1st Sunday March and Workshops. Join us each month for a community transforming march. Gather at 996 Oakwood at 3:00 pm sharp. Bring your anti-violence, pro-community life messages. Be part of the change; be part of the family!
2. Stay informed and keep us informed (Share Knowledge & Resources)
3. Participate in workshops, parenting classes, community clean ups, volunteer to read with children, organize positive activities for youth.
4. Refer youth and families to Ministries4Movement
5. Promote non-violent conflict resolution and strong relationships
6. Give back to others—each one, reach one, teach one
7. Help us to become more effective in our efforts—We need to build up our base. Volunteer.
8. Spread positive messages to encourage others to keep going even in hard times.
9. Donate your time, money, & talent

**What we have done so far...**

- Held 53 consecutive monthly marches since November 2009 reaching more than 2000 people.
- Mediated conflicts to prevent shootings and killings.
- Assisted more than 150 youth and their families annually.
- Reached over 3000 with our resource guidebook, newsletters, and public education materials.
- Sustained partnerships; developed new collaborations.
- Conducted dozens of trainings to help others learn from our efforts.
- Reduced shootings and killings in our area in 2011 and 2012 by more than 20%.
- Sustained efforts as volunteers when little or no funding has been available.
M4M INITIATIVES

Monthly community march and service
Spiritual and social health counseling
Street outreach
Conflict mediation
Public Education Campaign
Resource support and referral
Feeding program
Restorative Justice Program
Court review program
Crime hot spot analysis
Web site and social media outreach
Training workshops

Each one Teach One Lending Library
Parenting classes
Summer youth camp program
Community garden
Saturday youth activities
Quarterly CSI/M4M newsletter (2009-2015)
Annual community festival
Annual anniversary dinner
Alternative high school education
Workforce development and employment
National criminal justice advocacy
Process and Impact Evaluation
INPUTS: TEAM TRAININGS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Trained from the NYC Youth Violence study
Trained in the Ceasefire/Cure Violence model
OSU Law School Conflict Mediation training
Trauma-informed care and brain development training (Dr. Perry)
Trauma-informed care – Hurt People Hurt People (Drs. Rich & Corbin)
7 Habits of Healthy Teens & Highly Effective People
The Art of Hosting
Bridges out of Poverty
## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS – M4M TEAM FUNDING

### UNFUNDED

- 2009-Columbus Foundation
- 2009 –US Dept. of Justice – BJA
- 2009- US Dept. of Justice – OJJDP (APDS partner)
- 2010 –US Dept. of Justice – OJJDP (replication grant try1)
- 2011 –US Dept. of Justice – OJJDP (replication grant try2)
- 2012 –US Dept. of Justice – OJJDP (replication grant try3)
- 2012-2015 –City of Columbus
- 2015 –Neighborhood Partnership Grant

### FUNDED

$50K The Office of the Attorney General Mike DeWine, State of Ohio. For Street Outreach and Public Education, to MFM, 10/1/13-9/30/14

Outcomes:
- mediated/interrupted 97 separate episodes of potential violence in our area
- worked with 30 high risk individuals
- made 11 hospital visits
- 6 participants were able to have warrants for non-violent offenses converted to summons.
- made 18 presentations and conducted outreach visits to local schools reaching 500 youth.
- 960 people have been engaged in one or more of our 12 monthly community marches/workshops
After 4 years we made a documentary. Watch it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwbYOAtgADo
Ministries 4 Movement 2009-2018 Timeline

1st Year
Nov. 2009
Gone but Not Forgotten

2nd Year
Nov. 2010
Break 'em to Make 'em

3rd Year
Nov. 2011
Keep the Reigns to your Campaign

4th Year
37th Nov. 2012
Getting Connected While Staying Directed

5th Year
49th Nov. 2013
ReUnite to Make Things Right

6th Year
61st Nov. 2014
That's how it Starts but it's Much more than Marches

7th Year
73rd Nov. 2015
Guidelines of Growing Up 2
Frontlines of Standing Up

8th Year
85th Nov. 2016
Cast your Vote to Maintain your Hope

9th Year
97th Nov. 2017
We Perfect the March when we Engage our Part

1st Year
Homicidal Pain

2nd Year
Homicidal Healing

3rd Year
Community Outreach

4th Year
Community Unity

5th Year
Positive Youth/Family Development

6th Year
Called to Make a Difference

7th Year
Mandating a Mountain Top Ministry

8th Year
Sanctified through Sacrificial Service

9th Year
Planting Seed for Life
OVERRUN BY GUNS
Crimes involving firearms cut a deadly and costly path across Ohio's largest cities.

TARGET: GUN VIOLENCE
(3-DAY SERIES)

Stories by Theodore Decker | Photos by Jonathan Quilter

Reluctant witnesses give detectives fits

...
YVPAB, CeaseFire & M4M in the News

Preventing Youth Violence

Preventing youth violence through social intervention and community involvement, with Drewel University School of Public Health department of health policy chair and author of Wrong Place, Wrong Time: Trauma and Violence in the Lives of Young Black Men Dr. John Rich, M.D., The Ohio State University (OSU) human development professor Deanna Williamson and CeaseFire Ohio director Ted Nardin.

City, Community Leaders Search For Ways To End Teen Violence

After nine murders in two weeks, two of them with victims that were 10 and 15, city leaders on Friday were calling for an end to the violence.

Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman met with police and community leaders on Friday at City Hall, to formulate a plan to convince the city’s teens to put their weapons down, 10TV’s Maureen Knodl reported.
Ohio gun-sale laws easily circumvented

When Paul Rothstein learned that a gun he sold was used in a deadly Washington, D.C., shooting in December 2009, he was stunned. The gun, obtained at a New York gun store, had passed through a series of transactions involving a D.C. gun collector and a homeless man before it reached the suspect. Rothstein, who runs a gun store in the nation's capital, had never before sold a gun that was used in a crime.

"I didn't think it could happen," he said.

But it did, and it's happening more often than you might think.

In Ohio, gun dealers are increasingly bypassing the state's written gun background check law and selling firearms to out-of-state customers who either fail the check or don't bother to take it.

"It's a big problem," said Mike Forman, executive director of the Ohio Gun Rights Foundation. "It's getting worse."
Our team in the News

DISPATCH EXCLUSIVE

Going after gunslingers

Police shift crime-reduction focus from guns to jailing repeat offenders; others advocate mediation

Columbus police take guns off the streets at a pace of about eight a day, 250 a month, 3,000 a year.

In the police property room on Fairwood Avenue are three guns seized and AK-47s, ancient Colts and stick new Checks. There are 115 Points that cost less than $200 and a couple custom pistols that likely set back the original buyer a few grand.

Columbus Police Officer Ky H.

Offenders turn peacekeepers | A8

By Rachel Aufrichtig

Bread started work in the property room last summer after an injury took him off the streets. It has been an eye-opener.

"It was like, you've got to be kidding me," he said. "I would never have dreamed that." If the police department ever needs a new bodyguard, Bread is the person they would turn to.

"If we have any gun violence," said Chief Tom Shabazz, "I would use the direct services of an offender." The 37-year-old police officer has a long history of working in the community and is well respected.

Columbus police Officer Ky H.

SECOND CHANCES

Ex-Offender’s work by... "Any Means Necessary"

By Rachel Aufrichtig

How can you get a man on a mission like this? How can you keep an ex-offender from stepping into the same crime-spree cycle? The answer is simple: employ him.

Shabazz said it is a way to give back to the community. It is a way to help him embrace his life and a way to help him embrace his past.

The police department has a strong relationship with the community and is well respected.

Columbus police Officer Ky H.

Second Chances

After serving time in prison, Bread started working in the property room. He now helps keep the streets safe.

"It was like, you've got to be kidding me," he said. "I would never have dreamed that." If the police department ever needs a new bodyguard, Bread is the person they would turn to.

Columbus police Officer Ky H.
**Community meets with police to discuss how to reduce violence**

By Theodore Decker  
**The Columbus Dispatch**  
Friday, June 17, 2011 12:13 PM

Police have joined with professors, community activists and clergy at the Rifle Center today to share thoughts and strategies on reducing the violence on the streets of Columbus.

“We really need to change our thinking about violence in order to prevent it,” said Deanna Williamson, an associate professor at Ohio State University who specializes in youth violence research.

Dr. Gary Stutkin is the executive director of CeaseFire, an nonprofit for a forum in his office at the University of Illinois.

The daylong series of speakers and workshops is part of the 3rd Annual Promoting Community Safety and Preventing Violence conference, hosted by the OSU Youth Violence Prevention Advisory Board.

**Anti-violence push needs cash**

Columbus group ready, advocate says

By Theodore Decker  
**The Columbus Dispatch**  
Saturday, June 18, 2011 10:12 AM

A Columbus anti-violence group is well-equipped to start saving lives on the city’s streets but can’t begin without money, a nationally recognized expert on gun violence said yesterday.

“They are completely ready,” said Gary Stutkin, an infectious-disease physician who founded the Chicago-based Violence prevention initiative CeaseFire. “They need government support.”
The Interrupters
SOUTHSIDE

SAVING SOULS
Group works to end violence, one person at a time

By JACOB KAPP

You might not even know about Emil Guss, but if you do, you know God is using this man to make a difference in the lives of others.

Emil Guss is a man of action. He’s a former police officer, a community leader, and now he’s a minister. He’s been working tirelessly to end violence in his community, one person at a time.

Emil’s mission is simple: to love and serve those in need. He does this through his work with the Southside Community Development Corporation, where he helps build relationships and provide resources to those who need them.

Emil’s approach is based on the belief that change begins with the individual. He works to empower people to take responsibility for their own lives, to help them overcome the obstacles that stand in their way.

“People need to know that they have a choice,” Emil says. “They can choose to live their lives in peace and love, or they can choose to continue the cycle of violence.”

Emil’s efforts have not gone unnoticed. He has received numerous awards and recognitions for his work, including the Community Champion Award from the Chicago Community Trust.

Emil’s story is a testament to the power of one person to make a difference in the world. He is a shining example of how we can all work to create a better future for ourselves and for those around us.

If you would like to learn more about Emil and his work, please visit the Southside Community Development Corporation’s website at www.southside.org.

SOUTHSIDE

SAVING SOULS
Group works to end violence, one person at a time

By JACOB KAPP

They gathered in the front yard of the family’s home, holding hands and praying, asking for peace.

“We’re always working with the police in the area,” Emil says. “We’re working with the community to make sure that everyone feels safe and secure.”

Despite the challenges, Emil remains optimistic. He believes that change is possible, and that we all have a role to play in creating a better future.

“I believe in the power of love,” Emil says. “Love is the only thing that can truly change the world.”

If you would like to support Emil’s work, please consider making a donation to the Southside Community Development Corporation.

SOUTHSIDE

SAVING SOULS
Group works to end violence, one person at a time

By JACOB KAPP

The family has grown, and they are now a family of 10. They have all been touched by Emil’s work, and they are committed to continuing his legacy.

“I want to thank God every day for my blessings. I want to thank God for giving me the opportunity to work with Emil,” the father says.

“I want to continue to work with Emil, and I want to help others do the same,” the mother adds.

The family has started a community garden, and they are working to transform the neighborhood into a place of hope and possibility.

“I believe that we can change the world,” the father says. “We can create a better future for ourselves and for our children.”

If you would like to learn more about Emil and his work, please visit the Southside Community Development Corporation’s website at www.southside.org.
We Want Everyone to Join Us as we Remember those gone but still not forgotten:

Michael Jolo Dixon * David Montgomery * James Washington * Jerome Joiner * William Welts * Derrick Thompson
Derrick Thompson * Darryl Duff * Twain Forrest * Fred Forrest * Dachelle Forrest * Kenny Jenkins * Bunnar Butler
William Felder * Jamele Juan Felder * Dominique Steacey * Chad Ellis * John Logan * Germaine Adams * Rodricus Coates
Melvin Stanley * Frank Jones * Paul Arnold * Larry Parker * Obie Shepperd * Freddie Hughes * Kenny Howard * Devon Peebles
Timothy Dawson * Ricky Hairson * Willie Sweatt * Rosswan Artisar * Velton Tyson * Dontaie Miller * Kenny Roscoe
Meechie Gordan * GJ Joey * Delbert * John Hall * L.J. Rod * Blazy * Tino * Joel * Juan Bitting * Larry Patterson
Richard Smith * Gene Patterson * Darrell Farr * Calvin Upchurch * Chris McCullough * Poytez Banks * Brandon Peppers
Brandon Youngblood * Marquion * Derrick Goins and to many more.

Beginning 4th yr. Anniversary
From Homicidal Pain to Ministries 4 Movement
Sun. Nov. 4th, 2012
@3pm
996 Oakwood Ave

Please Bring Lifesize Cutouts & banners of your Loved One's.
Also we will be hearing from Families of those that have passed away
followed by a dinner. We're asking everyone to bring a dish if u can to the
event in advance by 2pm!

Call OG Half 614.628.7561 to add ya loved ones name to be recognize or if u have any donations

Pastor Frederick LaMarr
FEAR OF LETTING THE TEAM DOWN...
SECONDARY TRAUMA AND PTSD RELAPSE

Guns, Gangs and Gardens
After a career of studying violent teens, Deanna Wilkinson needed to find a new way to help troubled youth — and heal herself.

By Jeff Grabmeier
86TH M4M 1ST SUNDAY MARCH, DEC. 2016
IN LOVING MEMORY OF THOSE GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

MICHEAL DIXON
TAWAN FORREST
WILLIAM FELTS
DOMINIQUE SEARCY
TIM MARSHALL
KENNY HOWARD
KENNY ROSCOE
PAUL ARNOLD
JAVON STARGHILL
SHONNE2 JENKINS
DEMETRIUS BAXTER
EARL CONARD
QUINCY STOREY JR
QUINTEN PRATER
ROBERTO MARSHALL
TYRE KING
JAMES LATHAM
DARYLL GAVIN
JUAN WALTON
JAMECIA WARD
DESMOND ROGERS
RAHIM TYE
DERON LONG
JOJO HOLLOWAY
CHAMPANIE ADKINS
MAURICE BRYANT
TINA BANKS
TERRICO HENRY

DAVID MONTGOMERY
FRED FORREST
KENNY JENKINS
CHAD ELLIS
FREDDIE HUGLEY
DONTAE MILLER
MEECHIE GORDAN
REGGIE BLACK
HENRY MONGER
JUAN BITTING
MELVIN SUTHERLAND
JOHNNY BELL
KEVIN HUGHLETT
RONDEL VALENTINE
COREY BROWN
JASON WHITE
MARCUS DAVIDSON
RUSSELL E GOSSETT JR
MELVIN HODGE
RALPH WILSON
REESE HILL
KAHLIEF TYE
JEVON WOODS
MICHAEL CUMBERLAND
DASHAWN TORPE
DAMIKO RUSSELL
EUGENE PATTERSON
ALBERT STEELE

JARREN WASHINGTON
DORSHELLE FOREST
DAMON JENKINS
JOHN LOGAN
VELTON TYSON
DAWON WRIGHT
TAMIKA GORDON
SHAWN HAWKINS
RICHARD SMITH
WILLIAM JONES
JAMAAL TAYLOR
LASHAWN JOHNSON
TYREISHIA MIKOLL
DESHAWN MARABLE
PUAL DAVIS
SEAN BOYD
JOSEPH JEWELL
DAWANN JONES
JOHN GARNER
TYRELL DAVIS
JE,VOHN HILL
FRANKLIN WALKER
LAVAN DAVIS
SAVON LIGON
KAREEM JONES
BRANDON YOUNGBLOOD
SHAWN ROBINSON
MARSHAWN GRAY

BENNAE BUTLER
DERRICK THOMPSON
WILLIAM FELDER
RODRICOS COATES
SHIROL MAE
TIM DAWSON
AMANDA GORDON
FACE HAWKINS
STEVE BRINKLEY
DARELL FAR
JAMES TOWNSEND
SHONNE JOHNSON
PRINCE JACKSON
DEVON DURR
DRE BASS
TALIA MARTIN
TERRANCE TOOLE
DESHAWN JONES
RYON PETTY
SABRINA JACKSON
CARL WILLIAMSON
DIONTE AGEE
JUSTIN KENDRIX
DEAONTÉ BELL
TYJUAN LOCKE
CHAD ELLIS
OBBI SHEPPARD
DENNIS FRANCIS

DARRLY DUFF
JEROME JOINER
DASHAN FELDER
GERMAINE ADAMS
WILLIE SWEETS
MELVIN STANLEY
FRANK JONES
JEREMY HEAD
RONDELL BRINKLEY
ANTONIO FRAZIER
JOEY JOHNSON
DOMENIQUE DRAUGHN
INDIA LONG
KENNETH DAVIS
MARCO LEANORD
ANTONY MARTIN
THEO STOKES
STACY BARRETT
JAMES MCKINLEY
CHARLES STATEN
RUSSELL PRICE
RAYSHAWN STEWARD
ANTOINE BRADLEY
MILES DAVIS
DEVIN PEEBLES
REGINALD STEWART
LARRY PARKS
GEOGRAPHIC PATTERNS OF GUN HOMICIDE REMAIN CONSTANT OVER 20 YEARS

2017

Precinct 11 and 12
GET INVOLVED, JOIN THE MOVEMENT

MONTHLY MARCH
EVERY FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH @ 3PM
30 min. awareness march followed by a short program focusing on monthly theme
The Family Missionary Baptist Church
996 Oakwood Ave Columbus Ohio 43206

All are welcome!
Learn how to change the conditions and improving the quality of life in your communities

For More Info
Tel: (614) 253-8865 | (614) 252-7488

Ministries 4 Movement
“Part of the Family” Eph. 3:15

Local Residential Custo
WHO CAN STOP THE SPREAD OF GUN VIOLENCE?

CHILDREN

TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS

ADULTS

ADVOCATES, EDUCATORS, & SERVICE PROVIDERS

ACADEMICS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ACTORS

POLICY MAKERS
Thank you!
Questions?
CECIL A. AHAD

Born and raised on Columbus East Side. Poor decision of dropping out of the Columbus Public Schools in the 11th grade along with many other bad decisions and habits led him to spend over a decade of his life in the state correctional system. Fifteen years after serving his time and gaining his G.E.D. has went on to enroll in Ohio University College, he’s now a married man, affluent author of numerous articles, one being “Gorilla on My Back”. Cecil is presently CEO of A&A Community Store & Market on Columbus East Side, also CEO of Morally Excellent, LLC. Both businesses gainfully employing young African Americans, teaching them the art of self-sufficiency and entrepreneurship.

He is a present member of Men for the Movement, the National Center for Urban Solution and various other community groups and organizations that focus on motivating, mentoring and coaching youths and ex-offenders. He accredits his continue success to the art of helping others he says as we learn to balance the four dimensions of our nature.
DARTANGNAN HILL

AKA O.G. Half was born and raised on 22nd Street on Columbus south side. In 1993 Founded the 22nd Street Bloods in Columbus. A gang he started for protection but later escalated into greater acts of violence, drug sales and vandalism. As a result causing him to suffer numerous gunshot wounds while loosing numerous friends during the course of the gang’s activity. He attended South High School until his senior year in 1995 when he was arrested on false charges and was able to obtained his GED while detained in the county jail. After being found not guilty he continued gang activity until May 3, 2003 when he was again arrested, tried and wrongly fully sentence. While serving four years of a twenty four years sentence. After seeking God for a sign and patiently insisting his innocence. He later found himself on the same prison ward as the man who actually committed the crime. In June of 2005, he was released and after being awarded a small sum of money for wrongful imprisonment he invested in a business that he labeled as his request from God; “Show Me A Sign”. He is also presently President and CEO of Hard life Entertainments. A business geared toward trying to help young artist get started in the music industry. Along with his business he is also a active member
Tammy is an Author, Advocate and Community Organizer from Columbus, Ohio, whose mission is to be a voice for her community by advocating for criminal justice reform issues important to grassroots community members and their families. Tammy has served on the Franklin Prerelease Citizens Advisory Board and was also an involved member of the Franklin County Reentry Task Force as a founding member, where she chaired the subcommittee *Faith, Family and Community*. She has been very instrumental in the Juvenile Justice Community Planning Initiative studying Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) as well as a Fall Fellow and Team Leader for the 2011 Obama for America Presidential Campaign in Columbus, Ohio.

Recruited specifically for her outstanding leadership and involvement in a variety of local task forces, collaborative groups, and in the faith community, Dr. Deanna Wilkinson at The Ohio State University chose Tammy as an Outreach Specialist and Chairperson for the OSU Youth Violence Prevention Advisory Board and the Community Safety Institute where she impacted her community as a co-developer of Ceasefire Columbus. She is currently serving as the Community Organizer for the Ohio Juvenile Justice Coalition advocating for Ohio’s youth. In 2017, she was named a Woman of Achievement by the Columbus YWCA.

Tammy is known for her published works. Her first novel, entitled *P.I.E.C.E.S.: A Booster’s Story*, was released by national publishing company Kensington Publishing under their Urban Books imprint in October of 2008.
A devoted husband (Michelle Bogan), father (Micahya Danyelle) and life-long resident of Columbus, OH. Educated in Public School System; Cols East High (NHS Class 78).
Licensed to Preach the Gospel in 1987, indoctrinated under the Mt. Calvary District Board of Elders in 1994, studied the Greek and Hebrew languages at Eastern Union Bible College, along with extensive religious studies at the Moody Bible College, and Master School of Divinity holding a Master’s Degree in Biblical Counseling. An affluent writer with books and booklets that are distributed through his Pen Pal Prison Ministry and daily bible teaching. He holds the titles of C.E.O of Reaching Higher Heights 4 Life and Co-founder of Ministries 4 Movement. He volunteers as a Sherriff Clergy, Juvenile Courts Advisory, actively serves in both the Baptist Pastors’ Conference, Ministerial Alliance, Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance. He launched and co-host the highly rated talk show “Pulse of the City” on Bounce23TV on Sunday nights @7:30 where he highlights and address issues that face the minority community within Columbus and Vicinity. Pastor LaMarr accepted his calling of leadership of the Family Missionary Baptist Church in 1997. He has devoted much of his ministry to community outreach and activism, focusing on gang activity and changing the paradigms of the inner city. His lifelong commitment has enabled Him to impact so many of God’s people in a life changing way. His favorite scripture is 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 “For thou we walk in the flesh...weapon of our warfare are not carnal...”
Jerry Saunders, Sr., Chief Executive Officer of Africentric Personal Development Shop, Inc. (APDS) which is a behavioral healthcare center specializing in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and education classes to prevent, treat, and eliminate substance abuse and domestic violence. In addition, APDS provides community outreach, which includes male and female support groups and a 9-week SMART 2.0 Summer Enrichment Program for youth ages 6 to 13. APDS has a staff of 23 including 10 seasonal employees. APDS is certified by Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS).

Saunders is managing partner of The Saunders Company, a public relations company. Jerry serves on the board of trustees for Creative Housing, Inc. and the board of directors for Women’s Center for Economic Opportunity.

Prior to joining APDS in April 1997, Saunders served ten years as executive director of the Eldon W. Ward YMCA Branch of Central Ohio.

Jerry has more than 35 years of personal and community development experience. Saunders has an extensive history of serving on governing boards of public entities and 501(C)3 non-profit community development organizations including:

- Commissioner of the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department (15 years)
- Board of Trustees for Franklin County Children Services (6 years)
- Children’s Hunger Alliance (6 years)
- Officer on the Franklin County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (4 years)
- Inaugural Chairman of After-School All-Stars Columbus Board of Trustees (6 years)
- Board of Directors for the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. (4 years)
- Founding member on the Board of Trustees for Mid Ohio Stranger Abduction Alert (AMBER Alert)
- Governance Board for Columbus Africentric Early College School
- Founding member and Chairman Emeritus of Compassionate Communications of Central Ohio Board of Trustees
- United Way of Central Ohio Education Vision Council
- Columbus City Schools Education Foundation Board of Trustees
- The Ohio State University Youth Violence Prevention Advisory Board
- Pickerington Schools 21st Century Advisory Board
- Tri-Chair of Together 2000 of Franklin County

Co-Chair of the “Building a Better Columbus Committee” which he spearheaded the passage of eight Capital Improvement Bond Issues for $590.9 million.

The Oberlin College graduate is the recipient of numerous awards including the Columbus Urban League Award of Excellence, 100 Black Men of Central Ohio Mentor of the Year, and Greater Columbus Community Helping Hands, Inc. Ambassador of Health and Wellness Award. Saunders received the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow of The Rotary Foundation from Columbus Rotary.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Jerry attended Mohawk Junior-Senior High School. He is married to E. Gayle Saunders and they have one son, Jerry Jr.
I have devoted my career to research, teaching, and service to promote the understanding of social problems that afflict urban communities in poverty. As a criminologist, with multidisciplinary training, situated in an interdisciplinary unit of Human Sciences at OSU, my work focuses on the intersections of context, development and policy/practice. I pride myself on being an engaged scholar with strong activist leanings. My scholarly work on understanding the decision making of shooters has been used to develop and refine gun violence prevention strategies around the country. As an ethnographic and applied researcher, I devote considerable time to:

- community partnerships;
- working directly with youth and adults to develop, implement, and evaluate intervention/prevention strategies;
- creating opportunities for student involvement in the community; and
- building lasting relationships with people situated in neighborhoods characterized by high rates of poverty and violence.

I am passionate about making a difference to promote community safety and healing from the adverse affects of poverty and violence. The photo gallery below includes some of my favorite memories of the past few years in Columbus, Ohio. I am fortunate to be part of such a wonderful community! Read about our work in the CSI eNewsletter From Research to Practice: Bridging the Gaps through Collaboration.