

2020 WEEK OF POSITIVE CHANGE, NON-VIOLENCE AND OPPORTUNITIES REPORT

& Positive Change Foundation

1220 L. Street, NW # 100-181, Washington, D.C. 20005

Blackwomenforpositivechange.org

FB: Blackwomenforpositivechange

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MESSAGE FROM BLACK WOMEN FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

AND POSITIVE CHANGE FOUNDATION

Dear Week of Positive Change, Non-Violence & Opportunities Supporters,

This report is about the 8th Annual Week of Positive Change, Non-Violence and Opportunities, October 12-21, 2019. This report features reports from creative intergenerational events arranged in various States in the US and the United Kingdom, We thank the inter-faith global network of women and Good Brothers who collaborate to "Change the Culture of Violence in America, and the World." Included in this report are endorsements from Governors and media coverages who support our efforts to de-escalate violence, control anger, eliminate racism, and to find safe ways to respond to implicit bias.

Thanks to our Donors and Partners who supported promote violence prevention. A special thanks to Trusted, Inc., Saint and Streetfighter Foundation; National Black Nurses Association; 100 Fathers Inc., Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington; Moms Demand Action and the Jim Vance Media Program, Archbishop Carroll High School.

In 2020, we plan to focus on "Opportunities As Alternatives to Violence." We hope you will support this initiative by donating to the Positive Change Foundation. A 501-C-3 non-profit. Please donate on-line at www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org.

Sincerely,



Stephanie E. Myers

Dr. Stephanie E. Myers
National Co-Chair, BW4PC
President, Positive Change Foundation



Daun S. Hester

Honorable Daun S. Hester

National Co-Chair, BW4PC
Board Chair, Positive Change Foundation

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS! TRUSTED, INC.



Michael Peters, CEO, Trusted Inc.





SAINT AND STREETFIGHTER FOUNDATION

In Memory of Patty Johnson, BWFPC Emeritus





Martha Dawson, DNP, RN, CNS, FACHE, NBNA President



SIXTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Office of Community Engagement

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!



Anacostia Economic Development Corporation









Jim Vance Media Program

WORKING TO CHANGE THE CULTURE OF VIOLENCE IN AMERICA, AND THE WORLD

2019 Week of Health Empowerment, Non-Violence & Opportunities City Chairs



Carthenia Jefferson, Esq, Chair

Birmingham, Alabama



La Tanya Mathis, Chair

Phoenix, Arizona



Good Brother Frank Malone, Co-Chair

"Violence Is Not Normal" Townhall - District of Columbia



Dr. Daisy Harmon-Allen, Chair

Maymont and Chicago, Illinois



Diane Powell, Chair

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Zhanna, Co-Chair

London, United Kingdom

NON-VIOLENCE PEACE PLEDGE

The Peace Pledge was Written by Members of Black Women for Positive Change in Collaboration with a Committee of Youth, in Chicago, Illinois. It is an Intergenerational Pledge that Youth and Adults are Encouraged to Sign, Repeat and Post Up in their Homes.

peace Pledge of the name of a violence and to work to keep my brothe

I pledge to uphold peace in the name of Non-Violence and to work to keep my brothers and sisters safe. I promise to seek the path of peace and to treat others with fairness and respect. I pledge to do this for the sake of humanity, so we can all live together in peace and harmony.

OFFICIAL VERSION PREPARED BY BLACK WOMEN FOR POSITIVE CHANGE (BW4PC) AND POSITIVE CHANGE FOUNDATION, 2015

www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org

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BLACK WOMEN FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

2019 ACTIVE LEADERSHIP & MEMBERS

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Dr. Stephanie E. Myers, National Co-Chair

Delegate Daun S. Hester, National Co-Chair

Mildred Freeman, Treasurer

Diane Wood, Recording Secretary

Rev. Dr. Barbara Reynolds, Chaplain

Karen Carrington and Bernadette Tolson, Co-Chairs, Media and Events

Diane Powell, Co-Chair Outreach

Patricia Duncan, Corresponding Secretary/Facebook Master

Charlene Ligon, Webmaster

Diane Mitchell Henry and Zhana, Co-Chairs, International Committee

Dawn Williams, Esq. and Good Brother Marcus Hughes, Millennial Co-Chairs

PROJECT CONSULTANTS

Dr. Cherie Ward, "DC Violence Is Not Normal" Consultant & Producer

Henry Joseph, Videographer

Akilah Clark, Program Designer

David Dickerson, Flyer Designer

Landover Print, Landover, Maryland

Marueen Anderson, Video Contest Consultant, Pittsburgh, PA

Nadira Sellers, Essay Contest Consultant, WDC

R.E. Waddy, DC Flyer Design

2019 ACTIVE MEMBERS

Akilah Clark, Maryland Alicia Scott, Pennsylvania Ariael Brooks-Porter, Delaware Barbara Reynolds, Maryland Bernadette Tolson, DC/Maryland Good Bro Bryan Carroll, Texas Carolyn Goff Eaves, Washington, D.C. Carthenia Jefferson, Esq., Alabama Cathelean Steele, Georgia Good Bro Chad Ricks, California Good Bro Chaka Balamani, Maryland Charlene Ligon, Nebraska Charisse Carney-Nunes, Washington, D.C. Good Bro Charles Golden, California Good Bro Dr. Charles Steele, Georgia Dr. Cherie Ward, Washington, D.C. Cheryl Washington, Maryland Claudia Murphy Johnson, Maryland Constance Portis, Pennsylvania Crystal Francis, Maryland Dr. Daisy Harmon-Allen, Illinois Danyell Smith, Maryland Daun Hester, Virginia Dawn Williams, Esq., Maryland Diane Powell, Pennsylvania Diane Mitchell Henry, California Diane Wood, Virginia

Good Bro Earl Yates, Washington, D.C. Good Bro Dr. Eric J. Williams/Calif. Erni Bridges, Virginia Estella E. Lee, California Fannie Allen, Virginia Good Bro Frank Malone, Washington, D.C. Dr. Georgia Dunston, Maryland Good Bro Greg Clinton, North Carolina Dr. Hattie Washington, Maryland Janell Mayo Duncan, Maryland Jo Ann Forrester, Pennsylvania Good Bro John Harriel, California Julie McAllister, Pennsylvania Karen L. Carrington, Washington, DC Katrina Coleman Laura Thomas, Washington, DC Leonard "Tony" Upson, Washington, D.C. Linda Denise Miller, Maryland Lisa Hughes, Ohio Lori Gray, Esq., California Dr. Lori White, Missouri Mahogany Thaxton, Pennsylvania Good Bro Marcus Hughes, Washington DC Margaret Ayres, Esq., Maryland Dr. Martha Dawson, Alabama Dr. Maureen Anderson, Pennsylvania Michele Titi, Virginia

Michael Peters, WDC/Tennessee Michelle Lanier, North Carolina Mildred Freeman, Washington, D.C. Dr. Millicent Gorham, Washington, D.C. Myra Kazanjian, Pennsylvania Dr. Nancy Hines, Pennsylvania Nolu Crockett-Ntonga, Maryland Patricia Duncan, Colorado Rabbi Abbi Sharofsky, Maryland Good Bro. Kelvin Sauls, Calif/South Africa Rev. Verna M. Young, Maryland Good Bro Robert Fairchild, Virginia Good Bro Ron Halber, Maryland Sarah Dachos, Washington, D.C. Sharon McCollough, Maryland Good Bro Stan Jackson, Washington, D.C.

Good Bro Roy J. Myers, Washington, D.C. Stephanie E. Myers, Washington, D.C. Susan Holliday, Washington, D.C./UK Dr. Sylvia Little/Texas Good Bro Tabiti Boone, New York Terri Spencer, Pennsylvania Good Bro Thomas Johnson, Maryland Tiffany N. Winkey, Maryland Tiffany McCrannery, Virginia Dr. Valda Crowder, M.D., Maryland Wendy Gladney, California Good Bro William Jordan, Washington, D.C. Good Bro William Kellibrew, Maryland Wyllene Watson, Georgia Yolanda Faye Stewart, Georgia Zhana, United Kingdom

^{**}Good Bro—Good Brother

ENDORSEMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

CONGRESSWOMAN MAXINE WATERS

To Dr. Stephanie Myers, Hon. Daun Hester, and Black Women for Positive Change, It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on the occasion of your Eighth Annual Week of Positive Change, Non-Violence, Justice and Opportunities, October 12-20, 2019. I would also like to recognize the leaders of the Los Angeles Chapter: Diane Mitchell Henry, Hon. Jan Perry, and Wendy Gladney. I am honored to serve as this year's Honorary Co-Chair. I commend your efforts to engage so many people, especially our youth, to find positive outlets to express themselves. We all need to do more to promote non-violence, to give young people every opportunity to have their voices heard, to provide as many resources as possible for them to pursue higher education, and to empower and support their success in life. Thank you for inviting me to join you this year. Yours truly, CONGRESSWOMAN maxinewatersforcongress.com

GOVERNOR GRETCHER WHITMER, MICHIGAN



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LANSING

GARLIN GILCHRIST II LT. GOVERNOR

October 12, 2019

Positive Change Foundation 1220 L. St. NW #100-181 Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the people of Michigan, it is my honor to recognize The Week of Positive Change initiative by the Positive Change Foundation.

Your mission to help educate Michiganders on the importance of violence prevention in our state will leave a lasting positive impact on your community and our state as a whole. We owe it to our fellow community members to create a culture of cooperation and mindful conflict resolution instead of violence, and your work within your community is helping everyone take steps in the right direction. I commend you on your dedication to creating a community where each and every person can live a happy, healthy, and safe life.

I would like to extend my congratulations to you for your hard work in organizing The Week of Positive Change. I send my best wishes for a productive and fulfilling week and for your continued success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Gretchen Whitmer Governor of Michigan

MG: SMB

GEORGE W. ROMNEY BUILDING • 111 SOUTH CAPITOL AVENUE • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909 www.michigan.gov

GOVERNOR TONY EVERS, WISCONSIN

STATE of WISCONSIN OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

WHEREAS; interpersonal violence affects individuals of all ages, backgrounds, income levels, and zip codes, and threatens the safety and security of our state's kids, adults, seniors and families; and

WHEREAS; it is in the best interest of our state and our country to raise awareness about the negative effects of interpersonal violence, so as to facilitate training about conflict resolution, encourage investments in mental health resources, and to inspire positive change in our communities; and

WHEREAS; the state of Wisconsin is committed to empowering every individual to reach their fullest potential, and joins Black Women for Positive Change and other civic and volunteer organizations and advocates throughout the country to recognize Positive Change, Non-Violence, and Opportunities Week; and

WHEREAS; all Wisconsinites are encouraged to organize community-based events that teach non-violence, conflict resolution, and parenting and life skills, and to promote interventions that lead to violence prevention;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the state of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim October 12 – 20, 2019, as

POSITIVE CHANGE, NON-VIOLENCE, & OPPORTUNITIES WEEK

through the state of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all our citizens.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the state of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 9th day of October 2019.

GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE Secretary of State

y the Governor:

GOVERNOR RALPH NORTHUM, VIRGINIA



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

NATIONAL WEEK OF NON-VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, America's problems with violence has escalated during the last decade affecting families in every walk of life and threatening our national security and the safety of children, youth, adults, seniors, and families; and

WHEREAS, it is in our nation's best interest to increase knowledge and training about conflict resolution, mental health, parenting skills, and non-violence, and to make resources available to youth and adults to contribute to "Changing the Culture of Violence in America;" and

WHEREAS, Dr. Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi, and President Nelson Mandela demonstrated leadership in non-violence and called for peaceful resolution to conflicts and disagreements in order to create more fair and just societies; and

WHEREAS, x-ray technology has advanced the medical field by providing extraordinary imaging of bones, cavities, swallowed objects, blood vessels, lungs, and intestines, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Black Women for Positive Change (BW4PC), a national civic, volunteer organization is calling for a "2019 National Week of Non Violence," during the week of October 12-20, 2019; and

WHEREAS, BW4PC is urging Governors, Mayors, and elected officials to organize workshops in their cities on non-violence in collaboration with elected officials, faith-based leaders, business leaders, national organizations, educators, musicians, rappers, bloggers, athletes, and community leaders; and

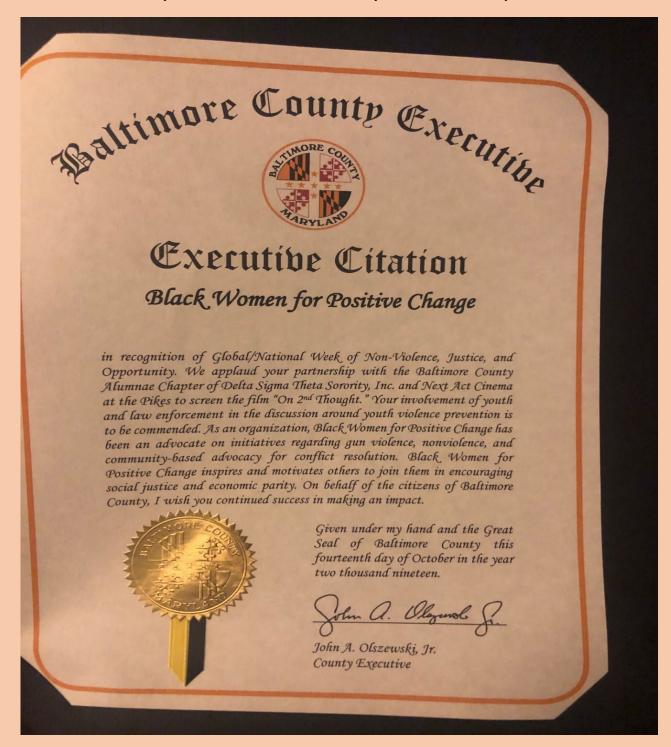
WHEREAS, all Virginians are encouraged to organize community-based events that teach non-violence, conflict resolution, better parenting, and to promote interventions that lead to violence prevention;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ralph S. Northam, do hereby recognize October 12-20, 2019, as NATIONAL WEEK OF NON-VIOLENCE in our COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

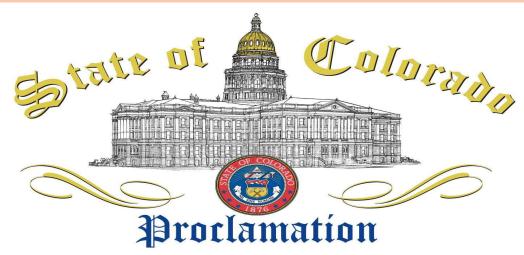


Governor

JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, COUNTY EXECUTIVE, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND



GOVERNOR JARED POLIS, COLORADO



WHEREAS, acts of violence within the US continue to escalate, threatening the safety of our youth, adults, seniors and families; and

WHEREAS, it is in the nation's best interest to continue and increase the knowledge and training regarding conflict resolution, mental illness, diversity training, and non-violence; and

WHEREAS, the youth of today recognize there are opportunities in education, employment, trade schools, internships, and becoming an entrepreneur are viable alternatives to violent and unfulfilled lifestyles; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge and commend the honorable work and character of Colorado's first responders, and recognize that further non-violent deescalation training would better their effectiveness, safety, and the safety of the general public; and

WHEREAS, Black Women for Positive Change, and the Positive Change Foundation, national civic, volunteer organizations are working tirelessly to promote non-violence, justice, and opportunities for Americans;

Therefore, I, Jared Polis, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim the period between October 12, 2019 and October 20, 2019 as

2019 WEEK OF NONVIOLENCE

in the State of Colorado.



GIVEN under my hand and the Executive Seal of the State of Colorado, this twelfth day of October. 2019

Governor

MEDIA COVERAGE



Anti-Violence Agenda Draws Black Women Together For Change

December 6th, 2019



Hon. Daun Hester

By Rosaland Tyler, Associate Editor, New Journal and Guide

Black Women for Positive Change held its eighth annual Violence Prevention Week in 40 cities throughout the U.S. in mid-October and will sponsor more events in 2020. But what will the 11-year-old organization do for an encore since its recent anti-violence program included a peace walk in Pittsburgh that attracted over 800 high school students? In Washington, D.C, hundreds turned out for the "Violence is not Normal" town hall meeting on Oct. 19 at the RISE Demonstration Center.

"We will continue to concentrate on changing the culture of violence and focus on how to increase economic opportunities so that young people understand that they can make other choices about violence," said Daun Hester, a national co-chair of Black Women for Positive Change, and a Norfolk, Va., resident.

"We will also work with Norfolk Police Chief Larry D. Boone as it relates to youth violence," said Hester, referring to the anti-violence committee Boone announced plans to form in August after 10 people were shot and five killed, one in a stabbing, in a one-week span.

"The police chief is concerned," Hester said. "Young people need more opportunities. Instead of complaining, I want to put a job application in their hands so that they will learn the advantage of responsibility. I also want to stress respect what it really is, and how you can use respect to control your response (in a potentially violent situation). When we do our conference call, we will talk more about what we want to do next year," Hester explained.

"During the course of the year I also plan to talk to students and ask them to take the Peace Pledge because bullying is a big problem in the community," said Hester, who joined the organization in 2011 – (after the multi-ethnic organization which has female and male members – changed its name from Black Women for Obama to Black Women for Positive Change three years after it was launched in 2008).

Many of the organization's members are local community leaders like Hester. She made history as the first African American woman elected to Norfolk City Council, where she served from 1996-2010, and was vice mayor from 2004-2008. She was a Democratic member of the Virginia House of Delegates, having won a special election on Dec. 18, 2012, in the 89th district in Norfolk. In 2010, Hester unsuccessfully ran for mayor against the incumbent, Paul D. Fraim. In November 2017, she was elected Norfolk treasurer after winning 54 percent of the vote. She worked for Norfolk Public Schools for 22 years.

In other words, Hester's high profile brings the non-profit's "couple of hundred members nationwide" sharply into focus. Some of its members are pictured on its website including Charlene Butts Ligon, who wrote the book, "Fearless" about her mother Evelyn Butts, a local civic organizer. Ligon is a Norfolk native, a retired Air Force master sergeant, and lives in Bellevue, Neb., with her husband Robert.

The website also includes a photo of Dr. Amelia Ross-Hammond, a retired Norfolk State University professor who served on Virginia Beach City Council from 2012-2016. She is also the founder and chairman of the African American Cultural Center of Virginia Beach.

Black Women for Positive Change has two goals, said co-chair Dr. Stephanie Myers, who resides in Washington, D.C., and helped launch the original organization in 2008. "Our leaders develop violence prevention events. And our leaders continue to strengthen and expand opportunities for people to climb the economic ladder." Myers served as a presidential appointee for 12 years and authorized the first U.S. commercial space launch of a privately owned rocket. The author of "Invisible Queen," Myers is also the vice president of R.J. Myers Publishing and Consulting Co., a minority-owned small business in the District of Columbia.

According to the CDC, homicide is the leading cause of death among African American adolescent males to the point that one researcher characterized it as a national health problem. African American teens are three to five times more likely than Caucasian youth to be murder victims, more likely to be victims of robbery, and aggravated assault.

"Moreover, African American teenagers commit about 80 percent of the violent crimes perpetrated against African Americans between the ages of 12 and 19, and 90 percent of the offenders and the victims are male," Anthony D. King wrote in a 1997 report titled "Understanding Violence among Young African American Males: An Afrocentric Perspective."

King added, "These trends are not new. African American males of all ages have had one of the highest, if not the highest, homicide in the nation for almost 100 years. What appears to be unique about the present situation is the extensive involvement of adolescent and young adult African American males in violent activities. Nevertheless, statistically speaking, violence has always been one of the leading public health problems for African American male adolescents and young adults."

The problem is a 2014 Media Matters study showed that NYC media coverage of African American suspects was way out of proportion to African American arrest rates. This means that while the media reported on murder,

theft, and assault cases in which African Americans were suspects, the coverage rate far outpaced the actual arrest rates for these crimes.

Numerous experts argue violence is a complex problem. The problem stretches back through history Jennifer Rae Taylor said in a May 16 article posted on the American Bar Association website. She pointed to mob violence as well as the violence that many individuals experienced during the struggle for civil rights.

Taylor asked, "Did this lay the groundwork for the inequality and injustice we face today? Myers acknowledged that violence is not a new problem. "Yes, the issue of historic and current violence is a major problem facing America today," she said. "This is what we must change: The culture of violence. However, we went from slavery to independence, so the point is we know it is possible to change the culture of this nation. We have to focus on it and do it to save the lives of people from all backgrounds."

Myers added, "We are a multicultural and intergenerational organization. We have members who are working or retired. We also have a lot young people and we are an interfaith organization."

The non-profit aims to make a dent in the problem and its website contains many resources including two videos that offer alternatives to violence: "Drop," and "On Second Thought."

Christian (c-steeze) Suttons, a 22-year-old University of the District junior who is majoring in business management, described the recent Violence Prevention Week, he attended in Washington, D.C. in mid-October. "It was very empowering to attend the town hall meeting in Washington, D.C.," he said. "I enjoyed the panel discussions and the different strategies that the panelists offered."

Suttons, who presented some of his poetry at the weeklong event, added, "So what are some of the lessons I learned that stick in my mind? I learned some kids don't have an extensive vocabulary and it can lead to violence when they are in public and acting aggressively. That lesson stood out. You need to educate your kid so that he learns how to use his mind as a weapon so he learns how to use words positively instead of negatively."

On a scale of 10, Suttons said he would rate the recent conference at 9. "It was well organized, he said. "People on the panel were well informed and conducted themselves in a professional manner. The people who attended were pushing for change in their community. They want to improve people's lives. I feel everybody shared the same mindset: How can we make a change and turn things around in our area?"

Another student who attended the recent conference in Washington, D.C. is Corbin Flaherty. He said the recent conference helped him mull over alternatives to violence. "They had slides and speakers who discussed violence," said Flaherty, 16, an honor roll sophomore at Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, D.C.

"They each told their own stories," Flaherty said, citing one his favorite speakers. "Susan Bro (mother of Heather Heyer, who was killed at the August 2017 white supremacist rally in Charlottesville) told us how her daughter was killed in Virginia for protesting white supremacy. Her story touched me because I feel we should be able to have these kinds of discussions without violence."



Penn Hills School District celebrates annual antiviolence week



Michael DiVittorio | Wednesday, October 23, 2019 11:59 p.m.

Penn Hills School District students pledged to support peace and share messages designed to curb violence.

More than 800 high-schoolers voluntarily signed a pledge and created a non-violence link displayed in the cafeteria.

Elementary students created anti-violence artwork and talked with their teachers about what peace means to them.

Linton Middle School as well as the high school and elementary students and staff participated in peace walks.

Members of the high school's student council, Black Student Union and Students Against Destructive Decisions also visited homerooms for peace discussions.

These were just some of the many efforts geared toward positivity during the district's Week of Positive Change, Non-Violence & Opportunities Oct. 12-20.

"The week went very well," high school Principal Eric Kostic. "We are fortunate to have so many student leaders that are driven to make Penn Hills High School a special place.

"We believe it is important to focus on academics, provide opportunities for growth and communicate central messages in regards to mutual respect, anti-bias and non-violence whenever the opportunity presents itself."

More information about the week, including videos of peace walks, was posted on the district's Twitter page, <u>@PennHillsSD</u>. Penn Hills Elementary Ms Erdelyi's 2nd Grade Peace Walk <u>#thisispennhills #community #pledgeforpeace #pennhillshighschool #pennhillsschooldistrict</u> @Penn Hills Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania https://t.co/juDoSc0mwq

— PHSD (@PennHillsSD) <u>October 18, 2019</u> *Michael DiVittorio is a Tribune-Review staff writer. You can contact Michael at 412-871-2367, mdivittorio@tribweb.com or via Twitter*.



WENDY'S WINDOW: Black Women For Positive Change

By Wendy Gladney

Published October 24, 2019



Wendy Gladney

Black Women for Positive Change (BW4PC) is a national policy-focused network of predominately African American women and "Good Brothers" from various states here in the U.S. Its primary goals are to positively contribute to ideas and methods that can strengthen and expand the American Middle/Working class, with an emphasis on the African American community; and secondly to change the culture of violence in America. BW4PC was started by and is under the leadership of Dr. Stephanie Myers and the Honorable Daun Hester.

October 12–20 was the 8th Annual Week of Positive Change across the country emphasizing non-violence, justice and opportunities. Here in the Southern California area, Congresswoman Maxine Waters served as the co-Chair. Other Los Angeles leaders included Diane Mitchell Henry, the Honorable Jan Perry and me. Our goal is to find positive ways to express oneself, especially for our youth. With the current climate in our world today, non-violence and justice are difficult topics. With police shootings still occurring against African Americans and negative race relations, the question becomes what can we do to make a positive change and provide hope?

We are aware of the Dallas police officer Amber Guyger who shot and killed Botham Jean when she claimed to mistake his apartment for hers, thinking he was an intruder. More recently, Atatiana Jefferson, a 28-year-old Black pre-med graduate was killed inside her own home when a White cop shot her through her window. The cop never identified himself and Ms. Jefferson's nephew saw her murdered in cold blood. Although the police officer resigned and has been charged with murder, the community is still looking for answers and is seeking justice in the form of "vigorous prosecution and appropriate sentencing." When, and more importantly, how does all this unnecessary violence stop?

During this current administration, there has been a rise in shootings and various hate crimes. Rhetoric from the top has influenced people and has incited violence. The term "Make America Great Again" means for some, "make America White again." We must reach an understanding that America is a diverse nation with people

from across the globe. At one time or another, we all either came here for a better life or were forced (slavery) here to help make this country a better place. Just about all our ancestors (except for the Native Americans) came from somewhere else in pursuit of opportunities. We must learn to live together with mutual understanding and respect for our differences.

I believe in order to make positive change, decrease violence, and provide opportunities for everyone, there must be a paradigm shift. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." In order to make this shift, there needs to be more training around diversity and inclusion. We also must mandate "Sensitivity Training" for all public servants (police, fire, EMT, politicians and everyone who interfaces directly with the public). It wouldn't be a bad idea if all businesses mandated sensitivity training to help make the workplace a better environment. What are you willing to do to help promote a culture of nonviolence and justice for all?

Healing Without Hate: It's a choice. It's a lifestyle. Pass it on!

Visit www.WendyEnterprises.com, www.SeasonofGreatness.com and www.forgivingforliving.org to learn more. Wendy is an international coach, consultant, author and speaker.

Note: Wendy Gladney is an Active Member of Black Women for Positive Change





A Community Newspaper Serving San Bernardino, Riverside & Los Angeles Counties

In

affiliation with Positive Change Foundation Black Women for Positive Change "Changing the Culture of Violence in America and the World"

Posted by **sbamericannews**

November 27, 2019

U. S. Cities Lead Eighth Annual Week Of Positive Change, Non-Violence & Opportunities-Endorsed By Five (5) U.S. Governors

Washington, DC – Black Women for Positive Change (BWFPC) organized the Eighth Annual Week of Positive Change, Non-Violence and Opportunities, October 12-20, 2019 and beyond, in 9 cities in the United States, and London. National BWFPC Co-Chairs Dr. Stephanie Myers and Daun S. Hester stated, "Our dynamic leaders put together events to 'Change the Culture of Violence in America, and the World'. The mission was to help thousands of adults and youth understand 'Violence Is Not Normal' and how to find ways to de-escalate and prevent violence."

The 2019 Week of Non-Violence was endorsed by Governor Janet T. Mills, Maine; Governor Ralph Northum, Virginia; Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Michigan; Governor Jared Polis, Colorado; Governor Tony Evers, Wisconsin; and Baltimore County Executive John Olszeweski. Partners and Sponsors include Trusted Inc., National Association of Black Nurses, Moms Demand Action, Highmark Inc., Saint and Streetfighter Foundation, 100 Fathers Inc., Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Pittsburgh, Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington, Pittsburgh Black Nurses Association, and Duquesne University.

The following are the participating cities and leaders: In Baltimore, Danyell Smith hosted the Screening of Violence Prevention Film; in Birmingham, Carthenia Jefferson, Esq. held a "Stop the Violence" Conference; In Pittsburgh, Diane Powell organized a Parental Engagement in Violence Prevention; In Penn Hills, Pa., Dr. Nancy Hines led 800 students in a Peace Walk & Peace Pledge; In Phoenix, LaTanya Mathis, RN organized Justice and Opportunities for Us by Us; In Washington, D.C., Dawn Williams, Esq. conducted a "Violence Is Not Normal" Workshop; In London, UK, Zhana held a Blogging Carnival for Non-Violence; in Cincinnati, Lisa Hughes was set to hold a Peace Dialogue: Nonviolence and Peace (pending); In Los Angeles, Diane Mitchell-Henry, was set to organize a "Violence Is Not Normal" Millennial Discussion (pending).

Honorary Chair for 2019 Week of Positive Change, Non-Violence and Opportunities was Honorable Eric Holder Esq.; Honorary Vice Chairs Congresswoman Gwen Moore (WI); and Congresswoman Maxine Waters (CA); Honorary Co-Chairs Eric J. Williams, DNP, RN, CNE, FAAN; Michelle Bernard, Esq., MSNBC Reporter; Kemba Smith, Social Justice Activist; and Dr. Charles, Steele, President/CEO of SCLC. National Webmaster Charlene Ligon, Omaha, NE, Facebook Manager Patricia Duncan, Denver, CO. **City Leaders available for interviews.



With a Growing Number of Children Shot Each Year, This Group Fights the Normalization of Violence

By The Charleston Chronicle | October 1, 2019 | 0



Two-year-old Ivory West Jr. was shot and killed and his father was wounded in an apparent robbery at their Harris County, Texas home in July.

By Barbara Reynolds

(TriceEdneyWire.com) – On average, about 19 children are shot daily in America and about 1,300 youths under age 18 die yearly from firearms with about 6,000 going to the hospital for non-fatal gun injuries, says the 2017 Journal of Pediatrics.

In one bloody weekend in Chicago this year, 60 people were shot, seven murdered, in all 1,998 people shot and 393 dead from firearms so far this year. In DC, home of the Pentagon that safeguards the world, 98 people were murdered this year with six of the victims younger than 18; one, bludgeoned to death, was only 2 years old.

To some, these are just numbers, statistics, nothing exceptional or out of the ordinary – if their significance can be judged by the time spent on these tragedies in presidential debates, news coverage or from the pulpits.

Such tragedies falling beneath the care line, are what keeps Stephanie Myers trying to shine the spotlight and national attention on violence, an urgent matter of life or death. It is why, as co-founder of Black Women for Positive Change, she is co-hosting a town hall meeting on October 19 seeking solutions. The panel is called Violence is Not Normal—which raises the quick question of why it has become so normal, so accepting, that the idea that it is normal has to be refuted.

Looking deeper into the statistics, it is easy to see why Myers and others might wonder is race the reason for the apathetic response? The same Journal of Pediatrics' Study shows that black children suffer the most from gun violence overall, making up 35 percent of its child victims in the United States, even though only about 13 percent of Americans are black. "About 400 black children under the age of 18 are thought to be killed in firearm homicides each year. In fact, black children are about 10 times more likely to die in gun murders as their white and Asian-American counterparts."

Despite these heartbreaking facts, what pulls black murders out of the no-news file are when they serve a larger politicized issue, such as a white cop shooting an unarmed black person, but when its black on black homicide, the tears and hurts are hidden behind a wall of apathy, shame, fear or frustration.

Stephanie Myers is trying to break through this wall by making "violence is not normal, "a household word that becomes the mantra of teens, law enforcement, faith institutions, schools and all parts of society. Myers, along with Daun S. Hester, are co-chairs of Black Women for Positive change and the Positive Change Foundation. Their Town Hall will meet from 2:30-5:00 pm/EST on the D.C. campus of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, 1100 Alabama Avenue, S.E. Myers is hoping that her national group of partners can help create a platform that each murder will be treated with the sensitivity that the fallen could be our own mothers, our daughters or sons, "While some of us have not suffered personally from the tragedies, we do not want this to get to our homes before we take it personally enough to act," she says.

Susan Bro is one of the panelists. Her daughter Heather Heyer was murdered when a member of the Klan-Nazi hate group ran an automobile into the crowd of peaceful protestors in 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia .

Other speakers include: Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad, Howard University Professor. Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Attorney Donald M. Temple, Kent Alford, director of Prince Georges Capital Region University Medical Systems and Care and Queen Afi, mental health/Domestic Violence consultant. Youth will also participate from the Jim Vance Media Program at Archbishop Carroll High School, Luke Seymour Academy and the Purpose Program.

The town hall meeting is one of many events Myers and Hester, along with Good Brothers, such as Frank Malone head of 100 fathers, have led in an effort to Change the Culture of Violence nationally and globally. This year they will be holding their eighth annual Week of Non-Violence, which has chapters in eleven states as well as the UK.

Over the years the group has produced three films, On Second Thought, the Red Flags of Domestic violence and The Drop, stressing the importance of youth getting an education, was viewed in 52 schools in 18 states. Their workshops, media events, Congressional meetings, film screenings and essay contests all seek ways to de-escalate violence, control anger, eliminate racism and to respond to implicit bias.

Nationwide, the public is invited to participate in the free annual Week of Positive Change, nonviolence and Opportunities, October 12-20, 2019. Honorary Chair is former U.S. Atty. Gen. Eric Holder; Vice Chair is Rep. Gwen Moore (WI); and Honorary Co-Chairs are MSNBC reporter Michelle Bernard, Esq., Social Justice Activist Kemba Smith, and Dr. Charles, Steele, President/CEO of SCLC.

The week's activities in cities around the nation, will provide opportunities for individuals, organizations, youth, millennials, faith institutions, business leaders, athletes and educators to organize large and small events, around the United States and the world that promote non-violence, de-escalation, peace and getting along.

To register, sign up at <u>www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org</u>.



Chicago Defender News

EIGHTH ANNUAL WEEK OF POSITIVE CHANGE, NON-VIOLENCE & OPPORTUNITIES IN CITIES ACROSS THE USA — OCTOBER 12-20, 2019

• Staff Editor September 26, 2019

Washington, DC — Black Women for Positive Change announces the Eighth Annual Week of Positive Change, Non-Violence and Opportunities, October 12-20, 2019, in cities across the United States and the United Kingdom.

Dr. Stephanie Myers and Daun S. Hester, National Co-Chairs, of Black Women for Positive Change said in a joint statement, "Each city and community must stop the crisis of violence affecting our youth, families, communities, cities and our nation. But, first we must 'Change the Culture of Violence' among men, women, Millennials, teenagers, children, law enforcement officers and street gangs. In today's society, people have come to believe that violence is normal-and it is not. We call on organizations, schools, faith institutions, Elected Officials and everyone to organize non-violence activities, to stop violence in their communities."
In 2019, the Honorary Chair of the Week of Positive Change, Non-Violence and Opportunities is Honorable Eric Holder Esq.; Honorary Vice Chair is Congresswoman Gwen Moore (WI); and Honorary Co-Chairs are MSNBC Reporter Michelle Bernard, Esq., Social Justice Activist Kemba Smith, and Dr. Charles, Steele, President/CEO of SCLC.

Non-Violence and violence prevention activities will be held in cities around the nation, including Baltimore, Maryland; Washington, D.C.; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Phoenix, Arizona; Birmingham, Alabama; Cincinnati, Ohio; Los Angeles, California; Alexandria, Virginia; Maywood, Illinois; United Kingdom, and more... Interested organizations can sign up at www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org.

In Washington, D.C., on Saturday, October 19, 2019, 3 p.m. EST, a 'Violence Is Not Normal' Town Hall Meeting will take place at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital Auditorium, 1100 Alabama Ave SE, WDC. Susan Bro, mother of Heather Heyer-victim of the Charlottesville, Virginia, tragedy, will join a panel of experts to discuss ways to stop violence.

To register for the DC event go to www.eventbrite.com -Violence is Not Normal.



Black Women for Positive Change

Eighth Annual Week of Positive Change, Non-Violence & Opportunities in Cities Across the USA Oct 12 – 20, 2019

September 27, 2019 By MKE Community Journal Leave a Comment



Black Women for Positive Change announces the Eighth Annual Week of Positive Change, Non-Violence and Opportunities, October 12-20, 2019, in cities across the United States and the United Kingdom. Dr. Stephanie Myers and Daun S. Hester, National Co-Chairs, of Black Women for Positive Change said in a joint statement, "Each city and community must stop the crisis of violence affecting our youth, families, communities, cities and our nation. But, first we must 'Change the Culture of Violence' among men, women, Millennials, teenagers, children, law enforcement officers and street gangs. In today's society, people have come to believe that violence is normal-and it is not!

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#violenceisnotnormal

FB: BlackWomen4PositiveChange

GOOD MORNING WASHINGTON, WJLA TV 7



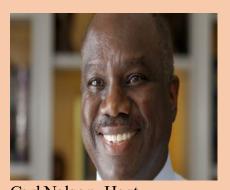
Monday, October 14th 2019--8th Annual Week of Positive Change focuses on how to stop violence in DC. (ABC7)

WASHINGTON (ABC7) — This week Black women for Positive Change is hosting their 8th Annual Week of Positive Change to call on organizations, schools, faith institutions, elected officials and everyone to organize non-violence activities to stop violence in their communities. This weekend a "Violence is Not Normal" town hall meeting will be held in D.C. at R.I.S.E Demonstration Center 2730 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE DC 20032, to discuss ways to stop violence. Criminal justice attorney Dawn Williams joined us with details on the event.

Link to Interview With Dawn Williams, Esq.

https://wjla.com/features/good-morning-washington/8th-annual-week-of-positive-change-focuses-on-how-to-stop-violence-in-dc

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Carl Nelson, Host Carl Nelson Show

GUESTS ON CARL NELSON SHOW

Marcus Hughes, Co-Chair, DMV and Millennial Committees

Rev. Barbara Reynolds, Chaplain, BW4PC

Dawn Williams, Co-Chair, DMV and Millennial Committees

Queen Afi, Domestic Violence Counselor

Dr. Stephanie Myers, National Co-Chair, Black Women for Positive Change

Frank Malone, President, 100 Fathers, Inc.



Violence Is Not Normal Town Hall Meeting October 19, 2019

September 6, 2019 By MKE Community Journal Leave a Comment

Washington, DC – The Positive Change Foundation in affiliation with Black Women for Positive Change, are hosting a "Violence is Not Normal" Town Hall Meeting, October 19, 2019, from 2:30 – 5:00 pm/EST on the campus of St. Elizabeths Hospital, 1100 Alabama Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20032. Dr. Stephanie Myers and Daun S. Hester, National Co-Chairs, of Black Women for Positive Change said in a joint statement, "We are hosting this dialog to emphasize that violence cannot be considered normal in families, communities, schools, faith-institutions and other parts of society. We must find ways to stop violence in America, and around the world."

Moderator for the "Violence Is Not Normal" panel will be Harold T. Fisher, Host, The Daily Drum, WHUR-96.3 FM, Howard University. Panel of speakers will include Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Howard University; Susan Bro, mother of Heather Heyer, victim in the fatal 2017 tragedy in Charlottesville, Virginia; Attorney Donald M. Temple, Lawyer/Advocate and Host, Lovetology Jazz Show, WPFW; and Kent Alford, Director, Prince Georges/Capital Region University of Maryland Medical Systems and 2020 Keynote Speaker, International Summit on Advanced Nursing and Care. Youth will participate from the Jim Vance Media Program, at Archbishop Carroll High School, Luke Seymour Academy, and the Promise Program. The Town Hall is an opportunity for the public to join in the dialogue about how violence impacts them and how to stop it. The Town Hall sponsor is Trusted Inc. and Partners are 100 Fathers Inc., Moms Demand Action DC Chapter, Alliance of Concerned Men, National Black Nurses Association, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and other local organizations.

Nationwide, the public is invited to participate in the free annual "Week of Positive Change, Non-Violence and Opportunities" October 12-20, 2019.

Honorary Chair is Honorable Eric Holder Esq.; Honorary Vice Chair is Congresswoman Gwen Moore (WI); and Honorary Co-Chairs are MSNBC Reporter Michelle Bernard, Esq., Social Justice Activist Kemba Smith, and Dr. Charles, Steele, President/CEO of SCLC. The week's activities in cities around the nation, will provide opportunities for individuals, organizations, youth, millennials, faith institutions, business leaders, athletes and educators to organize large and small events, around the United States and the world, that promote non-violence, de-escalation, peace and getting along.

Sign Up at www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org

For free registration and tickets for the 'Violence Is Not Normal' Town Hall, go to <a href="www.eventbrite.com\hat{A}\) – Violence is Not Normal. For information call Dr. Cherie Ward, Project Coordinator Consultant, 202-246-0017. JOIN THE DIALOG AT HASHTAG: #ViolenceIsNotNormal

FB: BlackWomen4PositiveChange Filed Under: National News

OUTREACH TO FAITH LEADERS

FAITH LEADERS AT DC PEACEMAKERS SUMMIT



Rev. Reynolds, Chaplain of Black Women for Positive Change, urges audience to promote non-violence and leads the Peace Pledge





Bishop Alfred Owens and Good Brother Imam Talib Shareef Pray for End to Violence







Participants read the BWFPC Peace Pledge at the Peacemakers Summit

SOCIAL MEDIA

SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET OUTREACH

www.blackwomenforpositivechange.org

www.weekofnonviolence.org

Facebook: Weekofnonviolence

Instagram: _blackwomenforpositivechange

Twitter: violenceisnotnormal#

Facebook Outreach: FB: Blackwomenforpositivechange



BW4PC Webmaster: Charlene Ligon, Omaha, Nebraska



Pat Duncan, BW4PC Corresponding Secretary and Facebook Manager, Denver, Colorado

FB: Blackwomenforpositivechange

2019 GLOBAL, AND UNITED STATES CITY REPORTS

UNITED KINGDOM BLOGGING CARNIVAL ON NON-VIOLENCE

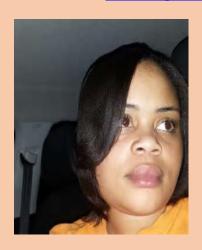
United Kingdom Blogging Carnival for NonViolence



Zhana, Chair,

Zhana is the publisher of the annual Blogging Carnival for Nonviolence and the author of Success Strategies for Black People and Affirmations for Parents.

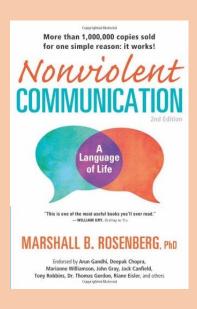
Young Woman Shot by Cops inside Her Own Home



I am so sad to be starting off the Blogging Carnival for Nonviolence 2019 with this terrible, tragic story. But this is the reality. These are the times in which we live. Another Black person shot by the police, apparently for no reason. Once again, I ask, do Black lives really matter?

I am so upset and outraged about this. Fortunately, there is something we can do.

We need solutions that work.



I am passionate about Nonviolent Communication (NVC).

NVC changed my life and changed me as a person. It is changing lives all over the world. Go here to read more.

Please share this with your networks and please leave your comment on my blog post. Thanks.

Empathy in a Difficult and Dangerous World



Empathy means to stand in another person's shoes, i.e. to see things from their perspective.

EMPATHY is at the heart of Nonviolent Communication (NVC). In an NVC context, empathy means to connect with feelings and needs - our own and other people's.

9-Year Old Girl Commits Suicide after Months of Being Bullied at Her School

This is one of those terrible, tragic stories that could have been prevented.

McKenzie Adams, a 4th grader at U.S. Jones Elementary School in Alabama, died last week after she hung herself in their home. Her family blames racist bullying that apparently occurred at her school.



Constant, unrelenting bullying - this may be what drove this little girl to take her own life. This is just one more reason why we need nonviolence and NVC (Nonviolent Communication). NVC is about **EMPATHY**.

ALABAMA

Birmingham, Alabama City Leader

ARIZONA



Carthenia Jefferson, Esq., Representing Birmingham Chapter,
National Black Nurses Association



La Tanya Mathis, Chair, Phoenix, Arizona

Justice & Opportunities: For Us, By Us



When: October 19, 2019 all-day

Where: Tanner Square Office Building

700 E Jefferson Street 2nd Floor Phoenix AZ 85034

Contact: LaTanya Mathis, 6022495667

Join the Black Nurses Association, Greater Phoenix Area for our 4th annual Week of Non Violence Event 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM PT. Open and pane. discussions will take place as we hear from some amazing speakers on a variety of topics that will ignite our community to foster change.

Justice & Opportunities: For Us, By Us



Edward Carter (Red Shirt) and Linwood "Shaka" Gaskins (Blue Shirt), Sons of Godlop; Gwen Payton (group tan jacket); LaNee Javet CEO and Founder of J. Mogul Enterprise, (Red top, black pants); LaTanya Mathis, President BNAGPA (gold top); Chekena Carter, Vice President BNAGPA - black top; Kendra Harrison founder of Cove Collaborative LLC, (Group pic print top jeans)

The possibilities for an innocent man having hope and giving hope to others through education and advocacy There are solutions for people who are overwhelmed, underserved, and challenged by their social determinants of health. We must all be engaged in seeking and implementing these solutions as a community and not simply for ourselves

Black Mothers in our communities are advocating on behalf of children so they can get educated and end the school to prison pipeline. Khalil Rushdan Founder Our World Universal LLC, Khalil was wrongfully convicted, and received a life sentence. After serving 15 years his conviction was overturned. Since being released Khalil has been on the frontline advocating for changes to reentry housing and skilled employment training policies that will provide "real-time" solutions and empowerment for those being related from prison (not in the picture)

Continued Phoenix, Arizona



Kendra Harrison founder of Cove Collaborative LLC, focused on how to empower individuals to take action in their own career. She information on side-hustle in the gig economy. Kendra believes that when each person finds meaning in their work that pays a living wage, it benefits the individual, their family and the community. (Group pic print top jeans)



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DMV Co-Chairs

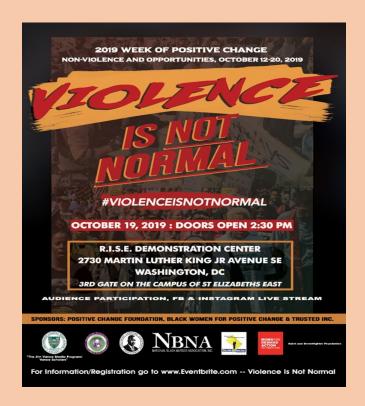






Dawn Williams, Esq. Frank Malone Marcus Hughes
Co- Chairs, District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia
Black Women for Positive Change







AUDIENCE SPOKE OUT ABOUT VIOLENCE IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS







Audience took the Peace Pledge

"Violence Is Not Normal" Town Hall Inter-Generational Working Team, Panelists, Partners and Students, Saturday, October 19, 2019 RISE CENTER, Washington, D.C.



(L-R, Back Row) SCLC; Lisa Gordon, Moms Demand Action; Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad, Howard University; Queen Afi, Domestic Violence Consultant; CeLillianne Green; Spoken Word Artist; Susan Bro, Heather Heyer Foundation; Dr. Cherie Ward, Producer and Director, Jim Vance Media Program; Frank Malone, Founder, 100 Fathers Inc.

(L-R, Middle Row) Harold T. Fisher, Moderator, Daily Drum Host; Marcus Hughes, DMV Co-Chair; Dr. Stephanie E. Myers, Nat. Co-Chair, Black Women for Positive Change; Dawn Williams, Esq. Chair, Violence Is Not Normal Committee; Donald Temple, Esq., Criminal Justice Advocate.

Vance Scholars from Jim Vance Media Program and Hoderny's Heroes, Archbishop Carroll High School (R-L, Front Row) Zenobia Bey-Braye; Alaina Wheeler, Corbin Flaherty, Joy 'L Beatty, Tayla Perry, Sumaya Persaud, Ijeoma Okere, and Hoderny's Hero, Marcia Rector.

Archbishop Carroll High School, Jim Vance Scholars, Dr. Cherie Ward, Director of Jim Vance Scholars and "Violence Is Not Normal" Project Coordinator/Producer.



Harold Fisher, Moderator



Poet Christenian Sets Tone



Police Chief Newsham Agrees Violence Is Not Normal



Rapper C-Steeze Speaks Out







Kent Alford, PG County, Maryland, Capital Region Medical System, & Colleagues Role Play How Patients Provoke Violence—Demonstrate De-Escalation of Violence Methods

VIOLENCE IS NOT NORMAL

Speakers/Panelists



Harold T. Fisher, Moderator; Host, The Daily Drum, WHUR-96.3FM Howard University Anthropology, Howard University



Bahiyyah Muhammad, Ph.D., Ast Professor, Sociology and



Susan Bro, Mother of Heather Heyer, Co-Founder, Heather Heyer Foundation



Attorney Donald M. Temple Lawyer/ Advocate & Host, Lovetology Jazz Show, WPFW-89.3 FM



Kent Alford, Director, Prince Georges Capital Region University of Maryland Medical Systems



Queen Afi, Mental Health/ Domestic Violence Consultant











Maryland

Baltimore City Leaders



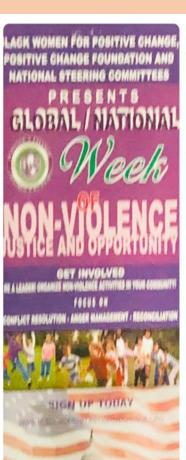




Danyell Smith, Chair, Baltimore Crystal Francis, Co-Chair

Katrina Coleman, Co-Chair

BLACK WOMEN FOR POSITIVE CHANGE BALTIMORE CHAPTER, PRESENTED "ON SECOND THOUGHT" FILM SCREENING









(Left to right) Dr. Hattie Washington; Maryland State Speaker Adrianne Jones, Film Producer Chaka ;Balamani; BW4PC National Co-Chair Dr. Stephanie Myers and BW4PC Baltimore Chair Danyell Smith.

Maryland State Speaker Adrianne Jones

"On Second Thought" film director Chaka Balamani and Dr. Stephanie Myers, National Co-Chair, Black Women for Positive Change



Community Forum was held at the Next Act Cinema, 921 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville, MD. Officers from the Baltimore Police Department discussed law enforcement, how to handle Police interactions, etc. Crystal Francis, BW4PC Co-Chair, served as Moderator.

Certificates of appreciation presented to Panelists.

OHIO

Cincinnati, Ohio City Leader





Lisa Hughes, Chair, Llsa@wiseheartswillingspirits.com

Peace News October 2019--Peace Dialogue: Nonviolence and Peace in The Beloved Community Plus Other Local Events for Peace

Join us for the October Peace Dialogue: *Nonviolence and Peace in the Beloved Community* on Thursday, October 17 from 11:30 to 1:30, at the Symmes Township Library, 11850 Enyart Rd., Loveland, Ohio 45140.

- Take a look at the U.N. International Day of Peace website: https://internationaldayofpeace.org/get-involved/nonviolence/
- 2. Come prepared to share your beliefs, thoughts, and practices for living a nonviolent life.
- 3. RSVP by Wednesday, October 16, if you plan to attend: Email worklife@fuse.net or Call 513.677.9448

"Nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence but also internal violence of spirit. You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him." -Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

According to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., The Beloved Community is a realistic, achievable goal that could be attained by a critical mass of people committed to and trained in the philosophy and methods of nonviolence. The core value of The Beloved Community, "understanding, redeeming goodwill for all," does not begin by discriminating between worthy and unworthy people. It begins by loving others for their sakes and makes no distinction between friend and enemy. It seeks to preserve and create community.

"Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love." **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr."**

What will you do each day to demonstrate your commitment to the Beloved Community and to welcome others? See attachment, "Becoming the Beloved Community, An Appreciative Approach."

Resources for Discovering The Beloved Community

- The Beloved Community Scroll down to http://thekingcenter.org/king-philosophy/ The King Center
- Becoming The Beloved Community: https://www.episcopalchurch.org/beloved-community
- Traits of The Beloved Community: http://www.gcorr.org/25-traits-of-the-beloved-community/
- Practice Peace Resource Guide: This guide lists a variety of resources, each with practices for peace. Use the Peace Plan, found on the last page of this guide to focus your reading, research, and practice. http://www.wiseheartswillingspirits.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Practice-Peace-Resource-Guide October-2019.pdf

<u>Future Dialogues</u>

• Thursday, January 16, 2020 11:30 a.m.--1:30 p.m.

Dialogues are held at the Symmes Township Library, 11850 Enyart Rd., Loveland, Ohio 45140.

October 12-20, 2019, Week of Positive Change, Non-Violence, and Opportunities

"Opportunities As Alternatives to Violence," The Week of Non-Violence, Justice & Opportunities is an opportunity for individuals, organizations, youth, Millennials, Faith Institutions, business leaders, athletes, Educators and everyone else to organize large and small events to promote non-violence, peace and getting along.

http://weekofnonviolence.org/

Saturday, October 26, 10:30 a.m., Moms Demand Action Monthly Meeting. Join us for what promises to be a great meeting. We will have Rachel Coyle from "How Things Work at the Ohio State House" as our guest speaker. Her knowledge of the statehouse in Columbus will be invaluable to us as we work to end gun violence. Christ Episcopal Church, 20 W 1st St., Dayton, OH 45402. <a href="https://act.everytown.org/event/moms-demand-action-event/26182/signup/?source=mda-web--event-search&akid=&zip="https://act.everytown.org/event/moms-demand-action-event/26182/signup/?source=mda-web--event-search&akid=&zip="https://act.everytown.org/event/moms-demand-action-event/26182/signup/?source=mda-web--event-search&akid=&zip="https://act.everytown.org/event/moms-demand-action-event/26182/signup/?source=mda-web--event-search&akid=&zip="https://act.everytown.org/event/moms-demand-action-event/26182/signup/?source=mda-web--event-search&akid=&zip="https://act.everytown.org/event/moms-demand-action-event/26182/signup/?source=mda-web--event-search&akid=&zip="https://act.everytown.org/event/moms-demand-action-event/26182/signup/?source=mda-web--event-search&akid=&zip="https://act.everytown.org/event/moms-demand-action-event/26182/signup/?source=mda-web--event-search&akid=&zip="https://act.everytown.org/event/moms-demand-action-event/26182/signup/?source=mda-web--event-search&akid=&zip="https://act.everytown.org/event/moms-demand-action-event/26182/signup/?source=mda-web--event-search&akid=&zip="https://act.everytown.org/event/moms-demand-action-event/26182/signup/?source=mda-web--event-search&akid=&zip="https://act.everytown.org/event/moms-demand-action-event/26182/signup/?source=mda-web--event/search&akid=&zip="https://act.everytown.org/event/moms-demand-action-event/gent/search&akid=&zip="https://act.event/search&akid=&zip="https://act.event/search&akid=&zip="https://act.event/search&akid=&zip="https://act.event/search&akid=&zip="https://act.event/search&akid=&zip="https://act.event/search&akid=&zip="https://act.event/search&akid=&zip=

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania City Leaders



Diane Powell, Chair, Pittsburgh



Katrina Coleman, Co-Chair

PITTSBURGH SPONSORS

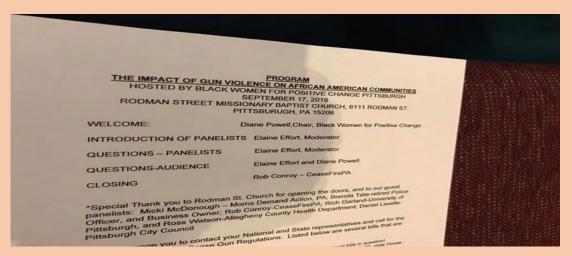




Rodman Missionary Baptist Church

Pittsburgh Black Nurses Association

An "Impact of Gun Violence on African American Communities" Workshop and Discussion was held September 17, 2019, at Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church, Pittsburgh, PA







Diane Powell, Chair of BW4PC Pittsburgh reports, "This workshop was on the Impact of Gun Violence on African American communities, and strategies to advocate for common sense gun regulations. This workshop was held at the Rodman St. Baptist Church in East Liberty.

Panelists included: Councilman Lavelle, retired police officer, Brenda Tate, University of Pittsburgh, Rich Garland, CeaseFire PA Director, Rob Conroy, Moms Demand Action Leader, Micki McDonough, and Allegheny county Health Dept, Manager, Ross Martin.

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2019 WEEK OF POSITIVE CHANGE, NON-VIOLENCE AND OPPORTUNITIES REPORT FROM PENN HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT, PITTSBURGH, PA, PA



Dr. Nancy Hines, Superintendent, Penn Hills School District, Pennsylvania

Penn Hills Elementary (K-4)

- Individual classroom discussions about what a peaceful community looks like were followed by art displays that reflected community attributes and characteristics. A special area in each classroom was designated for display of the Pictures of Peace.
- Each classroom also discussed and signed their PHES Peaceful Community Pledge.
- During the week, kids also worked with teachers on conflict resolution strategies that followed the peaceful community theme.
- The culminating event was a Peace Walk within the school to view the Pictures of Peace that were on display throughout the building.

Linton Middle School (5-8)

- Open discussions were hosted in classrooms and included the following themes: purpose
 of the Week of Non-Violence; examples of violence in our school, community, US, and
 throughout the world; violence based on race, religion, politics, gender, and other; and
 verbal and physical abuse, social media, etc.
- The building also sponsored a project they named #PEACE, whereby students were asked
 to pledge a # to explain how they will display peace during the Week of Non-Violence and
 beyond. Examples were hung throughout the hallways.
- The building also engaged in a ribbon contest that involved students creating their own, unique ribbon that included both a special color and message according to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of awareness ribbons.

Penn Hills High School (9-12)

- Members of Student Council, Black Student Union, and Students Against Destructive Decisions personally visited homerooms for about 30 minutes to share and support messages of non-violence.
- Over 800 students voluntarily signed a peace pledge, following which the kids created a non-violence link that was displayed in the school's cafeteria.
- Their culminating event included a Peace Walk around the building as they chanted the Peace Pledge and also carried a banner that promoted non-violence. Our School Board President
- adjusted her schedule so she could walk with the students!





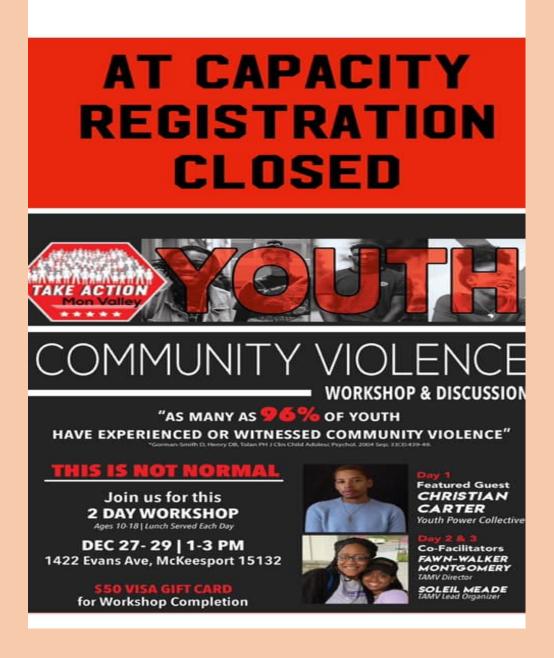
800 Students Participated in The Peace Walk



Students Chanted Peace Pledge, by Black Women for Positive Change



Diane Powell encourages groups in cities across the USA and the world to host "Violence Is Not Normal" events. "It is important for communities to replicate the national 2019 Week of Non-Violence theme, "Violence Is Not Normal." We hope groups will organize events similar to the "Violence Is Not Normal" Townhall held in the District of Columbia during the Week of Positive Change, Non-Violence and Opportunities." We are pleased to see a future "Violence Is Not Normal Event" is scheduled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, December 27-29, 2019."



VIRGINIA



Fannie Allen, Chair, Alexandria, Virginia Max Slover, 2019 Chair, Anti-Bullying Committee "Rise Above It" Workshops Hosted for Youth, Alexandria, Virginia

The Alexandria Mayor's Campaign to End Bullying Committee hosted two workshops for youth teaching them how to deal with conflict and resolve disputes to rise above bullying and other life challenges. The hands-on discussion and group workshops were led by Major Chris Piercy of U.S. Air Force at the Patrick Henry Recreation Center on November 12 and at the Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center, before a group of over 70 Alexandria youth and teens.

The workshops were part of the Mayor's Campaign to End Bullying Committee's annual programs and events that focus on increasing awareness of the negative impacts of bullying and increase the resources and tools available to prevent it in Alexandria.



Major Piercy with workshop participants, MCTEBC members and city staff at Patrick Henry Recreation Center

The local Mayor's Campaign committee was set up former Mayor Euille in 2014, who joined forces with other mayors throughout the country at the U.S. National Conference of Mayors to address the issue of bullying to help improve the community, school climate and improve the quality of life for all. The campaign recognizes bullying as a community issue, that affects everyone from youth to adults. The issue is one that takes everyone to communicate in an open and on-blaming tone that is focused on building positive relationships and working together to support each other. The campaign has been strongly supported by former Mayors William Euille and Allison Silberberg as well as current Mayor Wilson.

The campaign is focused on bullying being seen as a national issue where more than 3.2 million students are victims of bullying each year and where over seventy-one (71%) of students report incidents of bullying as a problem at their schools. In national surveys, one in four teachers see nothing wrong with bullying and is unlikely to intervene in a bullying incident. Some adults consider bullying an acceptable "rite of passage." In Alexandria according to the 2016 ACPS Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 12% of high school students (grades 10 and 12) reported being bullied on school property and 9% reported being bullied electronically. According to the 2016 ACPS, 24% of 8th grade middle school students reported being bullied on school property and 10% reported being bullied online.



Picture # - Major Piercy with workshop participants, MCTEBC members and city staff at Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center. Fannie Allen and Max Slover, Members of BW4PC in photo, front row, far right.

Mac Slover, Chair of the Anti-Bullying Committee stated "these statistics are alarming to us. "Bullying is a problem with serious and negative implications youth and adult face that

should be dealt with by all members of the community." "The committee's initiative involves many agencies, including Alexandria City Public Schools, Department of Recreation, Court Services Unit, Police and Sheriff's Departments, Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria, Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria, Black Women for Positive Change National Organization, community residents and youth working together to address this issue." "Alexandria is fortunate to have a city government that recognizes the bullying is an important issue that they are working to address through its collaborative efforts of so many groups in the city". "Workshops and in school and out of school time programs like we have held over the past several years in the schools and recreation centers, allow us to hear from the youth about the struggles that many of them face each day either at school or in their own private lives." "We will then use their comments to help address ways to address bullying, provide help and support for them." "Our theme is Bullying Free Starts With Me and is so vital for youth and adults to be able find assistance when they are confronted with a situation involving verbal, physical, relationship or social and cyberbullying." "The campaign also encourages anyone who feels they are in a crisis situation to seek help immediately."

The Alexandria, Virginia campaign has several ways that help can be found including the City of Alexandria web site at www.alexandriava.gov/EndBullying, ACPS web site at www.acps.k12.va.us/studentservices/bullying, Safe Place, a 24 hour youth in crisis hotline in the City at 703.746.5400 or text the word SAFE and your current location (address) to 69866 or 4HELP (44357).

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