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Being Aware of Gun Violence Prevention

Shriya Raja

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 48,000 people have died from gun-related injuries in the year 2021 (the most recent year with statistics available). That's 48,000 people who have had their lives cut short with no opportunity to protest or save themselves. Gun violence rates have undoubtedly risen over the last couple of years. School shootings that were once considered rare atrocities are now viewed as common occurrences. What kind of a world do we live in where it is unsafe to simply take a trip to the mall, or even to just send your child to school? What kind of a world can so easily take away a human's right to live their lives without constant fear of death? Gun Violence Prevention month is dedicated to creating awareness about these issues. It is dedicated to stopping the misuse and misinterpretation of the second amendment and ensuring the safety of our communities. In a world filled with uncertainties and doubts, is it really necessary to add our safety to the list? It shouldn't be a question whether or not it is safe to go out with your friends or go shopping with your family. It shouldn't be a question whether or not you can go to the Fourth of July festival in your town. People deserve to live their lives without fear of school shootings or mass atrocities. It is important, now more than ever, to protect our friends and family and to create awareness about the horrendous repercussions of gun violence.



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One Hand Can Make a Difference

Nyreonna Myh'Dhanaeh

Volunteering is an act that is beneficial for so many reasons some of which include higher self-esteem, new skills, new bonds, and, most importantly, a positive impact on the world. You can volunteer your time to make the universe a better place in a few ways. You can improve your local area by cleaning the environment, helping a food bank, or working with children, animals, and older adults. Ask around at local organizations or community centers to see how you can offer a hand. Volunteering online is a wonderful way to help out from the comfort of your home. You can tutor online, write for organizations, translate languages, and much more. These programs allow you to volunteer and make an impact worldwide, each with a different focus.



Meet the CEO

Felix
Omongobale

Lori Hoff, the CEO and founder of Outreach Ministries International (OMI)

hails from Washington, New Jersey. She has worked with the State of New Jersey as a Therapist for at-risk youth, helping them to stay in school and become productive members of the society. Lori is a leader, mentor, and team member. She is very passionate about helping the youth live free from pain and have healthy relationships. She has raised young people off the street and has been affectionately called Mama Lori by several youth which she considers as honor. Lori started OMI, a non-profit organization for youth, to remove stigma of mental health. Lori has spent several years supporting youth, and, in June 2015, launched National Youth Week, a week-long celebration helping the youth to recognize their potential and purpose.



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

This month is National Youth Week and our theme is unstoppable. We chose that because there are a lot of things that can stop us as young people and adults. This is a reminder to not let them stop us. You are unstoppable against depression, anxiety, rejection, betrayal, sickness, pain, and so much more. The only person that can stop you from your destiny is you. This is a reminder that life isn't perfect but with God's help, you have the power to stand against anything and be unstoppable. Remember to ask your youth everyday "Are you OK?" They need to know we are here and we care about them. In the fall, we will start our CASE sessions back up, so keep an eye out for that and have an amazing summer.



Activity Page: National Youth Week Word Search

Nicole Clarin

National Youth Week Word Search

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C	A	S	E	L	E	A	D	E	R	S	H	I	P
R	P	S	E	S	E	L	F	E	S	T	E	E	M
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SELF WORTH
COMMUNITY
SUPPORT
AWARENESS
SELF ESTEEM
COURAGE
PURPOSE
CASE
LEADERSHIP
TEENAGERS
RESOURCES
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