



Quarterly Newsletter for Grandmothers Against Gun Violence and their supporters who show up, stand up, and speak up!

SPEAK-UP!

Safe Storage Saves Lives

By Maggie Carr

In 2024, Grandmothers Against Gun Violence will focus on Safe Storage of firearms. Our campaign, "*Grandmothers Care-Safe Storage Saves Lives*" will provide information on how to safely store weapons, research that documents the effectiveness of safe storage, strategies for gun owners to access safe storage tools, and resources for how we can advocate for it in our communities. With approximately 54 percent of gun owners leaving their firearms accessible and unsafely stored, and firearm-related injuries now the leading cause of death for minors, GAGV feels this campaign is urgent.

Our GAGV Website has links to effective safe storage methods that have been developed by Gun Violence Prevention organizations. Please visit our website and access this information in the dropdown menu under our Resources tab in the Home Page. Included are topics such as how to properly store guns, and a link to a Washington State Firearm Safe Storage interactive map to help people in crisis identify local options for temporary, voluntary firearm storage.

In 2023, the Washington State Legislature mandated that part of a school's responsibility is to bring gun safety information into the homes of our school children. By being proactive about firearm safety and access, we can protect ourselves and loved ones from firearm injury or suicide. GAGV will provide more information about this vital action in the coming months. Look for it in future programs, emails, and on our social media platforms. "*Grandmothers Care - Safe Storage Saves Lives.*"



Grandmothers (and Grandfathers) attend luncheon for Bob Ferguson, gubernatorial candidate.



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Contributors

KAY BEISSE
MAGGIE CARR
CINDY JACKSON
KATHERINE KNOWLTON
VICKI YOUNG

Speak up Staff

SARAH J.E. DEAN
MARSHA DONALDSON
MAUREEN FRISCH
LADONNA KENNY
CYNTHIA MACKENZIE
JADE THURSTON

GRANDMOTHERS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE FOUNDATION REFRESHER

By Cindy Jackson, Board Chair and Kay Beisse, Research Committee Chair

Mission

The mission of Grandmothers Against Gun Violence Foundation works to end gun violence in our communities by raising funds for research that informs public health and safety policies. We not only fund specific research projects, but also education on the findings from this research.

Our Start

When Grandmothers started in 2013 in response to the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy, it focused on advocacy for common sense gun laws to increase public safety. From the start, there was awareness that gun violence should be considered an urgent public health issue. Public health responds to issues by conducting research to understand who is at risk and how to provide effective treatments - in this case, effective policies and programs to reduce deaths and injuries from gun violence. We became acutely aware that gun violence research was missing from public health. So, Grandmothers decided to step up and fund that much-needed research. Through the University of Washington's School of Public Health and Dr. Ali Rowhani-Rahbar, MD, MHP, PhD, we could support new, emerging researchers contributing to the science behind gun violence prevention. At the same time, members of Grandmothers wanted to do more to support its work; they were asking for a way to make tax deductible donations. In response, Grandmothers launched its GAGV Foundation with 501(c)3 status. All donations to the GAGV Foundation are tax deductible.

Funded Studies

In the past six years, the GAGV Foundation has funded nine studies. In total, we have provided \$180,000 in grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000. One of the things we learned in these few years is that the gun violence prevention landscape is vast and complex! There are many different forms of gun violence, many vulnerable groups, and many approaches to prevention. We have funded studies on firearm ownership and storage, neighborhood gun violence, domestic violence protection orders, and teen suicide prevention. Our current research projects focus on the mental health impacts of school shootings, hospital-based community violence interventions, and homicide/suicide within the context of intimate partner violence. Check out our [website](#) for more details.

Academia

Our early funding efforts made news in the academic world. We proved it was possible to get support for gun violence prevention research during a time when there was no federal funding. Graduate students and entry level researchers became our focus. During that time, not many students and early career researchers were working in this area. But that is beginning to change! We see it as a worthwhile investment, one that will impact gun violence prevention far into the future! By providing the extra support early, the Foundation is helping to launch careers for a new generation of gun violence prevention researchers.

Goals

Firearm violence has become the leading cause of death for children and youth since 2020. For Grandmothers, this statistic is sad and shocking - and totally unacceptable! It has fueled our commitment to the GAGV Foundation's mission and its work. We are tripling our efforts to support gun violence prevention research. In 2024, we will launch a new competitive request for research proposals and, with our donors' support, award funds for critically needed research projects. We will strengthen our collaboration with Dr. Rowhani-Rahbar and the UW Firearm Injury and Policy Research Program. This program includes a team of scholars - experienced and new to the field - across multiple disciplines and institutions in Washington and other states. The GAGV Foundation will also enhance its outreach and education initiatives to ensure that findings from our funded research projects are shared in our communities, with Gun Violence Prevention advocates, and policymakers.

Donate

You can donate to the GAGV Foundation by mailing a check, payable to Grandmothers Against Gun Violence Foundation, to our address, 140 Lakeside Avenue, Suite A-69, Seattle, WA 98122 or online by visiting the Foundation website: www.foundationgrandmothersagainstgunviolence.org

To Our Donors,
Thank you for
your everlasting
support!

GRANDMOTHERS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE GRAND CONVERSATION 4.0 INFORMATIVE

By Kathy Knowlton



Lara Zarowsky
Executive Director,
Washington Innocence
Project

Grandmothers and co-sponsors, Alliance for Gun Responsibility and the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI), recently held our Grand Conversation 4.0. The topic for the 80 plus people in attendance was “Justice in our Time of Gun Violence” and the focus was on The Innocence Projects. That’s right – plural. One of the things we learned early in the moderated discussion was that while state/local Innocence Projects are loosely federated, they are stand-alone entities dealing with very different laws and issues from place to place.

Naomi Ishisaka moderated and remarked afterward to one of the planners that she had found the subject fascinating and was inspired to extend the conversation, possibly through her column in the Seattle Times.

The guests were lawyers who head two Projects, Lara Zarowsky of Washington Innocence Project and Charlotte Whitmore of the Boston College Innocence Program. These are shoestring operations subsisting on few paid staff and a great deal of free specialized labor provided by attorneys and law students.

Several things were surprising to me. It is incredibly hard to get your case taken by an Innocence Project: they have to decide there was a wrongful conviction; they have to identify what evidence/witnesses will show that to the court and they have to make sure that evidence or those witnesses are still available. Although very challenging, Innocent Projects across the country have exonerated many who were wrongly convicted.

It was also surprising to hear that there are systematic things that can be done to lower rates of wrongful convictions. Prosecutors may even have departments that review convictions for missteps bad enough to trigger a result’s being vulnerable to getting trashed down the line. Yes, sometimes those missteps are egregious, such as the withholding of exculpatory evidence by the prosecution. *No*, despite the many ambitious successes of our own Attorney General in Washington State, we do not have such oversight here.

This particular Grand Conversation had less potential for conflict than some of its predecessors; and it didn’t fill in blanks in our knowledge of gun violence itself. Yet it did shine a remarkable light on the system we have for managing conflicts and for responding to violence. Grandmothers, MOHAI and the Alliance for Gun Responsibility have done a real public service with their Grand Conversations. Grandmothers will continue with this unique and fruitful collaboration.



Charlotte Whitmore
Supervising Staff Atty.,
Boston College
Innocence Program



Moderator,
Naomi Ishisaka
Seattle Times

LOBBY WEEK - FEBRUARY 5-9, 2024 MEET WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS

The Grandmothers Against Gun Violence Legislative Committee keeps us informed about upcoming legislative issues regarding gun violence prevention. **Lobby Week is February 5 - 9, 2024.** Meetings will be held on Zoom. In our larger districts (32, 36, 37, 41, 43, 44, 46 and 48), our district liaisons will contact members to explain the process and share information about our priority bills for this session. In districts with fewer members, we would be happy to help you set up meetings with your legislators.

Please contact Jennifer Dolan-Waldman, Co-Chair of the Legislative Committee, at jdolanwaldman@gmail.com if you would like to pursue arranging meetings with your district’s senator and representatives. If you are unsure of what your Washington State legislative district is, you can find your district by clicking this link: app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/

WE SHOW UP!



Grandmothers gathered in honor of the 11th anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary tragedy. We show up to remember the lives impacted by gun violence. Our goal is to expose for the need for gun safety and to bring attention to the epidemic of gun violence. **Show Ups are held on the 14th of every month, 3:00 PM-4:00 PM.** Remember to wear ORANGE! Check our website for future Show Up locations and more information.

Grandmothers Take Their Case to the North Pole



Grandmothers have shown increasing concern about the proliferation of toy guns in our society. If anyone searches the internet for realistic toy guns they will find no shortage of retailers, advertisers and toy manufacturers who are promoting the sale of these guns to our children and grandchildren. Grandmothers has taken a stand against the sale of these guns because we have lived through the era of playing with toy guns to the era of children dying because they are playing with toy guns that are being mistaken for real guns.

In a letter to the editor published in the Seattle Times, GAGV Founding member Margaret Heldring stated, "Toy guns look dangerously like real guns. Unable to distinguish clearly between them, police, and others, become stressed, make assumptions, and may reach for real firearms."

From the much publicized death of 12-year-old Tamir Rice to the hundreds of less publicized cases, our children and youth have been killed because of toys mistaken as weapons. Taking to social media, the newspaper, and Santa we spread the word, "**Guns are not toys and toys are not guns!**"