



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

SPEAK-UP!

Bipartisan Safer Communities Act

The legislature passed the most significant new federal legislation to address gun violence since the assault weapons ban of 1994. Although it falls short of what the majority of Americans want, and especially what we as Grandmothers hope for, it is a step in the right direction. The House passed the bill 234-193. It passed in the Senate and President Joe Biden signed the bill on June 25, 2022.

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, was written in response to the recent mass shootings in Buffalo, New York and Uvalde, Texas. Since those mass shootings, more have occurred including the most recent one in Highland Park, Illinois. The Gun Violence Archive, a nonprofit that tracks shootings in the US, has recorded at least 314 mass shootings and 22,000 people killed by gun violence in the US so far this year (2022).

The bill includes \$750 million to help states implement and run crisis intervention programs. The money can be used to manage red flag programs which through court orders can temporarily prevent individuals in crisis from accessing firearms and for other crisis intervention programs like mental health courts, drug courts and veterans courts.

This bill closes a loophole in domestic violence law (the "boyfriend loophole") and encourages states to include juvenile records in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Ethan's Law

BY MARGY HELDRING, ACTING CHAIR

Ethan's Law was a safe storage bill, H.R. 748. It required gun owners to store firearms safely if there is a child under 18 in the home. There were penalties for failure to comply if the gun was found to have been used in any shooting. A simple bill with measurable lifesaving impacts as it would save children as well as help prevent domestic violence, impulsive suicides, and theft.

Thanks largely to consistent, compelling grassroots lobbying for 17 months, the bill passed the U.S. House on June 9, 2022. Ethan's parents, Kristin and Mike Song from Connecticut, lobbied extensively. Many survivors went to Washington DC and shared their stories. Many Grandmothers called and wrote!

Regrettably, this success in the House did not carry over to the Senate. The measure did not make it into the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. However, this does not mean the end of the effort. We will look for an opportune vehicle with which to move this important bill. Thank you to all who have phoned Congressional offices. Stay tuned!



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CYNTHIA MACKENZIE

Diversity and Partnership Committee

Membership Committee

We are growing!
152
New Members
Invite your friends
to join us.



Felecia Cross
Director of Community
Engagement for the
Community
Police Commission



DeVitta Briscoe
First-ever Liaison for
Gun Violence Prevention
Seattle Mayor's Cabinet



Donnitta Sinclair
Ambassador
We Got Us Moms



Lynniah Grayson
Founder and Executive Director
Rise4us.org

The Diversity and Partnership Committee has formed a great connection with the panelists who presented compelling information at our June program meeting, Gun Violence: IMPACT into ACTION. Special thanks to these outstanding women who have turned the horrifying impact of gun violence in their lives to help others navigate the pain of gun violence.

Communications and Development Committee

Committee members are planning the upcoming Grand Conversation 3.0, "Women on Guns 2022" in partnership with the Museum of History and Industry. Moderator and guest speakers have been identified. Save the Date for this virtual event - October 25, 2022 at 5:00 PM PT. #womenonguns

Meet Our New Program Assistant

Grandmothers Against Gun Violence is pleased to introduce Amber Trillo (pronounced Trio) as our new Program Assistant.

She has an administrative background, most recently working at Highline College. Previously she served as the Director of Human Resources for the Tacoma Art Museum. Amber holds a degree in American Ethnic Studies and Women's Studies from the University of Washington.

In her personal time she enjoys photography and you can see her work on her website, www.portraitsbycat.com or on Instagram @thephotographercat. She enjoys making photo slideshows and video productions.

Her hobbies include dabbling in crochet, home DIY and interior design. She considers herself a hopeful plant Mom. She kept five plants alive for nearly two years and thanks Covid-19 for that.



Pictured above, Amber Trillo with her husband and son!

Amber has been enthusiastically married to her husband for six years, they have been together for 18 years.

"We have a verbose and hilarious 5-year-old. Together as a family we love glamping at our Ocean Shores cabin, throwing BBQs in our backyard and watching trains throughout our hometown of Tacoma."

"I am thrilled to be joining the team and look forward to supporting you all as the Program Assistant!"

Foundation to Host September Program

The Foundation is excited to host the Tuesday, September 13th program, a free Zoom webinar from 10:00-11:15AM. Please sign up to hear the fascinating results of our investments in research!

Dr. Alice Ellyson, the principal investigator we have funded at the UW School of Medicine, will report on her King County study on firearm threats and violence against children and youth who are exposed to domestic violence. This key topic includes a crucial focus: evaluating the extent to which Domestic Violence Protection Orders that include removal of firearms protect children and youth from gun violence.

Our grant awarded to the UW School of Social Work has supported the development of a suicide prevention curriculum, including testing with parents and caregivers in two school districts in central Washington. The Asking is Caring curriculum includes lethal means safety training to promote safe storage of firearms and medications in the home. It also trains parents and caregivers to have conversations with their youth about mental health and suicidal thoughts to reduce the risk of youth suicide, firearm injury and death. The research team of Dr. Jennifer Stuber and Taylor C. Ryan will report on their fascinating work. Cindy Jackson, the Foundation's liaison to the project, alerts us to watch for this research team's dedication and its nimble adaptation to pandemic-related restrictions.

Glassbaby Awards Grant to GAGV Foundation

We are also thrilled to announce that the Foundation has received a \$5000 (yes, that's five thousand) grant from the Glassybaby Foundation. Check their website for a lovely announcement about this, and rest assured we will put it to good use.

Glassybaby highlighted us proudly as one of their May 'baby grant' recipients, explaining that the Grandmothers Against Gun Violence Foundation raises funds to end gun violence in our communities through research that informs public health and safety policies. By funding studies and communication their grant will support GAGV's mission to address risk factors and implement policy changes to keep us all safe.



glassybaby: gentle wings set (angel & comfort)

UW School Capstone Project

The Foundation launched a new initiative this year, sponsoring a Capstone Project in the University of Washington's Information School's Informatics degree program. The study of the application of information technology to real-world problems requires a Capstone Project. Near the end of their studies, students are paired with community-based organizations to apply skills learned in the program to support the organization's goals. Jill McKinstry, UW Librarian Emerita and the inspiration for this project, worked with members of the Research Committee to support a team of four Informatics students to add enhancements to the Foundation website.

Their project involved creating graphics, data visualizations, and other features to highlight the risks of gun ownership for children and youth and to present specific gun safety steps families can take to protect their children and youth. While some of this is still under construction, check out the Gun Safety link on our home page to see how the students' skills have improved our website. We have all appreciated this opportunity for the Foundation to engage young people in gun violence prevention research and education and we hope to participate in the program again next year.

We Will Continue to Show up!



Grandmothers Show-Up with students from Franklin High School; at the March for Our Lives Rally; at the Farmer's Market; at the State Capital; with the Attorney General; with the Mayor of Seattle; wherever Margy speaks and more! Our goal is to get as much exposure as possible for GAGV and our message. Join us and don't forget to wear ORANGE! Check our website for locations and times. www.grandmothersagainstgunviolence.org/upcoming-events



WHY I JOINED Grandmothers Against Gun Violence

Debbie McDonald, Diversity and Partnership Committee

In December 2012, when the murders of first graders happened in Sandy Hook, I was serving in the Peace Corps in Ukraine. It was hard being so far away from home during this tragedy. My Ukrainian friends offered their condolences, and we all knew that nothing like that would happen in their country where there was not a gun violence epidemic. This was a distinctly American exceptionalism. I heard about Grandmothers Against Gun Violence while I was gone and joined soon after my return home to Seattle in 2014.

My education of the gun violence prevention movement and activism with GAGV grew over the years, as did the number of my grandchildren - from one to seven, with one more on the way. I will continue to Show Up, Stand Up and Speak Up for them and for grandchildren everywhere. This violence is unacceptable.

Read Debbie's Article in the May Edition of Seattle Child Magazine.
www.seattleschild.com/gun-violence-have-you-reached-your-tipping-point/

Top photo: Debbie McDonald; Center Photo: Grandparents and Grandchild; Bottom photo: One of the seven (soon to be eight) Grandchildren who enlighten and enrich Debbie's life!

Debbie McDonald

