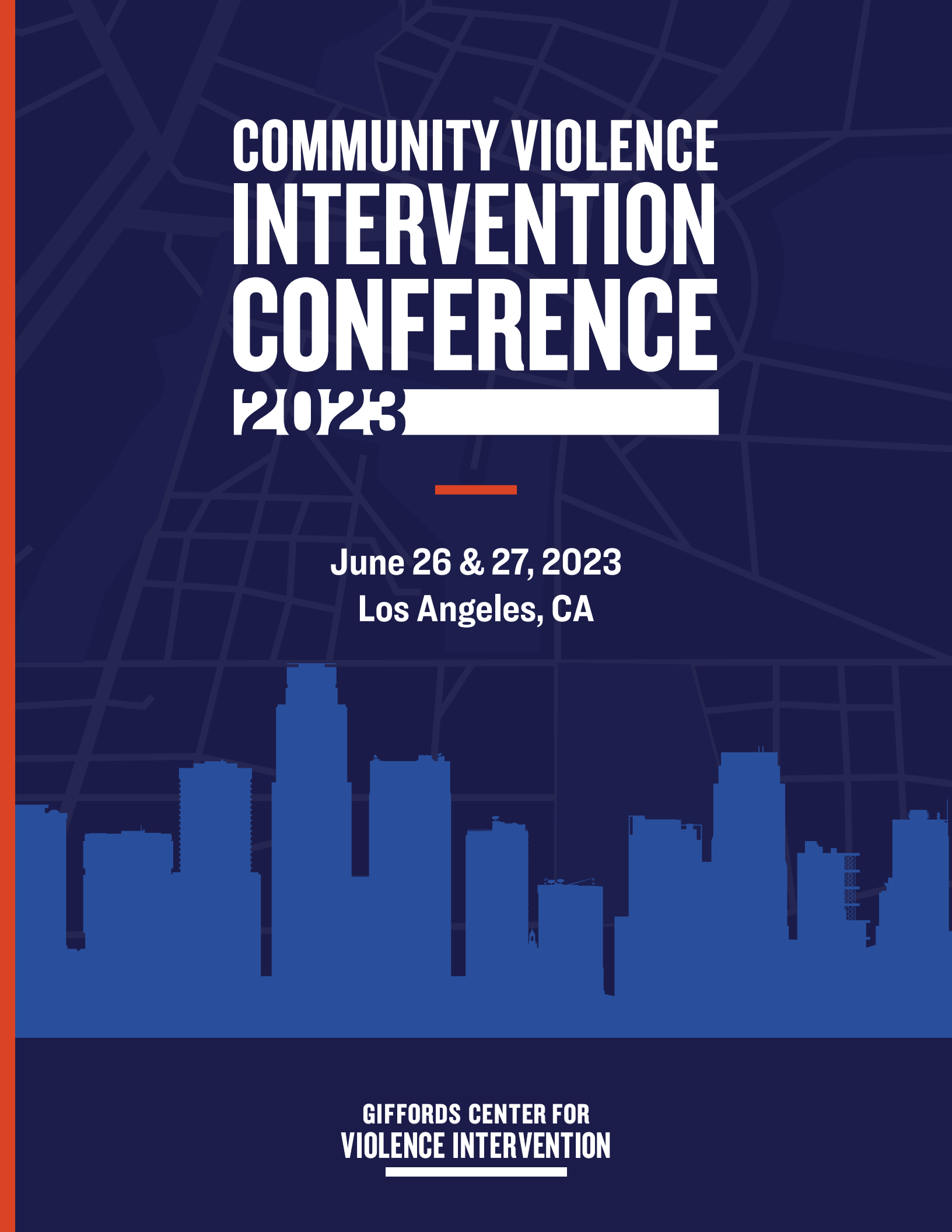
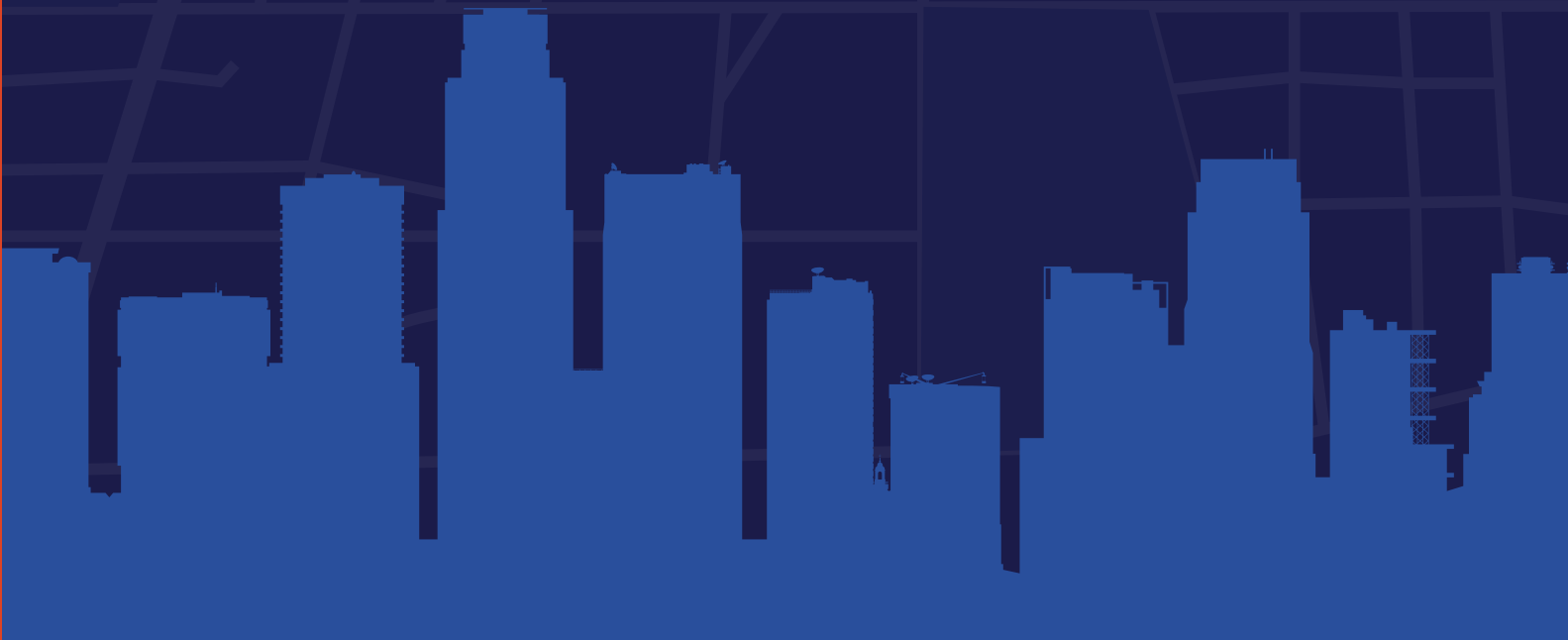


COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION CONFERENCE 2023



June 26 & 27, 2023
Los Angeles, CA



GIFFORDS CENTER FOR
VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

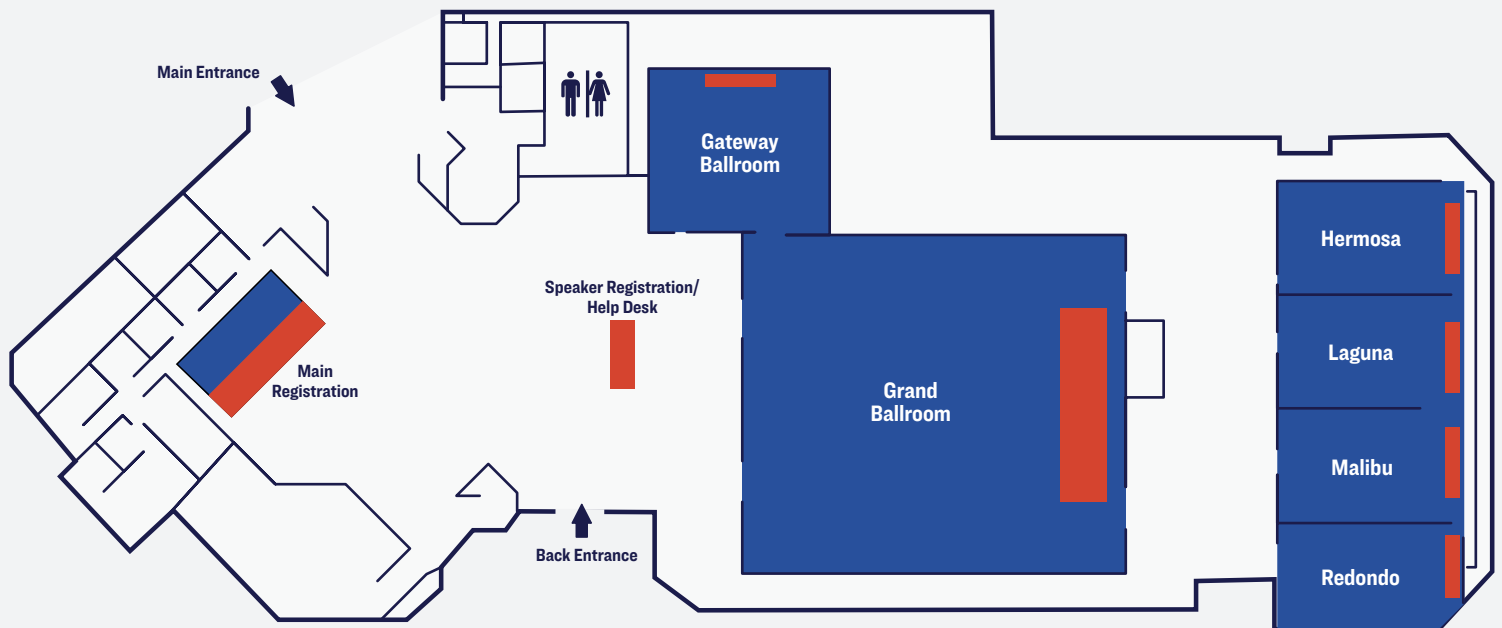
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COMMUNITY VIOLENCE
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COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION CONFERENCE 2023

On behalf of the team at GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention, we warmly welcome you to our inaugural 2023 Community Violence Intervention Conference!

We are honored to have you join us in our efforts to support violence intervention and advocate for community-led change. Together, we can harness the collective wisdom in this space and chart a path towards sustainable solutions that will make a lasting difference in the lives of individuals and communities affected by violence.

Over the course of this two-day event, we have curated an exceptional lineup of keynote and featured speakers, interactive workshops, and thought-provoking discussions. These sessions aim to foster new collaborations, inspire innovative approaches, and propel our movement forward. We strongly encourage you to share your insights and seize the opportunity to learn from the diverse perspectives of our esteemed attendees.

The power of this conference lies in the conversations and connections forged among individuals like yourself, all dedicated to making a difference. Your presence and active participation contribute greatly to the success of this conference, and we are grateful to have you here.

With heartfelt appreciation,

The team at GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention

Brittany Nieto *Jordan Costa* *Paul Carrillo*

Juan Carter *Mike McLively*



DAY I SCHEDULE

Monday, June 26

7:30 am	Registration opens	
9:00 am	Welcome Speakers <i>Paul Carrillo (GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention)</i> <i>Deputy Assistant Administrator Mileydi Guilarte (USAID)</i> <i>Deputy Mayor Karren Lane (City of Los Angeles)</i>	Grand Ballroom
10:00 am	Opening Speaker <i>Connie Rice (Urban Peace Institute)</i>	Grand Ballroom
10:40 am	Session 1 Breakouts (see page 5) • The War on Gun Violence Is a War on Racial Inequality • Using Science to Save Lives: The VRC Approach • CVI Ecosystem: What Is It and What Should It Include? • Data Equity in Research-Practitioner CVI Partnerships • Identifying and Prioritizing Local, Community-Level Risk and Protective Factors for Gun Violence • Coordinating CVI through Offices of Violence Prevention: Evidence from the US and International Context	Gateway Ballroom Grand Ballroom Hermosa Laguna Malibu Redondo
12:00 pm	WORKING LUNCH/PLENARY PANEL 1 Building the CVI Ecosystem: Exploring CAPS' Strategy for Violence Reduction <i>Nina Revoyr (Ballmer Group), Aqeela Sherrills (CBPSC), Fatimah Loren Dreier (HAVI), David Muhammad (NICJR), Anthony Smith (Cities United)</i>	Grand Ballroom
1:10 pm	Session 2 Breakouts (see page 6) • Life After the Gunshot: The Art of Digital Storytelling Gun Violence and Trauma • Changing Group Embeddedness to Change Violent Behavior? Findings from a Randomized Control Trial of Multidisciplinary Teams and Street Outreach • Create Real Economic Destiny: Reducing Violence in a Transformative Way • Driving Resources and Supporting Community Solutions: The Role of an Intermediary • Building the Frontline Worker to Leadership Pipeline through an Emerging Leaders Learning Collaborative • Using Data to Target and Support High-Risk Youth: Examples from Guatemala and Jamaica	Gateway Ballroom Grand Ballroom Hermosa Laguna Malibu Redondo
2:30 pm	PLENARY PANEL 2 More Than Boots on the Ground: Identifying Support Needs to Sustain and Strengthen Community Violence Intervention Work <i>Fernando Rejón (UPI), Dr. Shani Buggs (UC Davis), Dr. Kathryn Bocanegra (UIC), Melvyn Hayward (CRED)</i>	Grand Ballroom
3:45 pm	Closing Speakers <i>Director Dr. Alexis Piquero (Bureau of Justice Statistics, DOJ)</i> <i>Greg Jackson (Community Justice)</i>	Grand Ballroom
4:30 pm	Reception, sponsored by Ballmer group	Foyer

DAY 2 SCHEDULE

Tuesday, June 27

9:00 am	Opening Speakers <i>Assistant Attorney General Amy Solomon (Office of Justice Programs, DOJ)</i> <i>Peter Ambler (GIFFORDS)</i> <i>Attorney General Rob Bonta (State of California)</i>	Grand Ballroom
9:45 am	PLENARY PANEL 3 CVI Research and Evaluation: Opportunities, Challenges, and Implications for Policy and Practice <i>Dr. Jocelyn Fontaine (Arnold Ventures), Reygan Cunningham (California Partnership for Safe Communities), Dr. Andrew V. Papachristos (Northwestern's Institute for Policy Research), Dr. Joseph B. Richardson (University of Maryland)</i>	Grand Ballroom
10:40 am	Session 3 Breakouts (see page 7) • Healing the Healers • Using CBT to Work with Young Adults at the Center of Urban Violence • Understanding the Influence of Outreach, Case Management, and Service Engagement on Interrupting Community Violence: The Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) • From Pain Toward Healing: A Trauma-Informed Case Study from the Uvalde, Texas, Shooting • Bigger Than Just “You” and “Me”: Cross-Sector Collaboration to Enhance Local CVI Ecosystem Capacity • Shifting the Paradigm of Violence by Building Trauma-Informed Communities	Gateway Ballroom Grand Ballroom Hermosa Laguna Malibu Redondo
12:00 pm	WORKING LUNCH/PLENARY PANEL 4 Inside Out: City and Community Collaborations to Address Community Violence <i>Mike McLively (GCVI), Walter Katz (Arnold Ventures), Susan Lee (CRED)</i>	Grand Ballroom
1:10 pm	Session 4 Breakouts (see page 8) • Hiring, Training, and Retaining CVI Workers • Building Power through Collective Advocacy • Interdependent Healing: Restorative Justice after Violent Crime • Rancho Violence Recovery and Prevention Program (RVRPP): A Peer Support Model • From Healing to Action: A Toolkit for Gun Violence Survivors and Allies • Violence Intervention with a Gender Perspective: Experiences from Mexican Female Prisons	Gateway Ballroom Grand Ballroom Hermosa Laguna Malibu Redondo
2:30 pm	Afternoon Plenary <i>Senior Advisor Eddie Bocanegra (Office of Justice Programs, DOJ)</i>	Grand Ballroom
2:50 pm	Award Announcement	Grand Ballroom
3:00 pm	Closing Speaker <i>Gabby Giffords (Co-founder, GIFFORDS)</i>	Grand Ballroom

The War on Gun Violence Is a War on Racial Inequality | Gateway Ballroom

This session challenges the notion that achieving public safety and racial equity are mutually exclusive. Panelists will share the latest findings and research from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), which recently issued the most comprehensive study ever undertaken to understand how racial inequality is perpetuated by the criminal justice system interacting with broader societal forces, and what should be done about it. Gain insight into community-based solutions, noncriminal policy interventions, and criminal justice reforms that can reduce racial inequalities in ways that also improve community safety.

Presenters: Emily Backes, Dr. Robert Crutchfield, Dr. Nikki Jones, Dr. Nancy Rodriguez

Using Science to Save Lives: The VRC Approach | Grand Ballroom

The newly established Center for the Study and Practice for Violence Reduction (VRC) translates sound science into practical anti-violence policy. Recognizing that local success depends on identifying and aligning multiple evidence-informed anti-violence strategies, the VRC excels at helping cities put all the pieces together: prevention, intervention, enforcement, and rehabilitation. In this presentation, VRC Founding Director Thomas Abt will talk about the VRC approach and how it can help cities save lives.

Presenters: Thomas Abt, LaKenya Middlebrook, Isaac Yablo

CVI Ecosystem: What Is It and What Should It Include? | Hermosa

Gain a comprehensive understanding of community violence intervention (CVI) from a Chicago-based expert with more than 30 years of experience in the field. Using a public health lens, this session will discuss how CVI is defined and delve into evidence-informed strategies to address violence, including street outreach, violence interruption, and victim services. The presenter will also explore emerging approaches and effective advocacy techniques.

Presenter: Norman Livingston Kerr

Data Equity in Research-Practitioner CVI Partnerships | Laguna

This panel discussion will help attendees understand the power of partnerships in community violence intervention research. Discover the role of trust-building, effective data communication, and capacity development in driving data-informed decisions. This session will spotlight two innovative Chicago-based projects: the Street Outreach Analytics Response (SOAR) Project, integrating network science with community-based gun violence interventions, and the Flatlining Violence Inspires Peace (FLIP) evaluation, enhancing street outreach with real-time, data-driven decision-making.

Presenters: Samuel Castro, Angelica D'Souza, Cedric Hawkins, Jess Robinson

Identifying and Prioritizing Local, Community-Level Risk and Protective Factors for Gun Violence | Malibu

Presenters will share their novel data tool, DNA: Data, kNowledge, and Analysis, that utilizes big data to provide localities with a blueprint of what drives local gun violence. This analysis is supplemented by robust stakeholder interviews and easy-to-understand data visualizations. Discover how data can highlight the strengths and weaknesses of society and community-level risk and protective factors, allowing localities to prioritize their needs and address them appropriately.

Presenters: Shaun Ali, Adnan Ansari, Kerwin Henderson, Humera Khan

Coordinating CVI through Offices of Violence Prevention: Evidence from the US and International Context | Redondo

This presentation will discuss the role of centralized Offices of Violence Prevention (OVPs) in reducing community violence and the challenges they face in terms of political support and resources. The Peace in Our Cities initiative (PiOC) and the Vera Institute of Justice have conducted research to identify promising practices at the international and national level. The presentation will report on findings from both projects and provide practical guidance to policymakers, advocates, and practitioners seeking to implement such offices.

Presenters: Alfredo Malaret Baldo, Jason Tan de Bibiana, Juan Camilo Cock Misas, Andrea Welsing

Life After the Gunshot: The Art of Digital Storytelling Gun Violence and Trauma |***Gateway Ballroom***

Life After the Gunshot is an acclaimed documentary shedding light on the experiences of 10 young Black male survivors of gun violence in Washington DC. It portrays the physical and invisible wounds borne through the eyes of these men, those who love them, and those who served them in a hospital-based violence intervention program (HVIP). Hear from one of the survivors featured in the storytelling project and the HVIP staff who directed the film.

Presenters: Ché Bullock, Jordan Costa, Christopher Edge, Dr. Joseph B. Richardson

Changing Group Embeddedness to Change Violent Behavior? Findings from a Randomized Control Trial of Multidisciplinary Teams and Street Outreach | *Grand Ballroom*

The Gang Reduction Initiative of Denver (GRID) employs multidisciplinary teams and street outreach workers to promote disengagement from gangs and desistance from crime. This presentation showcases key findings from a randomized controlled trial of GRID conducted between 2019–2022, involving 143 randomly assigned participants. Key findings from the impact evaluation focus on gang embeddedness, criminal offending, victimization, substance use, and judicial outcomes, supplemented by field observations and in-depth interviews.

Presenters: Stephon Cummings, Nicole Monroe, José Sanchez, David Pyrooz

Create Real Economic Destiny: Reducing Violence in a Transformative Way | *Hermosa*

Learn about Chicago CRED's holistic approach to addressing the complex causes of gun violence. Founded by former US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, the CRED program combines street outreach, therapy, case management, education, and employment training to provide a comprehensive intervention. This training will also share insights and best practices for maintaining alignment with multidisciplinary teams.

Presenters: Necole Muhammad, Paul Robinson, Dr. Donald Tyler

Driving Resources and Supporting Community Solutions: The Role of an Intermediary | *Laguna*

Explore the pivotal role of intermediaries in supporting community-driven public health and safety strategies. Attendees will learn from the Latino Coalition for Community Leadership's (LCCL) unique approach that has successfully channeled more than \$120 million into community and faith-based organizations over 19 years. This session delves into the importance of training, capacity building, collaboration, data collection, and centering those with lived experience. Community testimonials and successful case studies will further enrich the discussion.

Presenters: Juan Avila, Joey Nuñez-Estrada, Steven Kim, Richard Paul Morales

Building the Frontline Worker to Leadership Pipeline through an Emerging Leaders Learning Collaborative | *Malibu*

Promoting equity and addressing racial divides in the CVI field, the Gun Violence Prevention Training Center for Excellence (TC4E) launched the Emerging Leaders Learning Collaborative (ELLC) to develop the next generation of leaders of color. This panel will explore systemic racism, career advancement challenges, and workforce attrition, as well as highlight the ELLC's role in facilitating career transitions for frontline workers. Attendees will hear from CVI leaders with frontline experience, gain insights into leadership development strategies, and ideate organizational strategies for talent cultivation.

Presenters: Mo Barbosa, Abrigal Forrester, Leslie Rivera, Nichelle Sadler

Using Data to Target and Support High-Risk Youth: Examples from Guatemala and Jamaica | *Redondo*

Discover how the Urban Municipal Governance Program and USAID/Jamaica use data and tailored interventions to support high-risk youth in communities marked by gang presence and violence. This session will share outcomes from programs piloted in Guatemala City and Jamaica that include group cognitive behavioral therapies, mentoring, family activities, and hospital-based interventions. Attendees will learn about the process of recruiting and screening participants, data collection and analysis, and the impact of these initiatives on individual and community peace.

Presenters: Evelyn Espinoza, Andre McNab, Sarah Sladen, Paul Teeple

Healing the Healers | Gateway Ballroom

Navigating the weight of community violence intervention work is critical for survivors, practitioners, and others toiling to heal their communities. This workshop will equip attendees with the tools they need to manage their own trauma as well as identify warning signs of and cope with vicarious trauma. This session also includes an arts-based healing circle, providing attendees with an outlet for release and peer-to-peer validation.

Presenter: Alia Berry

Using CBT to Work with Young Adults at the Center of Urban Violence | Grand Ballroom

Developed in collaboration with Massachusetts General Hospital, Rewire by Roca is designed to overcome traditional barriers to access by bringing cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) to high-risk young adults in non-clinical settings. The approach simplifies CBT concepts for application on the streets and promotes accessible skill building, trauma healing, and crime prevention. This interactive workshop offers insights into brain science, the trauma-violence cycle, and pattern-breaking techniques for harmful behaviors.

Presenters: Anthony “Tone” Scroggins, James “JT” Timpson

Understanding the Influence of Outreach, Case Management, and Service Engagement on Interrupting Community Violence: The Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) | Hermosa

The Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) is a comprehensive violence reduction strategy that uses a public health approach in partnership with law enforcement to address youth violence. This session will cover the initiative's key components, its demonstrable impact on reducing violent crime, and how ongoing evaluation has helped bolster program funding. Attendees will also learn about the role of meaningful staff-client relationships in participant well-being and criminal outcomes.

Presenters: Glenn Daly, Nicholas Read, Zachary Rich

From Pain toward Healing: A Trauma-Informed Case Study from the Uvalde, Texas, Shooting | Laguna

While many communities experience an outpouring of support in the days after a mass shooting, the need for aid and resources to heal from trauma remains long after the news cameras leave. With a focus on Uvalde, Texas, learn trauma-informed best practices for partnering with and amplifying the voices of impacted communities. Presenters will share a case study example of a step-by-step guide, from pre-planning to development, of an advocacy tool that can be used by the community to facilitate change.

Presenters: Dyann Barrientos, Kris McLucas

Bigger Than Just “You” and “Me”: Cross-Sector Collaboration to Enhance Local CVI Ecosystem Capacity | Malibu

Discover how cross-sector collaboration can enhance public safety strategies in this workshop led by Cities United. The session will explore the “Roadmap to Safe, Healthy, and Hopeful Communities,” used by 30 jurisdictions nationwide, and the important role of collaboration in mitigating risks, such as leadership transitions, political turmoil, and funding shifts. Attendees will be invited to brainstorm comprehensive cross-sector public safety strategies rooted in social justice, equity, youth voice, and collaboration.

Presenters: Rachel Askew, Andre Canty, Anthony Smith, Synethia White

Shifting the Paradigm of Violence by Building Trauma-Informed Communities | Redondo

Amidst acute violence in the US and Central America, community-based strategies effectively address mental health in resource-limited environments. Like first aid, people can learn basic techniques to recognize trauma and provide support. Non-clinical professionals can also offer effective mental health support, improving well-being and resilience. Panelists from Glasswing International, Homeboy Industries, and Drexel University's Healing Centered Learning will discuss community-based mental health approaches and innovative strategies to enhance mental health care access.

Presenters: Fabian Garcia, Rocío Martínez, Ben Rempell, Tony Thompson

Hiring, Training, and Retaining CVI Workers | Gateway Ballroom

This presentation will provide an overview of Newark Community Street Team's Workforce Development program and share insights on hiring, training, and retaining CVI workers. Topics of discussion will include scaling an intervention team, trauma-informed practices, healing supports, and finances. The session will also include a moderated peer exchange of best practices and lessons learned.

Presenters: Solomon Middleton-Williams, Reverend Toby Sanders, Aqeela Sherrills

Building Power through Collective Advocacy | Grand Ballroom

This workshop explores the role of state coalitions in advancing community-based violence prevention and intervention strategies. Coalitions create space for experts from various fields, including CVI practitioners and government advocates, to discuss challenges, opportunities, and best practices for partnering with communities. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of how state coalitions can create safer, more peaceful communities and share ideas for advancing this important work.

Presenters: Jermaine Belcher, Mona Cadena, Mike McLively, William Simpson

Interdependent Healing: Restorative Justice after Violent Crime | Hermosa

Participants will witness a restorative justice circle, listening to stories of loss and healing from people affected by the justice system. The circle will widen to include all in a heart-centered meditation that will invite attendees to imagine how they would want the system to respond to their loved ones. Facilitators will then guide the group in a creative process of envisioning a more compassionate justice system.

Presenters: Nora Agredano, Edwin Paragas, Joshua Pinedo, Maria Verduzco

Rancho Violence Recovery and Prevention Program (RVRPP): A Peer Support Model | Laguna

Delve into the transformative work of the Rancho Violence Recovery and Prevention Program (RVRPP) with the Rancho Research Institute. Presenters will discuss RVRPP's comprehensive strategy that engages survivors of violence with empathetic peer mentors and provides a continuum of hospital-based and community-level supports. This session will underscore the importance of reducing barriers to these crucial services in supporting survivors' successful recovery and return to a full, productive life.

Presenters: Walter Afable, Mayra Carrasco, Felipe Estrada, Juan Garibay

From Healing to Action: A Toolkit for Gun Violence Survivors and Allies | Malibu

This workshop is designed to empower gun violence survivors and allies with the tools and resources they need to navigate the aftermath of gun violence, find healing and support, and, ultimately, become effective advocates for change. Attendees will learn strategies for managing trauma, navigating demands and publicity, and finding community and support. They will also gain insights on how to define goals, enlist partners, lobby elected officials, create timelines, craft narratives, and celebrate victories.

Presenters: Martin Diego García, Sheila Isong, Sandy Phillips, Lonnie Phillips

Violence Intervention with a Gender Perspective: Experiences from Mexican Female Prisons | Redondo

La Cana's holistic model addresses structural violence and marginalization risk among imprisoned women through job training, mental health support, education, legal advice, post-release follow-up, and policy research. Beneficiaries of La Cana hold a 97% non-recidivism rate. Presenters will share experiences, lessons learned, and success stories from La Cana, identifying best practices for violence intervention with a gender perspective and encouraging an open dialogue about the similarities between Mexican and American cases.

Presenter: Daniela Ancira Ruiz

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Connie Rice

Civil Rights Attorney & Co-founder, Urban Peace Institute

Connie Rice is a renowned civil rights attorney widely recognized for her commitment to expanding multiracial democracy. Rice founded the Urban Peace Institute and co-created the Community Safety Partnership, which aims to mitigate violence in some of Los Angeles's most disadvantaged areas. In 2007, Rice coauthored a groundbreaking report that brought about a fundamental shift in the way Los Angeles addresses gang activity and violence. Rice has been named one of the "most experienced, civic-minded and thoughtful people on the subject of Los Angeles" and has received more than 50 major awards for her role in expanding opportunity.



Dr. Alexis R. Piquero

Director of Bureau of Justice Statistics

Appointed by President Biden in June 2022, Dr. Alexis Piquero serves as head of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), leading the agency's efforts to collect, publish, and disseminate information on crime and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government. An internationally recognized criminologist with more than 25 years of experience, his expertise includes criminal justice policy and the intersection of race and crime. Prior to joining BJS, Dr. Piquero served as professor and chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminology as well as Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor at the University of Miami.



Greg Jackson

Executive Director of Community Justice

Greg Jackson, Executive Director of Community Justice, is a community organizer, political strategist, and issue advocate. Following his recovery, Greg became an avid mentor to local at-risk youth and built multiple youth engagement movements like #WeReadDC. As a gun violence survivor, gun violence prevention is personal for Greg. While being questioned by law enforcement in his hospital bed, Greg remembers being treated like a criminal and not a victim. This experience propelled Greg into action, becoming a vocal and leading voice on gun violence prevention for Black and Brown communities.



Eddie Bocanegra

Senior Advisor for Community Violence Intervention to the Assistant Attorney General of the Office of Justice Programs

Eddie Bocanegra, a senior advisor in the Office of the Assistant Attorney General, is a leading figure in the field of community violence intervention. He oversees a portfolio focused on preventing and responding to community violence, making him a key member of the Biden administration's efforts in reducing gun violence. Before joining the Department of Justice in 2022, Bocanegra served as the senior director of READI Chicago at Heartland Alliance. A pioneer in the field, Bocanegra is nationally recognized for his work as a violence interrupter for Chicago's Ceasefire program.



Amy Solomon

Assistant Attorney General of the Office of Justice Programs

Amy Solomon is the assistant attorney general of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) in the US Department of Justice (DOJ). Nominated by President Biden and confirmed by the Senate in April 2023, Solomon oversees OJP's grantmaking activities, distributing about \$5 billion annually to support criminal and juvenile justice initiatives, victim services, and research. In the Obama administration, she held various roles, shaping criminal justice reform and building trust between the justice system and communities of color. Prior to her government service, she directed projects at the Urban Institute, focusing on prisoner reentry and public safety.



Gabrielle Giffords

Former Congresswoman and Founder of GIFFORDS

A former congresswoman from Arizona, Gabby Giffords was a rising star in the Democratic party before she was shot in the head in January 2011. As the founder of GIFFORDS, an organization dedicated to ending gun violence, Gabby believes in the power of bringing people together to create meaningful change—and she knows just how important community violence intervention work is to fighting the epidemic of gun violence. GIFFORDS launched its Center for Violence Intervention last year, which champions the lifesaving work of community organizations on the ground, and as the leader of GIFFORDS, Gabby is committed to using every tool available to end America's gun violence crisis.

PLENARY PANEL I - MONDAY | 12:00PM | GRAND BALLROOM

Building the CVI Ecosystem: Exploring CAPS' Strategy for Violence Reduction

Learn more about the newly established Coalition to Advance Public Safety (CAPS), an outcomes-driven initiative focused on aligning 12 city systems to reduce gun-related violence by 20% over three years through technical assistance, training, grants, and mentorship. This plenary session showcases CAPS's approach and its potential for scalable CVI ecosystems.



Nina Revoyr, moderator

Nina is the executive director of Ballmer Group's Los Angeles team, where she sets and leads strategy and investments to improve economic mobility for children and families in the region and the state. Nina holds two decades of experience in the fields of child and family services and education, is the author of six novels, and has been a visiting professor at Cornell University and Pomona College, among others.



Aqeela Sherrills

Aqeela Sherrills is the founder of the Community-Based Public Safety Collective, which advises and trains local public safety organizations in the methodologies that he has found most effective in helping communities reduce violence. This work builds on his work with The Newark Community Street Team, a community-based violence reduction initiative which he co-created and directed. After the tragic loss of his son to gun violence, he launched The Reverence Project to foster healing and develop wellness centers in urban areas.



Fatimah Loren Dreier

Fatimah Loren Dreier is the executive director of the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI), a national network of hospital-based violence intervention programs that address the social determinants of health for violently injured patients. She is also a Pozen-Commonwealth Fund Fellow in Health Equity Leadership at the Yale School of Management. Prior to joining the HAVI, Loren Dreier served as the deputy director of Equal Justice USA, a national criminal justice reform organization. She led an award-winning initiative focusing on trauma and police-community relations.



David Muhammad

David Muhammad serves as the executive director of the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform, which focuses on reducing incarceration and violence while improving outcomes for system-involved individuals. Muhammad has implemented positive youth development in justice systems nationwide, as well as led reform efforts for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, provided technical assistance to California probation departments, and aided San Francisco in juvenile justice reform. Muhammad serves as a federal court-appointed monitor for Illinois's juvenile justice system and parole system.



Anthony Smith

Anthony Smith serves as the executive director of Cities United, a national network dedicated to eradicating violence affecting African American men and boys in American cities and fostering safer communities. Previously, Smith directed the Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods program under Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer. Collaborating with city departments, community organizations, faith-based groups, and civic leaders, Smith spearheaded prevention strategies to reduce violent crime and improve outcomes for marginalized populations. With more than two decades of experience, he has effectively built networks to drive positive community transformations in partnership with civic and political leaders.

PLENARY PANEL 2 - MONDAY | 2:30PM | GRAND BALLROOM

More Than Boots on the Ground: Identifying Support Needs to Sustain and Strengthen Community Violence Intervention Work

Unpack the obstacles practitioners face in implementing evidence-informed violence reduction strategies, including community capacity, workforce-related issues, and integration into public safety initiatives. This plenary highlights the importance of centering frontline violence intervention professionals in efforts to gain a deeper understanding of these challenges and develop effective solutions.



Fernando Rejón, *moderator*

Fernando Rejón is the executive director of the Urban Peace Institute, leading its efforts to transform systems and individuals' lives by promoting community peace and ending mass incarceration. In 2008, Rejón created the Urban Peace Academy, training leaders nationwide on violence reduction strategies and gang intervention. He advises law enforcement on innovative policing strategies and co-created the National Street Outreach Partnership. With 18 years of nonprofit experience, Rejón excels in program development, community-based research, and coalition building.



Dr. Shani Buggs

Dr. Shani Buggs is a public health injury and violence prevention researcher and an assistant professor in emergency medicine at the University of California, Davis. As core faculty with the Violence Prevention Research Program and the California Firearm Violence Research Center at UC Davis, Dr. Buggs's expertise includes community-level firearm violence intervention and prevention and comprehensive, multi-level approaches to reducing violence through policies and programs at all levels of government. Prior to joining UC Davis, Dr. Buggs worked for years with agencies and leaders in Baltimore to help coordinate efforts and provide technical assistance to enhance the city's violence prevention strategies.



Dr. Kathryn Bocanegra

Dr. Kathryn Bocanegra is an assistant professor at Jane Addams College of Social Work at University of Illinois Chicago. She is a licensed clinical social worker and also serves as senior advisor to Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul on crime victim and violence prevention issues. Dr. Bocanegra has more than 18 years of community-based mental health and community violence intervention experience. She has been appointed to several criminal justice commissions, and her current research projects focus on street intervention and trauma exposure, homicide investigation processes, and the experiences of criminalized survivors.



Melvyn Hayward

Melvyn Hayward is the chief program officer at CRED, where he oversees all outreach and programming efforts while cultivating partnerships with key programming partners in Chicago's West and South Sides. Prior to joining CRED, Hayward co-founded and served as the executive director of the HELPER Foundation in Los Angeles, which he led to become a prominent player in the city's gang reduction initiatives. Hayward's expertise extends nationwide, as he has traveled to 30 cities in the US, training outreach workers, developing best practices, and providing technical support to violence-reduction agencies.

PLENARY PANEL 3 - TUESDAY | 9:30AM | GRAND BALLROOM

CVI Research and Evaluation: Opportunities, Challenges, and Implications for Policy and Practice

Join experts in CVI research, evaluation, implementation, and governance as they highlight key questions, methods, and considerations unique to the study of CVI, with an emphasis on inclusive research approaches that meaningfully engage communities. Panelists will also discuss some of the research findings and lessons learned from CVI research efforts taking place around the country and their role in implementation.



Dr. Jocelyn Fontaine, *moderator*

Dr. Jocelyn Fontaine is the vice president of criminal justice research at Arnold Ventures, where she is responsible for identifying opportunities for research to inform justice policy and increase public safety. Prior to joining Arnold, Fontaine was a senior research fellow at the Urban Institute where she directed projects on corrections and reentry issues, gun violence, violence reduction programs, and police-community trust-building efforts. She is committed to advancing justice reform and community safety in a way that engages those most directly impacted by crime and the justice system.



Reygan Cunningham

Reygan Cunningham is the co-director of the California Partnership for Safe Communities, where she works with service providers, law enforcement agencies, impacted community members, and elected officials to reduce shootings and homicides involving street gang/groups in several cities throughout California and in Mexico City. Cunningham was the director of the Oakland Ceasefire strategy from 2012–2018, after which Oakland saw significant reductions in gun homicides and shootings.



Dr. Andrew V. Papachristos

Dr. Andrew V. Papachristos is a professor of sociology and faculty fellow at Northwestern's Institute for Policy Research and the faculty director of Corners: the Center for Neighborhood Engaged Research & Science. He is a Chicago native and one of the world's leading experts at applying network science to the study of crime, violence, policing, and urban neighborhoods. Papachristos has more than 15 years of experience and has worked with community groups, state and local criminal justice agencies, schools, hospitals, city governments, and the federal government.



Dr. Joseph B. Richardson

Dr. Joseph B. Richardson is the Joel and Kim Feller Professor of African-American Studies and Anthropology at the University of Maryland. Dr. Richardson's research centers on gun violence, community violence, violent firearm injury, mental health and trauma, translational research, and innovative violence reduction interventions for Black boys and young Black men. He serves as the lead epidemiologist for the Violence Intervention Program, a hospital-based violence intervention program at the University of Maryland R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, and leads the Gun Violence Reduction and Research Initiative at the University of Maryland.

PLENDARY PANEL 4 - TUESDAY | 12:00PM | GRAND BALLROOM

Inside Out: City and Community Collaborations to Address Community Violence

Explore in depth how city officials and community leaders can work together to address community violence. Panelists will focus on the importance of collaboration and open dialogue, as well as the challenges of implementing community-led approaches to peace in the midst of calls for police reform and unstable city politics.



Mike McLively, moderator

Mike McLively is a senior staff attorney at GIFFORDS Law Center and the policy director of the organization's Center for Violence Intervention, which offers policy expertise, advocacy, organizing, and technical assistance to support and promote evidence-based violence intervention strategies in America's most impacted communities. The author of many major reports on the topic of community violence, McLively has spoken to national, state, and local leaders across the country about the need to address the day-to-day shootings that fuel America's gun violence epidemic.



Walter Katz

Walter Katz joined Arnold Ventures after more than two decades in public service. Previously, he worked at a developer of early intervention software and provided advice to jurisdictions seeking to align policy and technology with modern police practices. In 2017 Katz was appointed deputy chief of staff for public safety in the administration of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, where he oversaw one of the most complex police reform efforts in the United States and led the design and development of the new Office of Violence Prevention.



Susan Lee

In her role as chief of strategy and policy at Chicago CRED, Susan Lee works to institutionalize a comprehensive violence reduction strategy. Previously she served as the Chicago mayor's deputy mayor of public safety, led the Urban Peace Institute in Los Angeles, and worked at CRED in a different role. Lee has more than 25 years of experience in policy development and implementation, nonprofit management, strategic planning, fundraising, and community engagement.

LIFESAVING SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT: PATERSON HEALING COLLECTIVE



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Since 2020, the Paterson Healing Collective has been an invaluable provider of life-saving services to numerous victims of violent injury in Paterson, New Jersey. Through their utilization of data-driven interventions, active community engagement, and comprehensive wraparound support, they have played a crucial role in saving lives and empowering survivors on their paths to healing. We commend their dedication to restoring and rebuilding the lives of those affected by violence. Join us in celebrating the Paterson Healing Collective for their transformative impact with this well-deserved recognition.

The Lifesaving Service Award, presented in partnership by the GIFFORDS Law Center and GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention, aims to honor outstanding community-based organizations for their valuable contributions in preventing gun violence. This year, awardees will be recognized with a spotlight at the Giffords 30th Anniversary Gala, where they will have the opportunity to share space with distinguished guests like Dr. Jill Biden. Additionally, the GIFFORDS Center for Violence Intervention will provide a donation to the awardee, offering support for their ongoing efforts to transform lives within their community.

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