



Grandparents Against Gun Violence Virtual Meeting Minutes August 24, 2020

Our Mission:

We work to reduce gun violence to keep all children safe at home, at school and in our community.

The meeting was convened by President Judy Sherry at 4:00 pm. Attendance: 59

Lock It For Love – Barb McNeile reported there have been five events since July 1, four using a drive-through model averaging 40 locks per event and joining other organizations distributing food and backpacks. LIFL has had 124 events in three years and has given out 3,079 locks. Shayla Sullivan's (Children's Mercy Hospital) events are going virtual and will distribute locks through the mail to participants.

Heartland Coalition *Virtual Forum* – Carla Oppenheimer reminded us of GAGV's major fundraiser Monday, October 12, 2020, *Gun Violence – Beyond Thoughts and Prayers*. Register and donate at www.moksgagv.com. The link will be provided to registrants prior to the event.

Vision Quilt – Visit www.visionquilt.org to view Grandparents Against Gun Violence KC's impressive quilts.

Program – Leading up to Suicide Awareness Month in September, **Jennifer Levinson**, a mother, former teacher, activist and suicide survivor, shared her own experience and her current work to help those in crisis through the SPEAK UP Foundation. The Foundation was formed by three families who suffered a devastating loss due to mental illness ending in suicide. It's goal is to break the silence and reduce stigma surrounding all mental illness and suicide.

Jennifer talked about the stresses teens have struggling with pressure to juggle ACTs, AP classes, activities and jobs causing a lack of balance and lack of sleep in their lives. Because of Covid-19, they may have too much time on their hands and suffer more depression with increased rate of suicide. The uncertainty about when school will start and how it will start is causing much anxiety. The trusted adult who may be a coach, teachers or another adult at school, is not readily available. Jennifer uses Source of Strength, an evidence-based and peer-led suicide prevention program. See www.sourcesofstrength.org

Judy adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm urging us all to **Get Out the Vote** for the November election.

There will be no September meeting.

Minutes submitted by Charlotte Davison, Secretary