



## Grandparents Against Gun Violence Meeting Minutes August 26, 2019

### **Our Mission:**

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

President Judy Sherry convened the meeting at 4:05 pm at Colonial Church in Prairie Village.

Barb McNeile reported that LIFL has given away 2,273 free gun locks at 94 events. A map showing the zip codes where LIFL has presented showed the most impact on the city's east side. LIFL is partnering with suicide prevention programs at ReDiscover and Comprehensive Mental Health Services. Barb thanked all LIFL captains and volunteers.

Judy announced tickets to the Heartland Coalition Community Forum are on sale:  
<https://moksgagv.org/community-forum-public/>. Sponsorships continue to be available.

Judy introduced Henry Stover of PeaceWorks KC and asked attendees to support the Unplaza Art Fair, September 21-22, 10 am to 5 pm at Southmoreland Park, immediately west of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, between Oak Street and Warwick Boulevard. The fair is a fundraiser of PeaceWorks, offering quality, affordable, locally created artwork. PeaceWorks is a sponsor of the Heartland Community Forum.

Nancy Oglesby, GAGV's Facebook administrator, wants to keep our profile more local. When you see pertinent content, please send it to her at [nancy@healthworkskc.com](mailto:nancy@healthworkskc.com). She explained Facebook algorithms, encouraging us to use the "like" button (love and tears even better), share posts, and make comments so more people will be directed to GAGV on Facebook.

Gail Roberson is the recipient of GAGV's Volunteer of the Quarter. Gail is an active LIFL volunteer and most recently co-produced a video about last spring's shooting at Highland Elementary School. Congratulations, Gail!

September is Suicide Prevention Month. Judy announced three local events:

- 9/8 – Remembrance Walk – 8:00 am, Loose Park - <http://www.sass-mokan.com/Sass-walk/>
- 9/15 – Speak Up Walk – 8:00 am, Garmin Pavilion - <https://speakup.us/walk-2019/>
- 10/5 – Out of the Darkness – Swope Park – 10:00 am - <https://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=6327>

To begin Suicide Awareness Month, suicide survivor Claire Tietgen, joined by her father, Charlie Tietgen, was today's speaker. Claire told her story of attempting suicide three times, beginning at age

13 after dealing with bullying for years. After carvings were found in her bedroom reading “I want to die,” Claire and her family used these experiences as motivation to build their E3 Sports Facility, a fitness, Jiu-Jitsu and yoga facility. Claire works there alongside her parents, sister and brother to teach the sport that has given her the first happiness she has felt in years. Self-awareness is among the key lessons taught at E3. The gym builds self-confidence and provides a welcoming outlet for at-risk kids to work out and talk about their feelings of depression and suicide. Charlie described E3’s use of the Kolbe-Y Assessment in guiding kids to understand what motivates them, thus helping to reduce stress, improve learning and ward off depression that can lead to suicide.

Susie Rawlings and Julie Young were thanked for today’s handouts. Julie gave her monthly gun violence report: 9,672 gun deaths in 2019, not including suicides.

Judy thanked attendees for donations and cookies to KCAVP/Passages.

Advocacy Action: Carla Oppenheimer provided postcards for us to write to U.S. Senators Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts (KS) and Roy Blunt and Josh Hawley (MO) letting them know we are holding them accountable for opposing common-sense gun reform. The House has passed HR8 requiring stricter background checks, while the Senate has failed to consider the companion bill S42.

Next meeting: Monday, September 23 — Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Submitted by Charlotte Davison, Secretary

*Embrace, empower, encourage:* Three words her parents have long shared with Claire, are the inspiration behind the name E3. She developed her own YouTube show called *Bullied But Not Broken*. Claire says “I interview celebrities who have similar stories or the same story, and just get their advice about bullying and their story.”