

FACES OF A DAMAGED MOTHER

*Another young man gone to gun
violence in Philadelphia.*

What is behind this removable smile of this mother?

Shaquar Demby: 12/15/1995—12/29/2021 (Son)

VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

DAO CARES Newsletter

A Letter To Grieving Mothers

To: Mother's & Family Members

Today, tomorrow, and the future days to come will never be the same for you, since receiving the news your child will never walk in your home again for birthday celebrations, holiday gatherings, proms, or graduations. Now, the daunting task is at your front door waiting for you every day. How do I go on living without my child? How can I laugh again? How can I extend hope and love to others when mine has been stolen from me? How do I start my day? Will I be able to perform my task at work? Or will I be able to sleep tonight?

Tahira Fortune a mother who lost her son to gun violence in 2017, made the decision to help other mothers who lost a child to violence. "I started Voice by Choices in 2018 after my son was killed in West Oak Lane. I started a support group for mothers and families in need of peer support and I started supporting youth in my community to create a safe haven for them".—Tahira

It is extremely important to connect with and link yourself to others who can hold you up during your most valuable times in your life. Peer Support offers you the opportunity to begin to trust again, an opportunity for you to share in a safe space, help others, and to meet with others who are speaking your language without judgement. Tahira is waiting for you with open arms and an open heart. Voices by Choices meets every Wednesday at 801 Diamond Street from 6:00PM to 8:00PM. Tahira can be reached at 215-873-1496 or by email at tahirafortune@yahoo.com.

The people you surround yourself with, should have some understanding of what you are going through and know what you experienced. This is often the effective first resource when you are struggling. Please know when a C.A.R.E.S Peer Crisis Responder reaches out to ask if help is needed, please take advantage of the peer support we have to offer.

The C.A.R.E.S. Peer Crisis Responder will put you in contact with resources such as Voices by Choices to help you. We assess your needs to help you function from day to day. We do this because we love you and because WE CARE!

From: The C.A.R.E.S. Team



RIGHTS ACCESS EQUITY



National Victim Rights' Week

April 24-30th,
2022

Philadelphia C.A.R.E.S. kicked off National Victims' Rights Week
at the State Capitol in Harrisburg with victims, co-homicide survivors,

law enforcement, elected officials, and community-based agencies around the commonwealth of PA.

Important information for the Family Members with unsolved homicide cases:

THE PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS STARTED AND DEDICATED A WEBSITE FOR THE VICTIMS OF HOMICIDES. THIS WEBSITE INCLUDES A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT, A PHOTOGRAPH AND A SHORT MESSAGE THAT YOU, AND/OR YOUR FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO SHARE ABOUT YOUR LOVED ONE. THIS WEBSITE IS UTILIZED AS AN ANONYMOUS SOURCE FOR ANYONE WHO HAS INFORMATION THAT COULD POSSIBLY LEAD TO AN ARREST.

THE CONSENT FORM CAN BE SUBMITTED SEVERAL WAYS;
THROUGH THE WEBSITE PHILLYUNSOLVEDMURDERS.COM

CONSENT FORMS CAN BE SENT THROUGH U.S. MAIL TO:

PHILADELPHIA POLICE HEADQUARTERS

750 RACE ST-ROOM 104

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106

ATTN:P/O Latanya Acevedo

Victim Assistance Officer

Homicide Unit

Office: 215.686.3065

Fax: 215-925-7377

Email: Latanya.Acevedo@phila.gov

A standing cash reward of up to \$20,000 for essential information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person or persons for any homicide that has occurred in the City of Philadelphia.

Dial: 215.686.TIPS (8477)

Email: tips@phillypolice.com

Contact the Homicide Unit: 215-686-3334

<https://www.phillyunsolvedmurders.com/forms-formas/submit-a-tip-online> - When submitting a tip online (You will receive a Tip Submission Code (Keep that identification code. It will be used to identify your tip.)

Citizen Crime Commission (Media Assistance)

1518 Walnut Street Suite #902

Philadelphia, PA

215-546-6532

Citizens Crime Commission: 215-546-TIPS. All calls will remain anonymous

If you are reporting a crime in progress, or need emergency service, please call 9-1-1.

As a Victim you have **RIGHTS**

You have the right to be informed about...

- Basic information concerning the services available to you in your county.
- Court events including information on bail, escape of offenders or release of offenders in the event of an arrest.
- The disposition of a case.

You have a right to receive...

- Notice of the arrest of an offender
- Information about the Victim Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP).
- Accompaniment to criminal proceedings by a family member, a victim advocate or other person providing assistance or support.



C.A.R.E.S. is a Crisis Response Program that offers:

- * On scene response
- * Immediate needs assessment
- * Emotional support to the Next of Kin and family members
- * Crisis intervention: Assist individual in coping with future difficulties more effectively
- * Education on how to file a victims compensation application and the requirements
 - * Help prepare families for what is to come
- * Referrals to community-based agencies and resources
- * 24-hour hotline **215-275-7937**

CARES Main Office: DA's Office: Victim Support Services Division

Three South Penn Square

(Corner of Juniper and South Penn Square, across from City Hall)

Philadelphia, PA 19107-3499 **Hotline: 215-275-7937, Melany P. Nelson, 267-808-0350**

THE C.A.R.E.S. PEER CRISIS RESPONDERS SERVE ALL OF PHILADELPHIA

C.A.R.E.S. Peer Responders Team, from left to right:

MELANY P. NELSON, DIRECTOR

SHAKINA DESHAZOR, ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

YVONNE NELSON, LEAD RESPONDER

DESHAWNDA WILLIAM, RESPONDER

ANDREA RIVERA, RESPONDER

JACQUIE DESHAZOR, RESPONDER

MARK PITTMAN, RESPONDER

ANDRE NELSON JR., RESPONDER

WE CARE PHILADELPHIA!

