

BREAKING NEWS

**TODAY A TEEN LOST THEIR LIFE TO GUN VIOLENCE!
HOW MANY TODAY'S WILL PHILADELPHIA HAVE?**



**Losing a Child will
forever change your life!**

C.A.R.E.S CRISIS RESPONSE

CARES staff provides peer support to individuals and families in the immediate aftermath of a homicide. After notification is made of the homicide death a CARES Peer Crisis Responder will contact the surviving family and provide support and advocacy services as needed and requested. This may include crisis counseling, accompaniment to the Medical Examiner's Office or law enforcement agencies, interpretation support, safety planning and information and referrals for other services provided by community and survivor-based organizations.

All services are provided at no cost!



City of Philadelphia

C.A.R.E.S. PEER CRISIS RESPONDERS

Provide trauma informed supportive counseling and advocacy services to you and your loved ones. ➤ Stay with you and your loved ones to explain law enforcement protocols and interact with law enforcement when needed. ➤ Secure interpretation services as needed. ➤ Assist with navigating communication with the media. ➤ Contact family and friends on your behalf. ➤ Safety plan with you and your loved ones. ➤ Provide information on next steps for you and your loved ones. ➤ Make referrals for appropriate services. ➤ Provide information on applying for Victims Compensation Assistance Program. ➤ Facilitate communication with the District Attorney's Office, Philadelphia Police Department, Community Based Victim Service Providers and other professionals.



LIVING A DOUBLE LIFE – SMILES & CRIES



16-YEAR-OLD MALE MURDERED

It has been one year since the murder of my 16-year-old grandson, of whom I was raising, and it still seems unreal. I still look for him to come out of his room asking me for batteries for his Xbox controller. I swear I can still hear him in his room yelling at the game playing 2K basketball, but in reality, it's silent. My grandson was a good guy, great basketball player, always received good grades in school and never had any major issues with law enforcement. It is just hard to imagine why 3 people would ambush and kill him. What could he have possibly done at age 16 to warrant this execution? He lost his mother to cancer at age 5 she was 29 years young his dad was never in his life. My grandson had only me (grandfather), his grandmother, his twin sister, other 3 male siblings, now we don't have him!

I often wonder was there anything that I could have done differently in raising him to not let this happen. He played organized basketball since he was 7 years old, and maybe I should have had him play football instead. Maybe the daily practices and activities would have made him tired enough to come home and not be outside in these dangerous streets of Philadelphia making friends. I feel somewhat responsible for this happening, I think I let him go too soon. I used to take him to basketball practice, his basketball games, he was with me constantly. Then work became too demanding, overtime removed me from him. 3 weeks shy of his 17th birthday was when he was killed. I will never know if that would have kept him from getting shot 15 times right next to his twin sister. She will forever be traumatized.

We are in constant non-pain and sorrow. We miss our loved one to no end. People often ask me "how's everyone doing" the reply is always the same "we're maintaining". But little do they know we now live a **double life**. The smiles and laughter outside the home is one life and the pain and anguish at home is another life.

My grandson murder is still unsolved. It was not one, it was not two, but it was three shooters who stole the life of my grandson. I know this because it was captured on video. Those images will never leave my mind and it will haunt me forever.

The city of Philadelphia is losing young people at an alarming rate. Living through so many stages in Philadelphia, I strongly believe the gun violence crisis we are in now surpasses everything. Brothers stay close with your children keep them off these streets and keep them busy with positive activities. Right now, Philadelphia is not a safe place for them to be unattended. #justiceforAJ #justiceforjzmine

-A Grandfather with a broken heart



October 26, 2021 – Teen Ambushed, Killed Near his Home

FREE THERAPY SERVICES!

General Outpatient- Northeast

CFAR's general outpatient offers individual, couples, and family therapy to both adults and children. We provide services to children as young as 3 years old and do not have a cap on how old someone can be. We have both adult and child psychiatric services. We do not offer med management only and clients who would like to see the psychiatrist also must be consistently engaged in therapy. We do not work individually with children and they are always seen within the context of the family. Clients can be seen both in person or virtually based on their preference and what is most clinically appropriate. All intakes are done in person unless for some reason a client is just unable to make it into our physical space due to some extenuating circumstance.

We have therapists trained in ESFT, TF-CBT, and PE (prolonged exposure). During the intake clients are assessed to determine if they would be appropriate for any of these evidence-based practices. After intake clients will be contacted to get scheduled with a permanent therapist.

Center for Families and Relationships

7901 Bustleton Ave.
Suite 300

Philadelphia, PA 19152
(Phone) 215-537-5367
ext. 401

(Fax) 215-288-4285

www.cfarcounseling.org

HELP IS AVAILABLE

Referral Process:

If clients want to do their own outreach they can call the offices main number at 215-537-5367 and speak with any of our admin.

Agency Hours: [Monday-Friday 9am-9pm & Saturdays 9am-5pm]

Children Deserving Services Program (CDS) at Center for Families and Relationships. CDS is a county funded program that allows us to offer free outpatient therapy services to undocumented, uninsurable children in Philadelphia. The program serves children aged 3-17 in Philadelphia and they can be seen with their caregivers for family therapy; we are currently not able to offer services for individual adults. I have attached our English and Spanish language flyer to this email. We are currently taking referrals for new clients for in-person and telehealth services. Let me know if you have any questions. Below is information on our referral process:

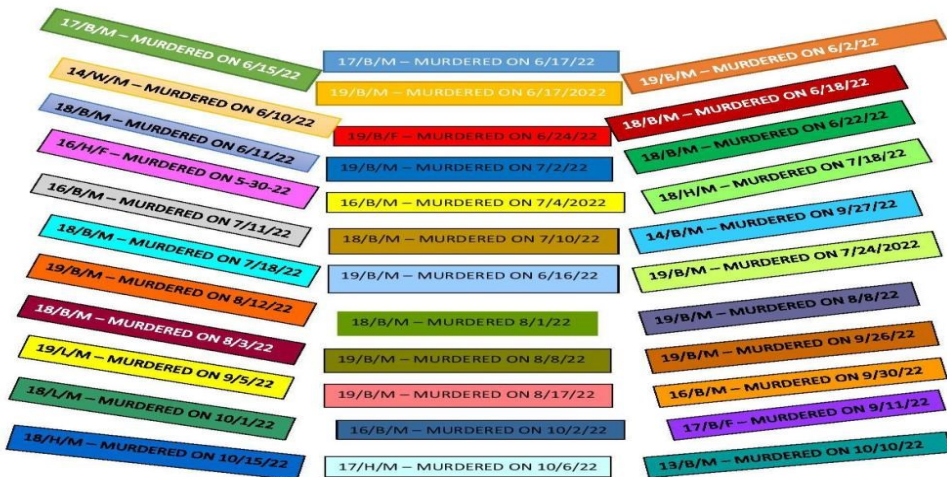
Referral Process

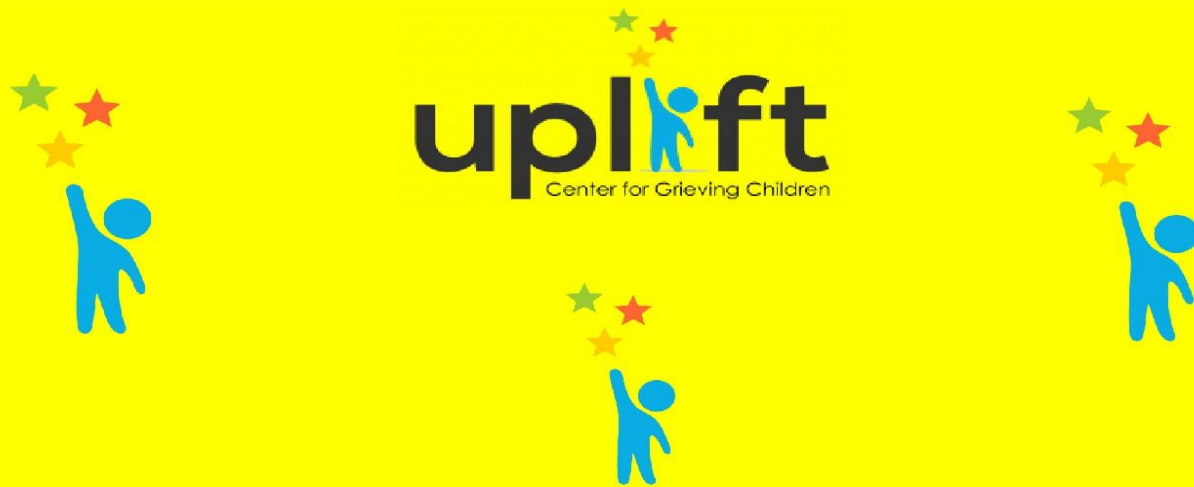
Partners will contact the Child Deserving Services Program at CFAR by emailing the program at [cgs@cfarcounseling.org](mailto:cds@cfarcounseling.org) to make a referral or calling 215-537-5367 ext. 4004.

Together Through Trauma program (TTT) offers free trauma therapy and workshops for Philadelphia residents. The trauma therapy, available to both children (ages 4 to 17) and adults impacted by gun violence, utilizes our family therapy skills to help prevent intergenerational trauma. The workshops teach members of the community what trauma is; how it impacts their lives; and how they can cope and be restored after a traumatic event. We offer a menu of workshop topics pertaining to trauma. We also offer trainings to community organizations interested in educating their staff on how to engage families, especially those who have experienced trauma.

To make a referral to the Together Through Trauma program, please contact us at gvp@cfarcounseling.org or call 215-537-5367 ext. 4005.

TODAY A TEEN WAS MURDERED IN PHILADELPHIA





Uplift Center for Grieving Children
 3300 Henry Avenue, Suite 102
 Philadelphia, PA 19129
 TEL: 267.437.3123

Horas en español:

Lunes de 10 a.m. a 1 p.m. y viernes de 1 p.m. a 4 p.m.

Hours for Grieving LGBTQ+ Youth:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4–8 p.m.

Hours of Operation:

Mondays–Thursdays: 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

Fridays: 1 p.m.–4 p.m.

Holidays: CLOSED

COMMUNITY RESOURCE

Uplift Center for Grieving Children helps children grieving a death heal and grow through their grief, while strengthening families, communities, and professionals' understanding of how best to respond to their needs. The organization was initially established in 1995 as part of the Bereavement Program at St. Christopher's Hospital and since incorporating as an independent nonprofit in 2000, has offered trauma informed free grief support services to youth and families in Philadelphia for more than 20 years.

UPLIFTING YOUTH IN NEED

CENTER FOR GRIEVING CHILDREN

Uplift provides entirely free peer-support grief programming to children, youth and caregivers through several modes: In-school groups supporting students during the school day; Family Services groups offering support to children and caregivers concurrently; Legacy groups to support students in the aftermath of a death of peer; and community groups offering focused support through specialized curricula for unique populations such as justice-involved youth, LGBTQIA+ youth, and youth experiencing a loss to homicide. Each group is facilitated by a Masters-level clinician and provides space for individuals to discuss grief experiences and participate in activities teaching healthy coping strategies, encouraging peer support, providing healthy modeling of grief, and fostering future resiliency. Uplift also offers trauma-informed training seminars and workshops for professionals working with grieving children, and its award-winning Philly HopeLine is a free telephone helpline, staffed by Uplift's Masters-level clinicians, for Philadelphia students and caregivers needing mental health support. Uplift's programs address larger systemic issues and barriers associated with mental health support. All grief supports are free to participants, and no health insurance is required. By eliminating financial and insurance resources, Uplift's programs are accessible across an array of social locations, making mental health care obtainable for populations for whom it is vital. Uplift's clinical staff is also diverse, with 48% of clinicians identifying as Black, 20% identifying as Latinx, and 24% identifying as LGBTQIA+. For any grief group participant, significant trust and vulnerability is required, making it essential to create a space that is comfortable to foster authentic confidence. For most of the families Uplift serves, their grief is coupled with additional stressors such as language barriers, racial trauma, and discrimination. Uplift's diverse clinical staff allows a greater range of participants to identify with and feel seen by group facilitators, while fostering a more natural receptivity in participants. All clinicians are also trained in trauma- and racial trauma-informed practices, to positively shift mental health standards toward equity.

C.A.R.E.S. DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

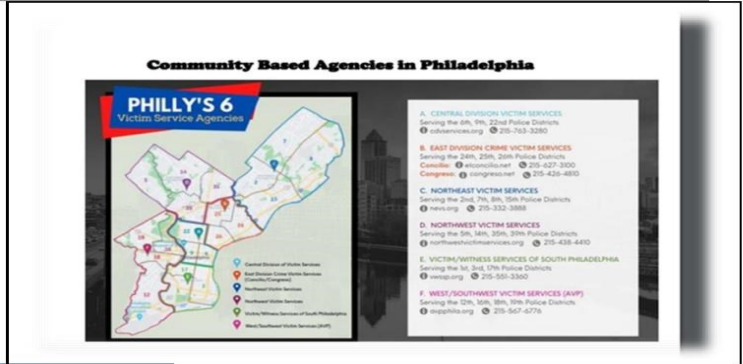
C.A.R.E.S. Peer Crisis Responders

CONTACT Information for the Medical Examiner's Office

PLEASE DO NOT GO TO THE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE

CALL FOR ASSISTANCE

400 N. Broad St. Philadelphia, PA 19130
Identify Your Loved One: (215) 685-7445 /
Investigation Unit Phone: (215) 685-7458 /
Front Desk & Check for your loved one's belongings
Fax: (215) 685-9465



C.A.R.E.S. TEAM

PHILADELPHIA C.A.R.E.S. TEAM

**PEER CRISIS RESPONDERS
HOMICIDE DEPLOYMENT THROUGHOUT
PHILADELPHIA TO CRIME SCENES &
SELECT HOSPITALS FROM
6:00AM TO 10:00PM**



*Shakina DeShazor,
Administrative Manager*



*Yvonne Nelson, Lead
Peer Crisis Responder*



*Andrea Rivera, Spanish
speaking Peer Crisis Responder*



*Zulma Perez, Spanish speaking
Peer Crisis Responder*



*Jacquie DesShazor, Peer Crisis
Responder*

C.A.R.E.S PEER RESPONDERS provide
peer support to individuals and families in
the immediate aftermath of a homicide.
Supporting families, friends and
communities impacted by homicide.

CARES HOTLINE: 215-275-7937



*Mark Pittman, Peer Crisis
Responder*



*Andre Nelson Jr., Peer
Crisis Responder*

**CONTACT US: PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE 3 SOUTH PENN
SQUARE PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107**

PHONE: 215-686-8019

EMAIL: PHILACARES@PHILA.GOV



*Joseph Smiley, Peer
Crisis Responder*



Melany P. Nelson, Director