

Northwest Victim Services Newsletter

Ester Kim
Transformed her distress
into determination

**Gun violence
damaged my
heart after my
15 year old son was
murdered**

National Gun Violence Awareness Month

FOREVER 15 FOUNDATION

The Forever15 Foundation was started in honor of Neko. Neko is my 15 years old son who was murdered in the city of Philadelphia. The Forever 15 Foundation will not only keep Neko's legacy alive but give selfless service to many young men individuals.

The recurring thought kept finding it's way back into the forefront of my brain, how can I help Neko's friends and peers, and I would ask myself, "how can I contribute?"

Scholarships for youth, that will help youth in so many ways. High school students would benefit the most, by accepting our humble scholarships to expand their educational journey. The Forever 15 Foundation will help students in need of a financial boost.

Our goal and mission is to extend financial assistance towards the costs of continuing education in the categories of transportation, books, enrollment fees which can all be costly. We want to help ease some of the worries that may hinder a young person from furthering their education.

Forever 15 Foundation is coming soon.

Esther Kim





Supporting victims & co-victims.
Advocating for their needs.



Meet Our Team!

Adara L. Combs, Esq. is the city's first Victim Advocate. The Office of the Victim Advocate was created in February 2022 to address the needs of victims and co-victims in Philadelphia.



Heather Arias serves as Deputy Director of the Office of the Victim Advocate. Heather has a wealth of knowledge and experience serving victims in Philadelphia.



Andre Nelson
Relocation Program
Coordinator



Camille Frazier
Administrative
Coordinator

Our Priorities

- Policy changes that help victims & co-victims
- Meaningful community engagement
- Enhance services provided to victims
- Community partner building

What we do

- Create policies and strategies that positively impact Philadelphia
- Connect victims to services
- Provide support to victims and co-victims of violent crimes
- Provide support to victim service agencies



OVA Website



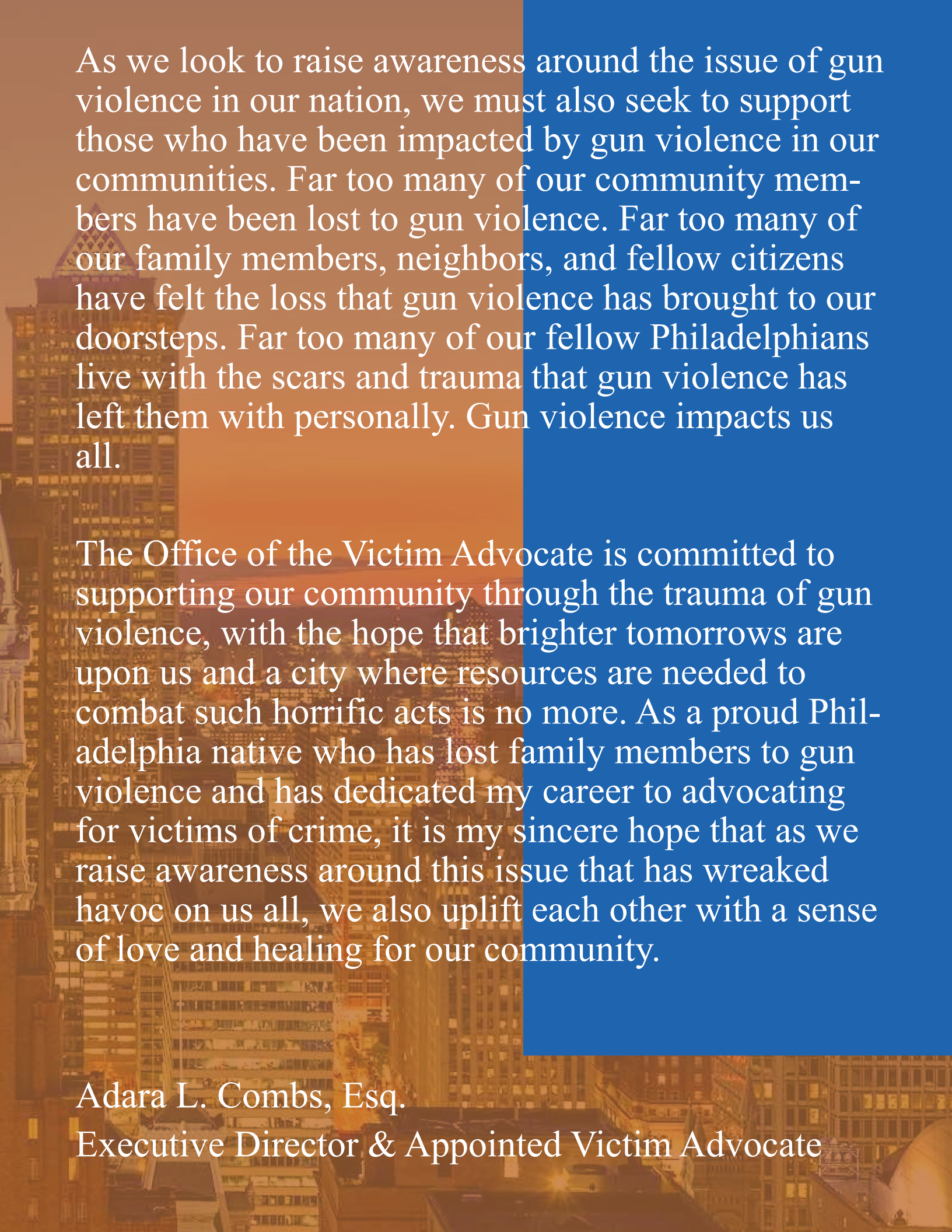
OVA Resource Guide

To Contact OVA

215-686-2115

Victim.Advocate@phila.gov

Phila.gov/victim-advocate



As we look to raise awareness around the issue of gun violence in our nation, we must also seek to support those who have been impacted by gun violence in our communities. Far too many of our community members have been lost to gun violence. Far too many of our family members, neighbors, and fellow citizens have felt the loss that gun violence has brought to our doorsteps. Far too many of our fellow Philadelphians live with the scars and trauma that gun violence has left them with personally. Gun violence impacts us all.

The Office of the Victim Advocate is committed to supporting our community through the trauma of gun violence, with the hope that brighter tomorrows are upon us and a city where resources are needed to combat such horrific acts is no more. As a proud Philadelphia native who has lost family members to gun violence and has dedicated my career to advocating for victims of crime, it is my sincere hope that as we raise awareness around this issue that has wreaked havoc on us all, we also uplift each other with a sense of love and healing for our community.

Adara L. Combs, Esq.

Executive Director & Appointed Victim Advocate

National Gun violence awareness day



NORTHWEST
VICTIM SERVICES



we can
**end gun
violence**

Theme: #wearorange

JUNE 7, 2024
2:00-5:00PM
FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
6023 GERMANTOWN AVE

Firearms are
the leading
cause of death
for children and
teens in America.

4.6 million
children in the
US live in homes
with guns that
are both loaded
and unlocked.

wearorange.org

wearorange.org

Join us in bringing awareness to gun violence and in the fight for safer gun laws. Survivors are welcomed to honor their loved ones by bringing a picture to add to our vigil. Senator ArtHaywood will also be speaking. We look forward to seeing you there!

RESOURCE TABLING INFORMATION

Center for Families and Relationships (CFAR)

Uplift

PSCAR

Philadelphia Office of the Victim Advocate

Solutions over Problems

Crime survivors for safety and justice

Philadelphia C.A.R.E.S (DAs office)

CareerLink

United Way (UWGPNJ) - Community Outreach Manager

Temple University Hospital Safe BET Program

CLIP

ORGANIZER: WYNTER DOWNING
NVS YOUTH ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR
YC@NORTHWESTVICTIMSERVICES.ORG

NORTHWEST VICTIM SERVICES FAMILY

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