



NOVEMBER 2022 - TWELFTH EDITION

SIBLINGS OF MURDERED SIBLINGS

The Unwanted Club



As we look towards Thanksgiving, we at SOMS want to express our gratitude and thanks to each and every one of you for your participation in our Facebook group and ongoing events. Please let us know how we can help. We are all in this Unwanted Club together.



This month, we highlight:

Worldwide Bereaved Siblings Month

Restorative Justice Week

November 20-26

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

November 25-December 10

National Survivors of Homicide Victims

Awareness Month

November 20-December 20

Worldwide Bereaved Siblings Day

November 1

International Day of Tolerance

November 16

Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 20

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims

November 20

White Ribbon Day

November 22

Thanksgiving

November 24

International Day of the Eradication of Violence

Against Women

November 25

Giving Tuesday

November 29



NEW AND/OR UPCOMING ITEMS ON OUR WEBSITE:

- *Colorado Volunteers Needed!*
- *Take our Survey*
- *Testimonial Page (submit your testimony of how SOMS has helped you in your journey)*
- *Sparkling Ice Cheers to Giving Campaign*
- *We have new items in our store!*
- *Add your loved one to our Memorial Wall!*

SOMS Care Packages

Applications for Care Packages are currently closed. We hope to resume this soon!

If you would like to donate toward Care Packages for other families, please go to:

<https://donorbox.org/somscarepackages>

We remember you

Sibling Birthdays

NOVEMBER 4 - KELLY MORRIS'S SISTER, MICK
NOVEMBER 5 - JOANN KOEHN'S BROTHER, RONALD "RON" KOEHN
NOVEMBER 6 - BRANDI DAVIS'S BROTHER, RUDOLPH DONALD LOMAX
NOVEMBER 9 - LAURIE URIAS & HOPE MCGLONE'S SISTER, BRITTANY
DANIELLE MCGLONE
NOVEMBER 9 - DAWN HANSON SUMMARIA'S BROTHER, DWAYNE
ALLEN HANSON
NOVEMBER 9 - RACHEL HERALD'S BROTHER, JEFFREY HERALD
NOVEMBER 9 - KAYLEE RAKER'S SISTER, ASHLEY MICHAEL BARNEY
NOVEMBER 10 - DAISY DIXIEDOT'S BROTHER, CORDARROW DANIEL
"HI" HIRTHE
NOVEMBER 11 - KELSEY KRAFT'S SISTER, CHRISTINA ROSE
CARLIN KRAFT
NOVEMBER 11 - EVELYN KG'S SISTER, ELIZABETH GURROLA
NOVEMBER 12 - KIRAH JANE'S SISTER-IN-LAW, JOSIE MELBA
GRACE PETERSON
NOVEMBER 14 - CANDICE SMITH BAKER'S BROTHER, JONATHAN
CHARLES BOOKER
NOVEMBER 20 - LORI MOHR DEISTER'S BROTHER, JAMES LEWIS HILL
NOVEMBER 20 - WHITNEY YOUNGS'
BROTHER, TRISTAN ANDREW YOUNGS
NOVEMBER 22 - KATHLEEN SUZY EVANS' BROTHER, SAMUEL
CHARLES EVANS (COSTANZO)
NOVEMBER 23 - CHARLOTTE LAFRANCIS' BROTHER,
ROBERT E. LAFRANCIS
NOVEMBER 24 - EILEEN RIOUX'S SISTER, KATHLEEN "KATHY"
LORRAINE LOMAN HUFFER
NOVEMBER 25 - TAE NELSON-DOYLE'S BROTHER, TYLER
NOVEMBER 30 - WENDY LAWSON'S BROTHER, JOE "JODY"
CANNON PULLEN
NOVEMBER 30 - KAREN DZUGAN-HARPER'S BROTHER,
MICHAEL "DIZZY" DZUGAN

*in
loving
memory*

We remember you

Sibling Angelversaries

- NOVEMBER 1 - SHANNON REED & HARLIE TORBERT'S
SISTER, BRANDI PRCHAL
- NOVEMBER 1 - MELISSA PAUSTIAN WEST'S
SISTER, HANNAH MAREE KEYES
- NOVEMBER 1 - CRYSTAL BROWN'S BROTHER, GEORGE
- NOVEMBER 2 - MOLLY LOU WESTON'S SISTER, MONICA LYNN VAN LAER
- NOVEMBER 4 - EMILY LOPRETTA'S
BROTHER, MICHAEL VINCENT LOPRETTA
- NOVEMBER 4 - ALISHA DEWBERRY'S BROTHER, PAUL BRETT DEWBERRY
- NOVEMBER 5 - KALEY ANNE FRANK'S
SISTER, JESSICA ELIZABETH FRANK
- NOVEMBER 5 - VALENTINA FAILLA'S
BROTHER, JOSEPH "JOEY" ANGELO FAILLA
- NOVEMBER 6 - GAIL SAX ORFANOS' SISTER, ANDREA SAX
- NOVEMBER 7 - DAWN HANSON SUMMARIA'S
BROTHER, DWAYNE ALLEN HANSON,
SISTER-IN-LAW, SAMANTHA HAMBRICE HANSON,
NIECE, SYDNEY HANSON & HER UNBORN CHILD
- NOVEMBER 9 - MARISSA FORD'S SISTER, BROOKE NICOLE FORD
- NOVEMBER 9 - ALY CAT'S BROTHER, JERRY ANDREW WARD
- NOVEMBER 11 - JACQ PLANTER'S BROTHER
- NOVEMBER 12 - DIONNE GREEN'S BROTHER
- NOVEMBER 13 - TAE NELSON-DOYLE'S BROTHER, TYLER
- NOVEMBER 13 - MONIKAH MONDAY'S
BROTHER, ALFRED "TREY" SEYMORE III
- NOVEMBER 15 - ZACHARY D. SANFORD'S BROTHER, MARC J. SANFORD
- NOVEMBER 16 - JENNIFER WILCOX'S BROTHER, JEFFREY STEPHENS
- NOVEMBER 17 - ALEXANDRA BARRY'S
BROTHER, JAMES NICHOLAS BARRY
- NOVEMBER 17 - JOANNE CHOSA'S SISTER, KARINA RENEE CHOSA
- NOVEMBER 18 - SHANE L. MUSTARD'S
DAD, RICKY A. MUSTARD & SISTER, TONYA PICKETT
- NOVEMBER 19 - SAMANTHA LEVINE'S
BROTHER, STEPHEN "SHREK" TYLER DEAN
- NOVEMBER 19 - CANDACE BREWER'S
BROTHER, FREDERICK "SANDRA" ROSEMOND &
HIS FRIEND, DOUGLAS RAH'JA LOURIS

*in
loving
memory*

We remember you

Sibling Angelversaries Cont.

- NOVEMBER 21 - TRACY GAUDETTE LANGEVIN'S BROTHER, GRAY
MICHAEL GAUDETTE, JR.
- NOVEMBER 21 - TABITHA LOZADA'S BROTHER, ERICK T. COCHRAN
- NOVEMBER 22 - TARA MYERS SISTER, KIMBERLY "KIMBO" "EL" MYERS
- NOVEMBER 23 - JENNIFER ALLEN VICKNAIR'S BROTHER,
DR. JEFFREY ROBERT ALLEN
- NOVEMBER 25 - CRYSTAL REGAN'S BROTHER, DAMIAN
- NOVEMBER 27 - MICHELE SCHOTTELKORB'S SISTER, SAMANTHA
TERESA QUINTANAR
- NOVEMBER 27 - DAISY DIXIEDOT'S BROTHER, CORDARROW
DANIEL "HI" HIRTHE
- NOVEMBER 27 - RACHEL HERALD'S BROTHER, JEFFREY HERALD
- NOVEMBER 28 - LISA RUSTIN BOLANOS' BROTHER
- NOVEMBER 28 - NATALYA FARRIER'S BROTHER, KAMRIN A. FARRIER
- NOVEMBER 28 - CAROLINE HONRATH'S SISTER, JORDAN ELIZABETH
DIGGINS & HER UNBORN CHILD
- NOVEMBER 28 - ERIN STRAW'S SISTER, COLLEEN STRAW
- NOVEMBER 29 - MIKE HILLIER'S SISTER, AMY ELIZABETH CHERVENAK
- NOVEMBER 29 - WENDY EDMUNDS' BROTHER, DENNIS ARNOLD
DUNCAN & NIECE-IN-LAW, JESSICA KIRK
- NOVEMBER 30 - LAURA HITCH'S BROTHER, JONATHAN HITCH

*in
loving
memory*



Member Birthdays

November 6 - Katy McBride
November 10 - Brandi Collins
November 12 - Natalia Bobak
November 14 - Crystal Brown
November 17 - Jenna Jackson
November 27 - David Shalkowski
November 28 - Melissa Paustian
West

Together we give.



November 29, 2022

Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 as a day to encourage people to do good. Every act of generosity counts and everyone has something to contribute toward building a better world we all want to live in.

Just imagine the good that SOMS could do with even a \$5 donation from each person within our organization; that would generate about \$6,500!! Please consider donating on Giving Tuesday so that SOMS can continue our work helping victims of homicide and their families.

Follow the link to make your Giving Tuesday donation to Sibling of Murdered Siblings!

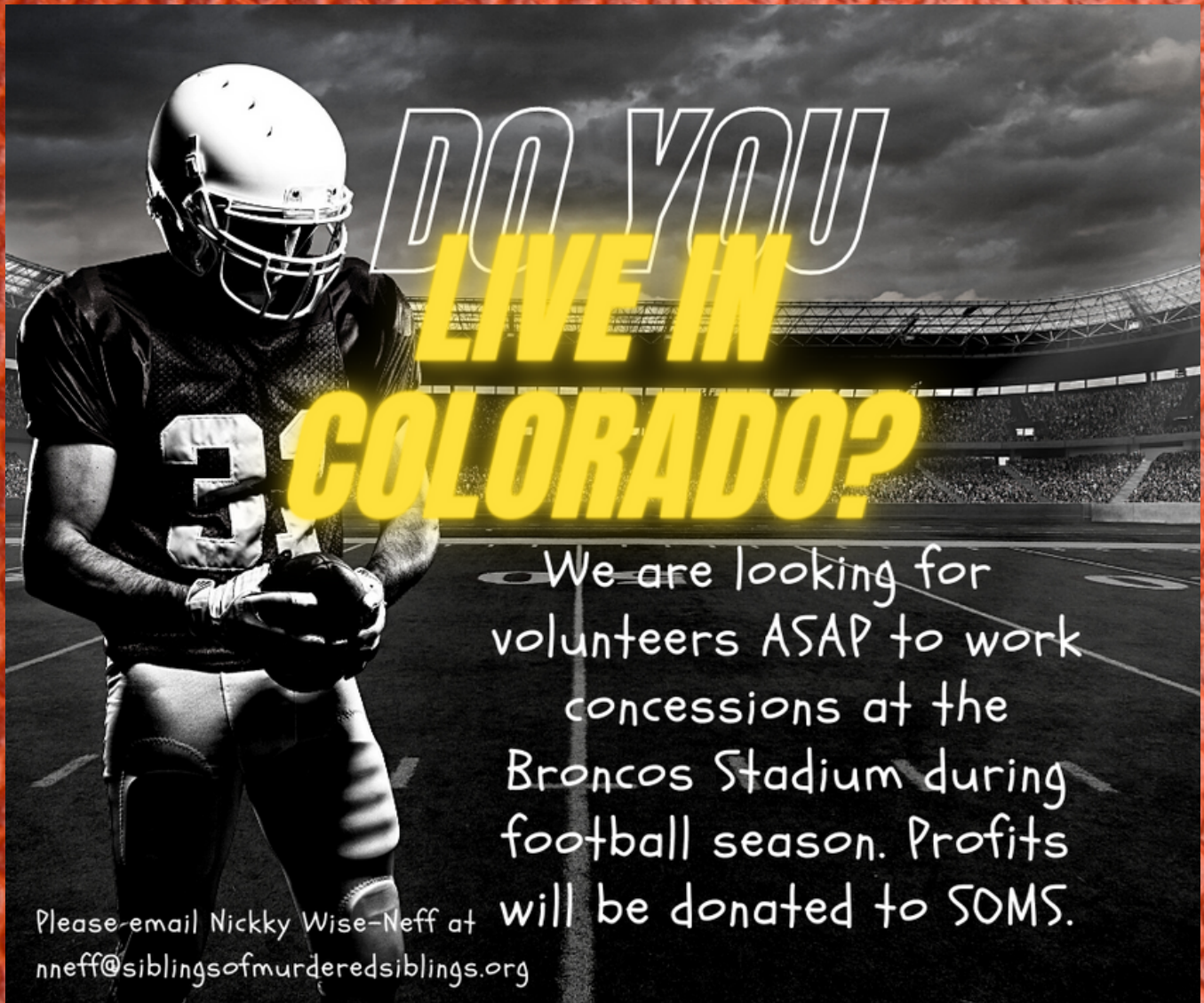
<https://siblingsofmurderedsiblings.org/donations-recurring/>

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We are looking to hear from our members on what kind of mental health help you have received or wished you had received. Please fill out the survey so that we can serve you better!

<https://aytm.com/rFOOEvQ>.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY!!



**DO YOU
LIVE IN
COLORADO?**

We are looking for volunteers ASAP to work concessions at the Broncos Stadium during football season. Profits will be donated to SOMS.

Please email Nickky Wise-Neff at nneff@siblingsofmurderedsiblings.org

Holiday Card Program

Join us in sending out Holiday Cards!
Deadline for applying is December 2.
Please register by clicking image below.
If you've registered in previous years, you do need to re-register for this year!



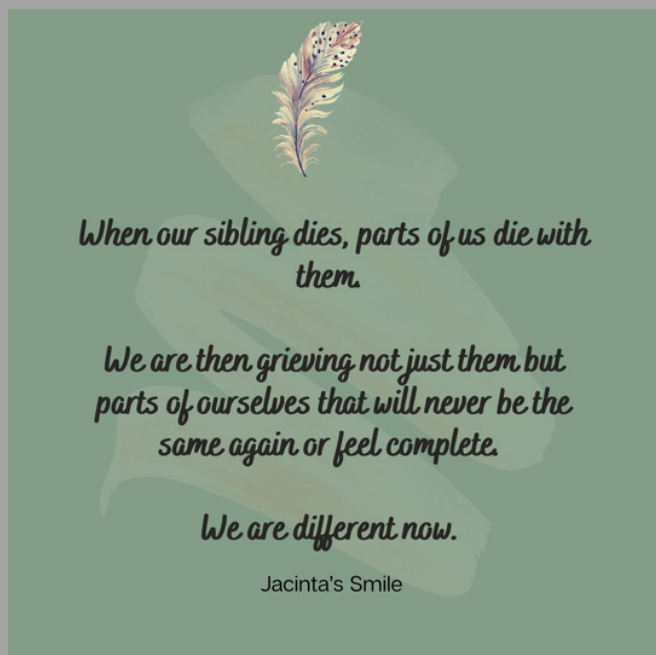
Worldwide Bereaved Siblings Awareness Month

Siblings have a unique relationship with each other. You share meals, jokes, holidays, secrets and perspectives that create a deep bond that is supposed to last a lifetime. Siblings often feel abandoned in their grief and suffer in silence, as if we push through our own loss alone without outside support. A lot of siblings keep their feelings of grief to themselves in order to protect their parents and other family members. This isolation results in siblings being referred to as the "forgotten mourners."

What can you or others do to observe Worldwide Bereaved Siblings Month? You can reach out and let a friend or family member know you're struggling. You don't have to sit alone with your grief. There are also grief support programs, such as the weekly support meetings Siblings of Murdered Siblings offers. You can also sign up for our Member Program so that we can honor your sibling on their birthday and angelversary.

The grief journey is not a consistent path. Grief ebbs and flows, and there is no set way to grieve. Everyone processes grief differently, and that's okay! It's important to allow yourself to feel your emotions and don't keep your feelings bottled up inside. This just compounds your trauma. Grief can also manifest in physical ways, such as body pain, difficulty breathing, and a number of other ailments.

During this month of awareness, let's show support for each other and hold each other up as we all journey down this grief path together. Never hesitate to reach out to SOMS for help. You are not alone.



By choosing to carry your grief not like a parasite curled in the core of your soul, but as an enduring testament to a person whose memory you'll never let fade, you ensure their immortality.

They say that love never dies, and so, perhaps, neither do the loved.

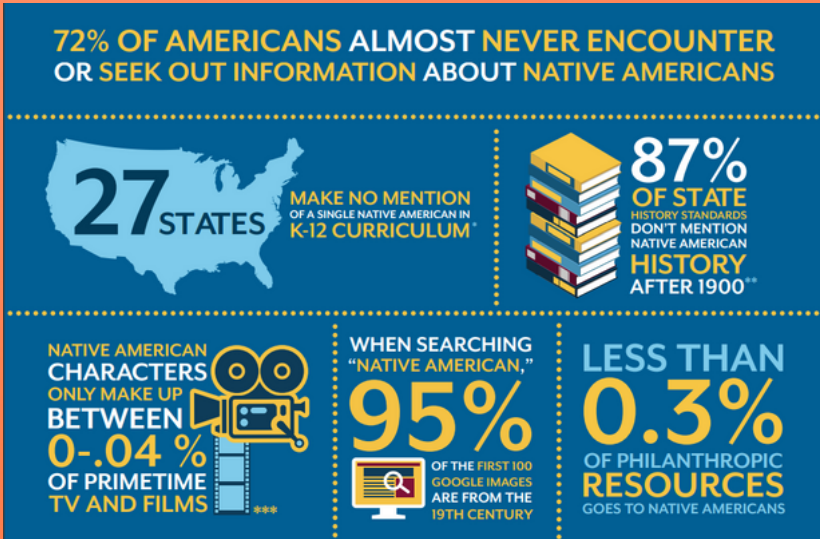
www.griefandsympathy.com



National Native American Heritage Month is celebrated every November. It is a time to celebrate the traditions, languages and stories of Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Island communities, and ensure their rich histories and contributions continue to thrive with each passing generation.

It is imperative that we explore the heritage, culture and experience of Indigenous peoples, both historically and in our life today.

The Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian is sponsoring a variety of events, both virtual and in person, in honor of Native American Heritage Month. For more information, please follow the link: <https://americanindian.si.edu/calendar/>. More information about Native American Heritage Month can be found at: <https://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/about/>.





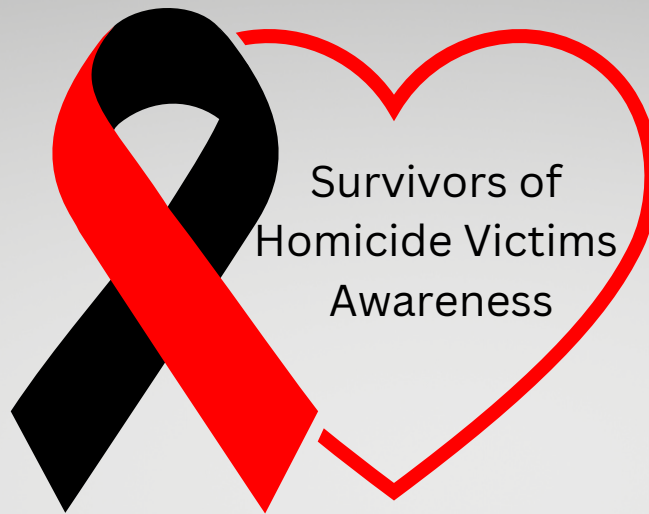
Restorative justice is an approach to addressing harm or the risk of harm by engaging all those affected in coming to a common understanding and agreement on how the harm or wrongdoing can be repaired and justice achieved. The parties involved in an offense collectively resolve how to deal with the aftermath of the offense and its implications for the future. Restorative justice focuses on repairing the harm that resulted from the offense with a forward-looking perspective.

There are many different models of restorative justice. They include victim-offender mediation, family group conferencing, sentencing circles, restorative dialogues, and both indirect (e.g., letters) and direct methods. Approaches are a voluntary process between those involved in the offense and the individuals involved in the offense, and may also include the community. Informed consent of both parties is a priority.

Conditions of restorative justice that should be attained include: the offender experiencing and expressing repentance, reintegration into society, taking responsibility, promoting healing, and providing a platform for a communicative process to enhance empowerment.

Alexandra Barry, Siblings of Murdered Siblings' founder, has received a certificate of completion for 40 hours of Restorative Justice and Victim Offender Dialogue Facilitation Training, and is qualified to provide restorative justice services. If you are interested in pursuing restorative justice, please submit the form through the following link: <https://siblingsofmurderedsiblings.org/restorative-justice/>.

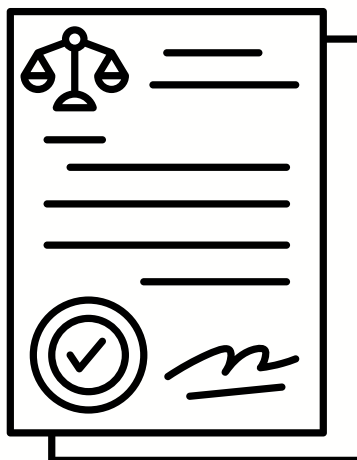




Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month is a month-long effort to educate the public and policymakers about the impact of murder on families and communities and to recognize the greater survivors' movement. Massachusetts was the first state in the country to enact the law in 2000.

A law recently passed on August 3, 2022, called the Homicide Victims' Families' Rights Act of 2021 (H.R.3359). This law applies to any cold case murder occurring on or after January 1, 1970. This law establishes a framework for immediate family members of a victim of murder under federal law to request a review of the victim's case file if the murder was committed more than three years prior, the murder was investigated by a federal law enforcement entity, all probative investigative leads have been exhausted, and no likely perpetrator has been identified. A copy of this bill can be found at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3359>.

Resolution H.Res.437 was introduced June 11, 2019, expressing support for the designation of November 20 through December 20 as "National Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month." While this resolution was introduced on June 11, 2019, it has not made it any further than being referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security as of June 28, 2019. A copy of this resolution can be found at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/437/text>.





History of Why We Celebrate Veterans

Veterans Day is observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

World War I -- known at the time as "The Great War" -- officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice or temporary cessation of hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."

An Act was approved on May 13, 1938, making the 11th of November every year a legal holiday to be dedicated to the cause of world peace, but at this time, it was only for WWI vets. In 1954, it was changed to honor all American veterans of all wars.

Thank you to all who have served this country!

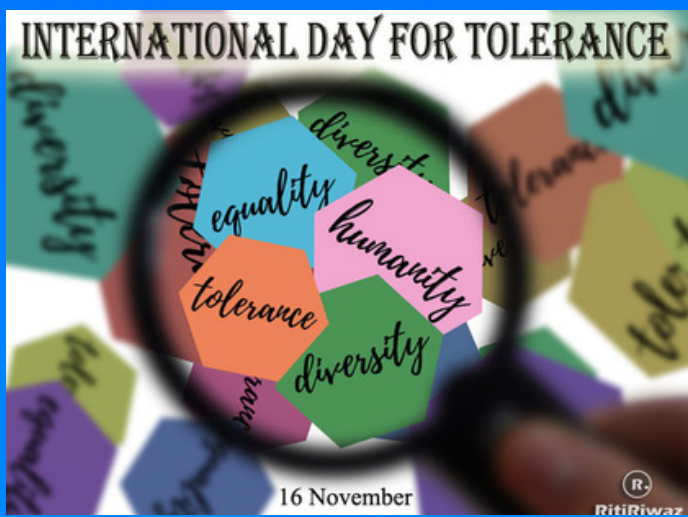


#WorldKindnessDay

World Kindness Day is an international holiday that was formed in 1998 to promote kindness throughout the world, and is observed annually on November 13 as part of the World Kindness Movement. It is observed in many countries, including the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia and the U.A.E. World Kindness Day presents us with the opportunity to reflect upon one of the most important and unifying human principles. On a day devoted to the positive potential of both large and small acts of kindness, try to promote and diffuse this crucial quality that brings people of every kind together.

The purpose of World Kindness Day, as outlined by the World Kindness Movement, is "to highlight good deeds in the community focusing on the positive power and the common thread of kindness which binds us." Since its creation more than two decades ago, the day has achieved truly global notice; events associated with the day have attracted participants from every inhabited continent. These have included activities such as concerts, dance mobs, and the distribution of "kindness cards."

While, at present, the day is one of unofficial observance, it remains the hope of the World Kindness Movement to attain official recognition status from the United Nations. Should the group be successful in its efforts, World Kindness Day would join the ranks of recognized days of observance such as International Day of Peace, Human Rights Day, and World Health Day.



#ToleranceDay

When was the last time you stepped back and looked at something from someone else's perspective? Maybe the last time you learned something new about a different culture than your own? This day is a date that celebrates open-mindedness and listening.

Why is this day important? Glad you asked. This day is not only educational, but it brings us together and reminds us that it's a constant effort to eradicate intolerance throughout the world.

Ways To Celebrate this day:

- Read about different cultures
- Listen to different viewpoints
- Partake in Events of Remembrance or Advocacy

5 facts about hate crimes you may not know:

- It affects a lot of people on the regular; on average, eight black people, three white people, three gay people, three Jewish people, and one Latino person become hate crime victims daily
- A lot is committed by younger generations; 50 percent of all hate crimes in the U.S. are committed by people between the ages of 15 and 24
- It's frequent
- Race is the largest reason
- No one is born with inherent hate



Children's Grief Awareness Day was created in 2008 by the Highmark Caring Place, A Center for Grieving Children, Adolescents, and Their Families, and has since been recognized around the world on the third Thursday in November. It is especially important to support grieving children during the upcoming holiday season, as it can be a very difficult time.

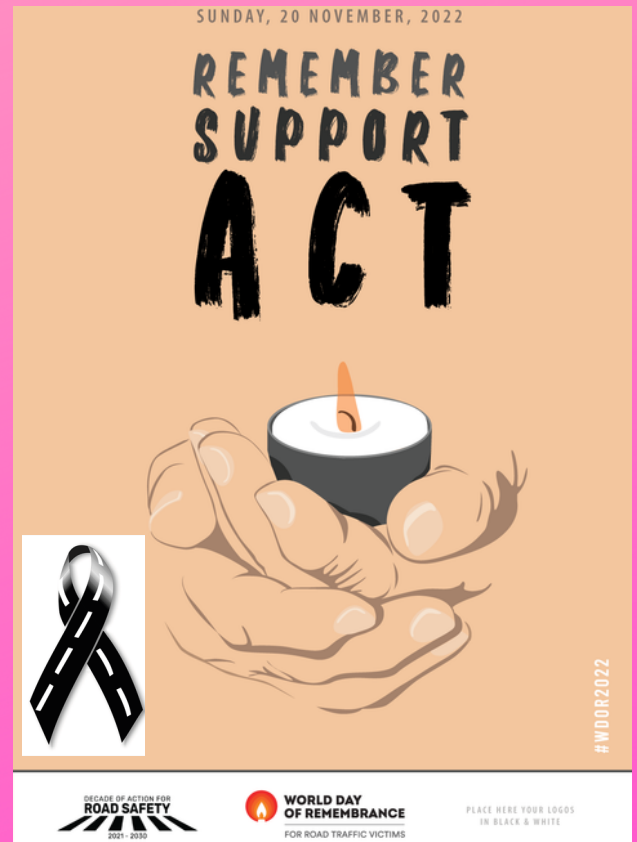
Children's Grief Awareness Day seeks to bring attention to the fact that, often, support can make all the difference in the life of a grieving child. It provides an opportunity for all of us to raise awareness of the painful impact that the death of a loved one has on the life of a child, and an opportunity to make sure that children receive the support they need.



Transgender Day of Remembrance, or International Transgender Day of Remembrance, falls on November 20. This day is to memorialize individuals who have been murdered as a result of transphobia. It also aims to draw attention to the violence that is carried out toward many in the transgender community.

Transgender Day of Remembrance was established in 1999 by transgender advocate, Gwendolyn Anne Smith, when she arranged a vigil as a memorial to transgender woman, Rita Hester, who was murdered in 1998. This event has grown to be an internationally recognized annual event, with events held in 185 cities across 20 countries.

If you are interested in arranging your own awareness event, please visit the GLAAD website at: <https://www.glaad.org/transweek>.



The theme this year for **World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims** is Justice, and the slogan is Remember. Support. Act. This day is a high-profile global event to remember the many millions who have been killed and seriously injured on the world's roads, and to acknowledge the suffering of all affected victims, families and communities. WDoR has created a Decade of Action 2021-2030 to help achieve a 50% road casualty reduction target.

WDOR2022 is focusing on Justice this year. Traffic law enforcement, thorough investigation after a crash to determine if a crime was committed and to prevent a recurrence, criminal prosecution where appropriate and civil compensation is all part of the justice system.

This day has become an essential tool for governments and all those who work involving crash prevention or response to the aftermath of crashes, since it offers the opportunity to demonstrate the enormous scale and impact of road deaths and injuries, calls for an end to the often trivial and inappropriate response to road death and injury, and advocates for urgent, concerted action to stop the carnage.

We do NOT want MORE victims to remember -- we want to live our lives TOGETHER!



1 out of every 3 women has been abused in their lifetime. These numbers have jumped higher since the pandemic, humanitarian crisis, conflict, and climate disasters. Current stats sit at 2 out of 3 women reported that they or women they know experienced some form of violence. Only 1 in 10 women said that victims would go to the police for help. While pervasive, gender-based violence is not inevitable, it can and must be prevented. Stopping this violence starts with believing in survivors, adopting comprehensive and inclusive approaches that tackle the root causes, transforming harmful social norms, and empowering women and girls. With survivor-centered essential services across policing, justice, health and social sectors, and sufficient financing for the women's rights agenda, we can end gender-based violence.

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women will mark the launch of the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign (Nov 25- Dec 10), an initiative of 16 days of activism concluding on the day that commemorates the International Human Rights Day (December 10). This campaign, led by the UN Secretary-General and UN Women since 2008, aims to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls around the world, calling for global action to increase awareness, promote advocacy, and create opportunities for discussion on challenges and solutions.

Violence against women and girls is one of the most widespread, persistent and devastating human rights violations in our world today and remains largely unreported due to the impunity, silence, stigma and shame surrounding it.

To further clarify, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, issued by the UN General Assembly in 1993, defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life."

In general terms, it manifests itself in physical, sexual, and psychological forms, encompassing:

- Intimate partner violence (battering, psychological abuse, marital rape, femicide);
- Sexual violence and harassment (rape, forced sexual acts, unwanted sexual advances, child sexual abuse, forced marriage, street harassment, stalking, cyber-harassment);
- Human trafficking (slavery, sexual exploitation);
- Female genital mutilation; and
- Child marriage.

While gender-based violence can happen to anyone, anywhere, some women and girls are particularly vulnerable; for instance, young girls and older women, women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex, migrants and refugees, indigenous women and ethnic minorities, women and girls living with HIV and disabilities, and those living through humanitarian crises.

Violence against women continues to be an obstacle to achieving equality, development and peace, as well as to the fulfillment of women and girls' human rights. All in all, the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - to leave no one behind - cannot be fulfilled without putting an end to violence against women and girls.



“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. [...] Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”

— Eleanor Roosevelt

The background is a light cream color, decorated with several small, realistic-looking pumpkins in shades of orange and red. Scattered around are pieces of candy corn, showing their characteristic yellow, orange, and white segments. There are also various autumn leaves in red, orange, and yellow, some with detailed vein patterns. Small red and orange dots are scattered throughout, adding to the festive feel.

Happy
Thanks
Giving
Day

MEMBER'S CORNER

A Grief Perspective

I never knew a month could be so hard and hurt so bad. Every day closer to my birthday hurts even worse. Knowing she won't be there this year. I hated her 6 AM wake-up calls but at least I knew she was there. I knew she would come to eat dinner with us. I knew I would hear her voice one last time. I never thought I would live and be still living when she was gone. I don't think she thought it would be the case either from what she wrote in her journal. She begged God to not take me but why didn't she wish the same for herself?

I wish I could say the fear I felt when I heard the news was gone. It's not. I'm still as scared as I was those 6 months ago, I still feel so lost. I'm still scared to sleep, scared I'll wake up to hearing the news all over again. I miss her and I just want one last birthday with my Gram. I want one more day with her but I know I can't. I hate that I had to lie to her as she faded. Telling her I'd be ok and I'd hold on. I wish I got to tell her that nothing would ever be ok and that Saturdays will hurt more than the rest of the week. I wish told her that it doesn't feel right to do the things we did without her. That I feel sick because I couldn't do more for her. I wish I could tell her that I'm angry that she left and I'm angry with myself for being angry at her. I wish I told her that losing her would tear out my heart and I don't think I'll learn how to put it together again. I can't put it together like the puzzles we did. No glue will replace what she did for us. I don't know how I'll do Thanksgiving and Christmas without her. Because I don't think anything will feel the same and I hate that.

I'm stuck between hating God and screaming for mercy for once. I just wish I could ask her what she would do because no matter what people tell me, nothing will replace her words. I miss her coming to my room and saying goodnight every single time just because I made a joke that she forgot one night. No one can tell you how to move on but sometimes I wish losing your person came with an instruction manual. Something that says you lost your one escape, here's what you do. Instead, all I do is a balance between wanting all the food in the world and not wanting to eat for what feels like weeks. I wish they had Advil for emotional pain. No physical pain that I've ever felt can compare to this pain and unfortunately they can't give you pills to get rid of grief.

*This is written from the perspective of a granddaughter who lost her grandmother to cancer recently. But I thought we could all relate to the way grief is all consuming sometimes.



Kelleigh Wise

In Loving Memory of Willie Blacksmith

By Jessi Blacksmith



The Corruption of Tribal Leaders, leads to Tribal Genocide

The leaves are starting to fall, the weather is getting cooler, and the days are getting shorter, when thinking about life on the Kickapoo reservation today, the only thing that comes to mind is, July 17th, 2022, how was the weather that day, did the chirping of the birds in the morning stop? Did it grow quiet, did the heat from this summer day even bother the community? It becomes harder as each day passes, but what can be remembered about this day is, a 35-year-old indigenous man was left lying in a pool of his own blood. That morning, William Allen Blacksmith was shot 5 times in the chest at close range by another tribal member. William "Willie" was born and raised on the Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas, he was 35 years old and a father of 6, he left behind his children, his father, his two sisters, nieces and nephews, and many friends and family who loved him dearly. This is the true story and plea of a fight for Justice for Willie, an innocent man who lost his life in the most tragic way, by asking another tribal member to leave the premises.

A lot of non-natives don't even realize that we exist anymore, us Natives, but then to put our people on a small piece of land and to have us call it home, today that home is in Horton, Kansas, and it's about a 5 by 6-mile radius. Growing up Native, Native American Indian, Indian, or whichever vernacular you may use, you are taught to fight for who you are and what is right, to pass down your language and culture, and to overcome the trauma our ancestors endured. The victim's family aren't physically fighting, but rather they are the fighting voice of Justice for a murdered indigenous man, William Blacksmith, and other Native American Indians throughout the United States who might just be going through the same thing and have been told to shut up because they are being troublemakers. The Blacksmith name comes from William's grandfather who was half Santee Sioux and half Kickapoo, so it is a name that is foreign to this reservation, however, the Kickapoo side of his family is the Negonsott's. If you've ever visited the Kickapoo Reservation in Kansas the only business that is still up and running is the Golden Eagle Casino, William's great-uncle Emery Negonsott was serving as the tribal chairman in 1993 and in 1994 the tribe was approved to have their own casino on the reservation. This is an example of a leader, this is an example of how a tribe should be, for the leaders at that time came together to form something good that would allow the people to prosper.

Today if you visit this reservation, you can feel the divide, you don't even have to open your eyes to see that there is a problem here. It has been over 2 months since a murder happened on the Kickapoo Reservation. There were a lot of stories, a lot of whispers, cover-ups, corruption, and lies. This may be hard for anyone to grasp, but Indian people are strong, resilient, and proud. Often those three things can be spoken and drilled into your mind, but for it to be displayed in a good way, you also need to understand the difference between good and bad. We all know what that means, we teach our children this every day, don't lie, don't cheat, don't steal, and the list goes on. What does this have to do with Indian people? Everything, especially those who reside on a reservation and speak of sovereignty. To be a sovereign people means we as a people have the right to govern our own, and the Kickapoo Tribal Council does just that on the Kickapoo Reservation, there are tribal elections, and the people vote on who is best to lead our people. Sovereignty is not a bad thing, but when dishonest people are elected to lead a sovereign nation, it can be catastrophic. Our elders and our ancestors did not fight for our people's rights so that we can turn around and fight each other. This is a form of genocide that is occurring and has been occurring on this reservation. Genocide comes in many forms, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, and murder, but it always has the same result, to destroy that nation or group. There have always been the whispers, the complaints, the nepotism, and the favoritism present in this community, but when a murder or homicide happens in a place such as this, that's when it needs to stop. That is the corruption leaking out, the corruption of elected leaders should never be tolerated, especially when it falls back on them. Ever heard the saying "One bad apple spoils the whole bunch," It only takes one person to stand up and say what are we doing? Why are we allowing this to happen, why are we allowing the corruption to continue? It could have been prevented; it should have been prevented. There were so many signs, reports, complaints, misconduct, and cover-ups that hid the true story of the murder of Willie Blacksmith.

As of today, the Kickapoo tribal council members consist of a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, and three others listed as "members," consisting of a total of seven members who are elected to serve the Kickapoo people. One of the missions of the elected leaders is "The Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas' ultimate responsibility is to its members and the community it serves." Those that fill these positions on the Kickapoo tribal council, do they understand what their mission is? Do they understand that they are elected and sworn in to serve their people? It is a question that can most likely be asked on other reservations, but this should not be a question at all, all leaders should know right from wrong. When elections are held and members of the community place their vote, they are given the choice by listening to what kind of change or betterment for the people and the community this person speaks of. Elected to serve and protect our people there should not be any room for biased behavior in their hearts or mind. Not one person is better than the other, we are all Indian people, and we are all proud of who we are and where we came from. But when a tribal council such as the one still occupying those positions lets its people down by allowing a murder to happen and not blink an eye or open their mouths to say we have a problem here. There was never any remorse from the current tribal council members regarding the homicide that took place on July 17th, 2022, of William Blacksmith. Not one stepped up to say, "We are sorry for your loss," it's not that the family needed the validation to continue, but what makes it a bad thing is that this tribal council's chairman is the murderers' best friend, a member of the council is also the murderer's mother. So, when thinking about these individuals that were elected to serve our people, their ultimate responsibility is to their members and the community it serves, why then wasn't an approach taken? Instead, the victim's family was ridiculed, threatened, fired from jobs, and shamed for speaking out for demanding justice for their loved one. The murderer and his family received more compassion than the victim and his family.

Members of the Kickapoo tribal council tried to bail the murderer out of jail, they wanted a murderer to be released back into the community after he killed a man in cold blood at close range and shot him 5 times. What kind of logic is this? In any other community, one can be jailed for threatening another individual, but not in this community, on this reservation the victim's family was threatened with rape and threatened to be killed, but here it is known as "freedom of speech." When elected to serve a people there should not be any room for biased behavior, this community needs healing not only for the victim's family and the murderer's family but for all members of this community, things like this should not happen but it did and now is the time where a change needs to happen so that this cycle does not continue. The Kickapoo tribal members are mourning, they are mourning the loss of a man who was family and befriended so many in his 35 years of life, why haven't the current Kickapoo tribal leaders made a statement to Indian Country in general for the calamity that has taken place on this reservation, why haven't they taken the steps to help both families involved? That is the million dollar question, WHY?

Willie was staying with a relative in one of the sites on the Kickapoo Reservation, the relative he was staying with was renting a tribal home along with her seven young children. Prior to the day of his murder, multiple reports were made by members of the community regarding this woman having parties with alcohol present from dusk to dawn. The reports were made to the housing authority, social services department, and tribal police department. Unfortunately, the home was never investigated nor was a wellness check done on the children of the home. This is one part of the cover-up, the man who murdered Willie, his aunt was and still is the executive director of the housing authority, and the young woman who rented the home was not considered in violation of having parties at her home because her aunt who worked for the housing authority did not submit these reports. After the murder occurred a handful of people were terminated from their employment within tribal programs for being present at the party that led to a homicide, those that spoke up for the victim never regained employment and those who kept their mouths shut and assisted in the cover-ups were given jobs in other departments. Following the death of her brother, Willie's younger sister left her job voluntarily as it was confirmed that the gun used to murder her brother belonged to her boss, who also serves on the tribal housing board.

The previous day a phone call was made to the local city police department dispatch regarding individuals firing guns in the same neighborhood where the homicide happened, the individuals happened to be the murderer and an employee of the housing authority, but this incident was never investigated by the tribal police department. On the morning of the murder, tribal police were not the first law enforcement agency on the scene, in fact, the officer first on the scene was a county officer who answered the call and had to travel 30 minutes to reach the reservation. This is an example of a corrupted reservation, it is well known in this area that the Kickapoo Police Department follow only the spoken demands of the tribal council, there are rules set in place to which each officer is sworn in to follow, but do they follow the law set forth? It's quite apparent that the officers here do what they are told, not what they should do, and that is to serve and protect this community.

When members of the victim's family reached out to the tribal police on this reservation their pleas were never heard, they were ridiculed and shunned by their tribal council, for what? Because they weren't a part of a certain family? Situations like this are well known throughout Indian Country, our ancestors did not fight to keep our people alive just so that we can turn on each other. Please also let it be known that this family lost another relative just 3 weeks after the murder of William, a great-aunt of his Janet Negonsott held on as long as she could to fight for Justice for her great nephew Willie, the Kickapoo Tribal council still ignored the burden this family had and was feeling, and still claimed and held onto their fight for a murderer. If anyone knew Janet, they knew they were messing with the wrong person, she was a very outspoken individual and always spoke her mind, especially about corruption. William was fortunate to have her in his corner, when she found out he was murdered she was MAD, she was FURIOUS, and to have a tribal council such as the present one and to see that not a thing was done, she was ready to fight.

This is an example of Corruption, Genocide, and Assimilation.

This is a plea for Justice, Justice for William "Willie" Blacksmith.

You can follow Willie's family's fight for justice on the Justice for Willie Blacksmith Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100084867264568>

JUSTICE FOR WILLIE BLACKSMITH



WILLIAM "WILLIE" BLACKSMITH WAS MURDERED ON THE KICKAPOO RESERVATION IN KANSAS ON JULY 17TH, 2022 BY A KICKAPOO TRIBAL MEMBER. WILLIE WAS UNARMED AND WAS SHOT 5 TIMES AT CLOSE RANGE IN THE CHEST. WILLIE'S MURDERER HAS BEEN ARRESTED BUT THE MURDER WEAPON HAS YET TO BE RECOVERED.

WILLIE'S MURDER IS BEING HANDLED AS A COVER-UP ON THE KICKAPOO RESERVATION, TRIBAL LEADERS DO NOT WANT HIS MURDER KNOWN, WILLIE WAS A SON, A BROTHER, A FATHER, AN UNCLE, AND A FRIEND. IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING, SILENCE PERMITS VIOLENCE.

#MMIP

#SAYMYNAME

#JUSTICEFORWILLIEBLACKSMITH



Jessi Blacksmith



In Loving Memory of Coleman Stump

By Tasheena Duran

My younger brother's name is Cole Stump. Cole was killed in an officer-involved shooting on October 12, 2020, which also happened to Indigenous Peoples Day and Columbus Day that year. ColeMan, as he was known by to friends and family, was 29 years old and a father of 5, the youngest only a few months old when he was murdered. Cole was allegedly killed by 4 Billings Montana Police officers although many witnesses stated that there were two undercover officers on the scene also. Billings police officers have the highest number of police-involved shootings in the state of Montana. Most being Native Americans.

Cole was called in for suspicious activity. A woman stated that she thought Cole was siphoning gas from her vehicle. Cole worked on enough cars to know that you can't siphon out of newer cars because of a screen on the gas tank. There were also no pictures of the alleged gas can on the scene. Cole was working on a car for a friend and needed a jump start for a dead battery. He asked two friends to bring him jumper cables. They came and were present at the time of his killing despite not having jumper cables. Cole was committing no crime.

Cole also knew that he was going to be shot by Billings officers. He had told me this a month beforehand in Butte, Montana when I went to visit him. He told another friend the same thing. I have a copy of a text message documenting that. There were also no body cams, the cameras from Rose Parks apartments weren't allegedly working, and dash cams show very little of the scene except other officer's units. There seems to be a long time from the scene of Cole's murder to the hospital when it's about a 7-minute drive. They pronounced Cole dead at 11:09 pm but didn't call a coroner until close to midnight. About a month after Cole died a woman reached out to me and told me Cole had helped her escape from being sex trafficked and being shot up with heroin. I wonder if this added to the reason why these officers executed my brother.

Montana has a coroner's inquest in place that is to be a fact-finding mission to see if anyone is criminally responsible for a person's death. The case "facts" are presented by the local county attorney's office. The same county attorney's office relies on and works hand in hand with the officers involved in the shooting. Which makes it hard to believe that they would present evidence of any wrongdoing. At an inquest, there are very few guidelines that the county attorney has to follow. One is that they must present the death scene and the body or photos of both. This did not happen at this inquest. At Cole's coroner's inquest, they did not present all facts. The county attorney was more like a defense attorney for the officers. He would correct officer testimony, and ask leading questions. The County Attorney failed to present any forensic evidence or ballistics reports at this inquest. Nor did he have the jury review the death scene or pictures of the death scene as stated in MCA 46-4-205. He only showed pictures of how the vehicles were parked, a picture of the gun Cole allegedly had, and partial dash cam videos. The two witnesses, who were there to give Cole a jump start on the car he was working on, were not called to testify. The county attorney stated he couldn't get ahold of them even though I had emailed them two weeks before the inquest to let them know one was in Hardin jail and the other was in treatment.

(Continued from previous page)

In the officer's dash cam videos, you can see a person changing into different clothes that appear to be a police uniform next to a police unit. This seems more suspicious than a man working under the hood of a car. All of this happened in plain view of the other officers on the scene. It was never addressed by anyone on the scene or during the inquest.

There was no mention of the reports from an officer who helped process evidence and helped move my brother's body to the hospital. The firearm and tool mark report stated 12 shell casings were collected as evidence. Six were from officer Nelson's gun and four from officer Bickford's gun. During the inquest, it was testified that 7 came from Officer Nelson's and 4 from Officer Bickford's knowing this wasn't correct.

Inquest testimony from detective Raschkow stated, "There were a total of 11 rounds fired". Four were fired by Officer Bickford and seven were fired by Officer Nelson." Detective Raschkow also testified under oath. "He (Cole) had approximately three gunshot wounds in his head area and one in his neck. Seven more from his hip to his torso on his left side. Just for the clear count, five were in his torso, one round to the left eye, and one round to the left arm." Deputy coroner Juhl stated in her report that she observed, "several bullet entrance wounds to include one in Stump's mid-torso just below the ribs, one to the upper left leg, one on the side of the upper left leg/thigh, one in the left elbow, two on his left side, one on the left side neck, three in the left side of face and head, one graze on his right shoulder." Each of these narratives states there was 11 bullet wounds, but not in the same locations. All these statements were available for the county attorney to review.

They sent 12 shell casings to be tested, from two officers' guns and the gun Cole allegedly had. 10 shell casings came from officer Nelson and Bickford's weapons. But two of these shell casings, the projectiles found in a pool of blood from Cole's head, were not a match to any of the guns tested and were not from the same gun. None of the officers stated they had seen a gun until one officer stood up and pushed a gun toward another officer and told him to kick it away from the suspect (Cole). The officer who pushed the gun said he felt a hard object and assumed it was a gun but never stated at the inquest that Cole had a bike pump in his front right pocket.

One officer's initial statement said he approached the scene with his gun drawn because there was nothing that could be done with his hands that wasn't already being done and that he had Cole's head between his knees when he made a conscious decision to shoot Cole in the head. Some of those were the contact shots described above. They also stated that they tasered Cole first but it was ineffective. The taser log shows it wasn't deployed until 10:36 pm and Cole was shot at 10:31 pm. They did not request an analysis of fingerprints on the gun Cole allegedly had. The detectives only requested to see if blood spatter was present. I've seen pictures of Cole's hands and they were dirty from working on the car, if Cole had pulled a gun there should have been some kind of fingerprints or smudges or something.

There are so many inconsistencies and questions that the detective and county attorney never addressed and just refused to answer.

For more information on how you can help change the way inquests are run in the state of Montana go to the Justice for Cole Stump website at: <https://www.justiceforcolestump.com/>



Tasheena Duran

Cheers to Giving



Sparkling Ice is Giving Away \$150K in Grants to Three Lucky Charities!

Nominate SOMS today for a chance to receive one of three \$50,000 donations. Simply fill out the survey linked below and include a short note about us!

Nominations are being accepted from October 1st through November 19th.

<https://www.sparklingice.com/cheerstogiving/>

Thank you for your support!

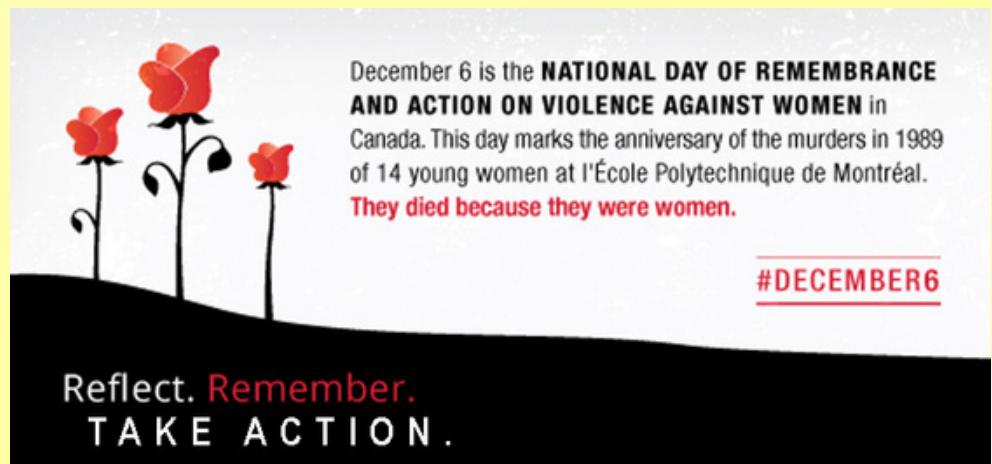
Upcoming December Events



December 5



December 10



December 6



December 9



December 21



December 18-26



December 25



December 31



December 26

GRIEF *Support*



We now have someone we can recommend for you to contact for traumatic grief: Belinda Greene-Strachan, GSS.

Belinda is a certified Grief and Trauma Support Specialist.

She can be reached at soletosoulss@gmail.com or 863-546-8111. Sessions are \$35.00.

If you are experiencing a hardship, please contact Alexandra Barry at abarry@siblingsofmurderedsiblings.org to see if we can financially assist you.

Belinda also has a private Facebook group called Sole to Sole Grief & Trauma Support Specialist.

Belinda offers her services via Zoom or in person.



SIBLINGS OF MURDERED
SIBLINGS

DO YOU WANT TO START A SOMS CHAPTER IN
YOUR STATE?

Now's your chance!

*For more information, please reach out to
Alexandra Barry at
abarry@siblingsofmurderedsiblings.org OR
Nicky Wise Neff at
nneff@siblingsofmurderedsiblings.org*

HAVE YOU VISITED THE SOMS STORE LATELY?

CHECK OUT WHAT'S AVAILABLE!



Candles \$7.77

Available in black & red, purple, black,
blue, green, orange, pink, red, and yellow.

SOMS Window Cling \$6.50

Available in White, Metallic Silver, Gray, Black, Matte Black,
Yellow, Golden Yellow, Metallic Gold, Copper, Orange, Soft
Pink, Pink, Red, Burgundy, Yellow Green, Green, Dark
Green, Turquoise, Ice Blue, Light Blue, Azure Blue, King
Blue, Purple, and Violet

Decal is approximately 6 inches wide and 2 inches tall.



Coming Soon!!
Wish Bracelets \$5.55



GET YOUR SOMS GEAR, SUPPORT SOMS, AND HONOR YOUR LOVED ONE

Are you looking for a T-shirt, mousepad, or koozie that lets everyone know that you support SOMS?

Are you wondering how to get these things customizable with your loved one's name or in your favorite color?

Reach out to Dawn Belville, the head of SOMS' Kansas Chapter.

Dawn is able to do any color of shirt that Hobby Lobby or Joann Fabrics carries, and she can make the lettering whatever color you want.

T-shirts will have the SOMS logo, and then below, it will say "In honor of...." with your loved one's name.

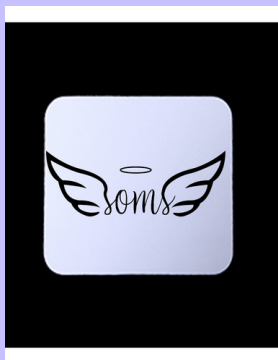
T-shirts are \$25.00 each (+ shipping), and \$10.00 from each shirt will go to SOMS.

Window clings can be done the same way for \$12.00 (+ shipping), and \$5.00 of each one sold will go to SOMS.

Koozies and mouse pads are \$12.00 each (+ shipping), with \$5.00 going to SOMS.

Get your SOMS gear, support SOMS and honor your loved one.

Items will be made when ordered, and will be shipped within a couple of days.



Mousepad
\$12



T-Shirt
Customizable in your
loved one's name!!
\$25



Window Clings
\$12



Koozie
\$12



TRIAL CHECK-IN PROGRAM

Let us know the dates of your court hearing and/or trial. We will call, text, email, or send a card so you don't have to go through this journey alone.



GRIEF MAP PROGRAM

We'll input your city and state and add it to a map that can be found privately on our website, which will allow you to connect with other members near you.



MEMBER TO MEMBER PROGRAM

We will connect you with another member based on trauma or location. You are also able to provide your sibling's name, birthday, angelversary and picture, so that we can honor them on their days.

Please email Nickky Wise Neff at nneff@siblingsofmurderedsiblings.org to enroll in any of these programs.

VOLUNTEER *Opportunities*

The Correctional Project

Identify what states are pro-victim and collect other data on the Google Docs sheet we provide.

Homicide Tracker Project

Build a list to identify recent homicides in Palm Beach County and others. Google Docs will be created to build a database for the victim outreach specialist to connect and let victims know we exist and offer care packages.

Link to Pharmaceuticals and Homicide

Document and list all the names of the medications that have caused a person to become homicidal, whether they were on the medication or coming off the medication if any mind-altering substances were involved. There's already an existing list for school shootings, but we would want to start perhaps with members of our group. Locate any lawsuits that families have won as a result of an adverse drug reaction to homicide. Locate the lawyers who represent these cases and create a list. We will create a Google Doc for this, and this will be a long-term project.

Victim Outreach

We are looking for someone to reach out to homicide survivors and offer our love and support. We will create an email for you and help you with the process.

Recruiter / Donor Request

We want to continue to keep our survivor care packages unique, so we are looking for someone to go on Etsy, eBay, and big-box retailers to ask for donations, or if they do not want to donate, ask if they will provide a discount. Build a database for the grief gifts.

Recruiter

We are looking for someone to help us find other grief services that want to work with us, partnerships, and someone to help get our name out there. Also, find donors, along with EMDR trauma therapists and trauma and grief specialists who are experienced with homicide survivors; professionals we can refer our members to.

Website

We want to continue to expand our site, and the more minds put together, the better. We especially need help with Google Ads; we have a grant that we have not been using.

We need website and Google Ads help ASAP.

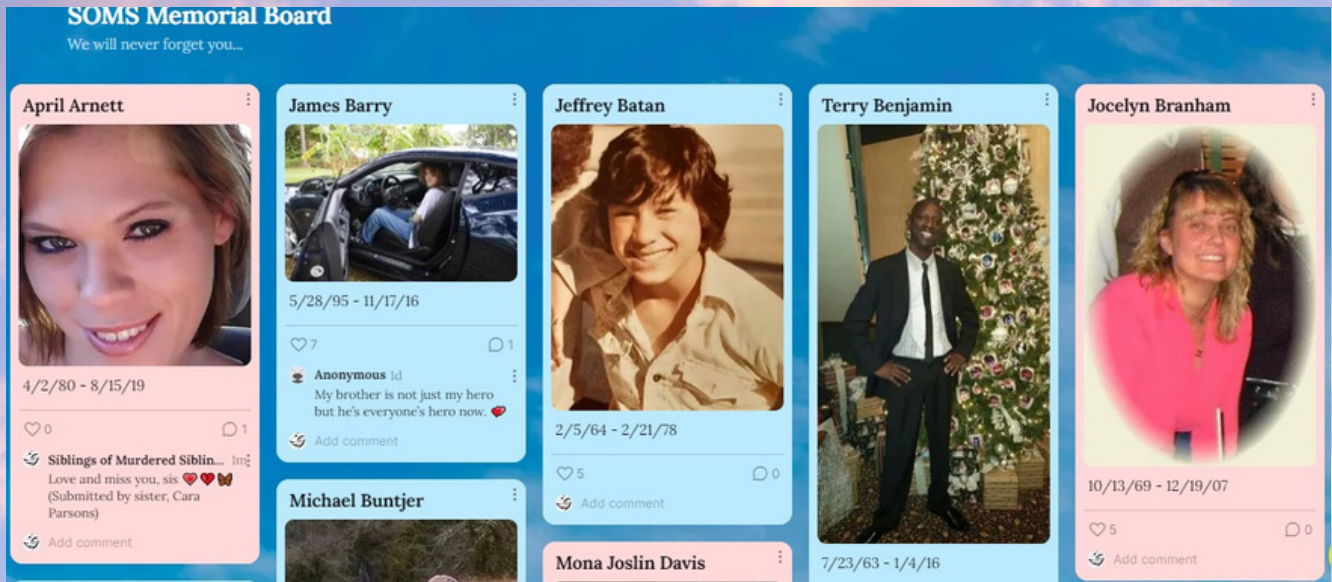
If you are interested in applying for any of these volunteer positions, please email Alexandra at abarry@siblingsofmurderedsiblings.org or Nickky at nneff@siblingsofmurderedsiblings.org.

You can also apply via our website:

<https://siblingsofmurderedsiblings.org/volunteer-opportunities/>

ADD YOUR SIBLING TO OUR...

Memorial Board



We're trying something new!

HOW TO ADD YOUR LOVED ONE

If you would like to add a photo of your loved one(s) to our Memorial Board, go to the Memorial Board page on our website and fill out the form, or email the following information to: nneff@siblingsofmurderedsiblings.org and we will add it ASAP!

Please provide a clear photo (headshots preferred), first and last name (and a nickname, if you'd like), date of birth, and date of death. Please feel free to share a favorite memory. This board will be for memorial purposes only. A separate page for anyone who would like to share their story will be forthcoming.

Also, if your loved one has a memorial website that you would like to include, please provide the URL. Want to create a memorial website? Check out these sites to help you get started:

<https://www.weremember.com/>, <https://everloved.com/memorial/create/?flow=101>,
<https://memories.net/>, <https://www.wix.com/website/templates/?criteria=memorial!>

NEW ADDITIONS!

Add your loved one to our Memorial Board so we can remember their lives with you.