

N 2X GAME CHANGERS NEWSLETTER

April-June 2021



WITH RECORD GUN VIOLENCE, HELP FOR VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES



Over the past three months, as gun violence has shattered previous records, more than 30 families suffering the loss or injury of a loved one from gunfire, have reached out to Chris for support.

He makes himself available, with a special focus on helping grieving kids including those he meets at University of Louisville Hospital whose trauma team works behind the scenes as health care heroes to save gunshot victims.

UOFL TRAUMA CENTER HONORS CHRIS

In recognition of Chris's "countless hours of sacrifice and service, both seen and unseen, in transforming the lives of those touched by violence," the UofL Hospital Trauma Center honored Chris and Game Changers on May 17th with the "Community Partner Award."

For 15 years, Chris has worked with the UofL trauma team to help victims of violence and their families deal with grief and hard decisions.

Chris was praised for his sensitivity and skill in communicating with families during the worst times of their lives. The recognition highlighted the positive impact Chris has had in helping families devastated by gun violence, and the recognition was special, coming from the surgeons and staff who treat the wounded, whose numbers keep growing.

PARTNERSHIPS TO SUPPORT VICTIMS, CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

FUTURE HEALERS

We are teaming up with University of Louisville Medical School and Hospital doctors and the UofL Student National Medical Association Chapter for the Future Healers program.

The fun, engaging science-based curriculum and experiences for kids from underserved communities is designed to instill them with hope and aspirations for a promising future including possibilities in health care.



*Chris with "Future Healers" and Roo,
the Trauma Team therapy dog, at UofL Hospital*

KENTUCKY SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND

Through a partnership with the Kentucky School for the Blind we are bringing together kids with diverse backgrounds and challenges to help them form friendships and learn from each other. Bringing children together from different backgrounds is one way Game Changers breaks the mold to build compassion, understanding and empathy in children who face challenges from visual impairments to trauma from gun violence. The partnership kicked off in April with Chris delivering 600 donated face masks to the school, enough for students and staff to finish the school year and summer programs with an adequate supply.



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PARTNER

Option to Success Family Services, a minority, women-owned business in West Louisville, has become Christopher 2X Game Changers mental health partner. Through this partnership we can refer people in need of mental health service to experienced, professional and licensed therapists. Their services including individual and group therapy, case management, peer support and day treatment to those affected by gun violence. No one will be turned away regardless of their financial situation.



LOUISVILLE METRO POLICE DEPARTMENT VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

LMPD Victim Services Unit reached out to Game Changers to establish a line of communication to better serve victims and families impacted by gun violence. The unit is responsible for communicating with all victims of violent crime and will provide them with information about Game Changers in a referral process, under the partnership. This partnership gives victims access to resources available through the city and our organization, enhancing our ability to help victims including in our Voices of Survivors program.

THE KIDZ CLUB

We are proud to work with The Kidz Club to help children with medical conditions, who also suffer emotionally because of exposure to violence, find a path to a safe and nurturing future.



The Kidz Club provides services to children with medical diagnoses that require daily skilled nursing. Their medical conditions are often compounded by the trauma of losing neighbors and loved ones and being exposed to violence in their communities.

"FATHER FOR FREEDOM" AWARD



Chris was among five leaders who received a "Father for Freedom" award from WLOU-WLLV in a live radio broadcast with Gov. Steve Beshear calling in to congratulate each recipient, and the station's historic role in Louisville. Chris's award was for his peace and justice work. Other recipients were the Revs. Charles Elliott and Milton Seymore, Kevin Fields, president of Louisville Central Community Centers, and Raul Cunningham, president of the Louisville branch, NAACP.

FBI HONORS CHRIS, GAME CHANGERS WITH CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

In June, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Louisville Field Office, Robert Brown, presented Chris and Game Changers with a certification of appreciation thanking Chris "for his work to reduce violence in the city of Louisville, for helping victims of violent crime, and for his continued partnership with the FBI."



GUN VIOLENCE: “A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS”



In more than a dozen news reports in recent months, Chris has sounded an alarm about surging gun violence, calling it a “public health crisis” and advocating for victims. Families and kids have been suffering and grieving and in many cases are fearful and traumatized by the violence.

In the first six months of this year, homicides have increased more than 80 percent compared to the same period last year. By the end of June, 100 homicides had been reported by LMPD, and another 330 people were wounded by gunfire. June was especially deadly, with 23 homicides, the 17th straight month of double-digit homicides.

Chris has remained focused on work to support victims and build trust between police and communities so more cases can be solved, and fewer homicides and shootings occur.

He shared his insight about the impacts of gun violence especially on kids in a U.S. Conference of Mayors summit on reimagining public safety, and on a Kentucky Education Television special broadcast that focused on gun violence in Louisville and that also featured Game Changers board member Russell Coleman, former U.S. attorney for the Western District of Kentucky.

Chris also was featured on a Jewish Federation of Louisville program, “Actions Speak Louder than Guns,” along with author and activist Billy Moore.

ADVOCATING FOR VICTIMS AND BETTER POLICING

In an op-ed in The Courier-Journal in May, before Louisville Metro’s budget was approved, Chris argued for an influx of federal funding to go toward improving Louisville Metro Police and helping crime victims.

Specially, he advocated for funding for the Group Violence Intervention program aimed at curbing gun violence, better training and pay for officers, a robust recruitment of black officers and a fund for gun violence survivors and witnesses to violent crime.