



CHRISTOPHER 2X
GAME CHANGERS
TARGET EDUCATION • CRUSH VIOLENCE

ACTIVITY REPORT: January-March 2020

“Violence-Impact on Children Learning” gains recognition



U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, Christopher 2X and Chestnut Street YMCA Child Development Center Director Jenny Benner participate in a round table discussion about gun violence impacts on children in Louisville.

Since its release in November, the Christopher 2X Game Changers report, “Violence-Impact on Children Learning” has raised awareness and led to community discussions about finding solutions to reverse Louisville’s increasing number of shootings and murders.

Russell Coleman, U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, held a summit, “Violence 2020” attended by

more than 100 community leaders on Jan. 24 as a follow up to the report’s release. Chris and survivors of gun violence spoke at the event. The audience also heard from David Kennedy, a professor at the John J. College of Criminal Justice in New York City and director of the National Network of Safe Communities. Coleman and Chris also discussed the report on Jan. 31 in a podcast of the Pegasus Institute, and work continues on developing solutions.

After participating in a round-table discussion hosted by Chris on Feb. 24, U.S. Sen. Rand Paul entered the report into the U.S. Congressional Record. During the discussion, Paul heard from families impacted by gun violence including Deshante Edwards who lost her son and now her six-year-old grandson has trouble focusing in school and Krista and Navada Gwinn whose children, 11 and 17, are too scared to go outside following the murder of their older brother .

“Only personal stories such as these truly demonstrate the extreme toll taken on children as a result of violence,” Paul said in a news release. Paul expressed his support for anti-violence programs and further discussions are planned.



The Chestnut Street YMCA Child Development Center surprised Chris for Valentine's Day with young children celebrating him for his anti-violence work and support for their early childhood education programs. WDRB spread the news in a social media post, left.



In February, Chris organized a "healing tiles" art project at the child development center, with tiles the children creatively decorated. Their creations were donated to a variety of groups that provide community service for distribution to their clients.



In his work supporting families impacted by gun violence, Chris helped organize a ceremony and balloon release attended by more than 100 people in memory of homicide victim Jose Munoz, 25. The event on Feb. 23 marked the one-year anniversary of his shooting at an Olive Garden Restaurant.



Chris with members of Jose Munoz's family.

Chris also worked with the family of homicide victim Derrick Lawrence, 27, who was shot on Jan. 26 and whose organs were donated so others could live.



Aspiring physician Maximus Montoya with Chris and UofL Trauma Team surgeons.

As part of his mentoring role, Chris has helped Trinity High School scholar and aspiring physician Maximus Montoya who he linked with the UofL Hospital Trauma Team surgeons. They have welcomed Montoya, a junior, to the hospital where he has shadowed them in their work.

Chris also continues to work at Iroquois High School with students in a mentoring program partnership with the Louisville Rotary Club.