

July 29, 2024

Dear Friends,

As you have probably heard, gun violence has once again marred what should have been a pleasant summer celebration in our community.

Seven people were shot Sunday evening at Maplewood Park. Two women died as a result of this shooting.

Tyasia Manning, 25, died on Sunday and several hours later Phylicia Council, 34, also died from her injuries. The women were friends and residents of Northwest Rochester.

Manning was a 2018 graduate of East High School and an employee at Rochester's R-Centers. Council was a 2009 graduate of Freddie Thomas High School.

Both were innocent participants among the hundreds of people enjoying an afternoon barbeque at a city park when they were gunned down. We send our deepest condolences to the families.

This cycle of violence in our neighborhoods is distressing. Every time I hear of another incident, I am disheartened and anxious for the safety of our families. Sometimes it feels like it will never end. As the Executive Director at Cameron Community, I see the impact of poverty, violence and addiction every day.

But, I also see the daily positive impact of family services, street outreach efforts, youth programs and workforce development opportunities.

Our Camkids just had their 10th annual peace walk a week ago. The kids were so engaged and their speeches were heartfelt. They chanted songs, made up beats, and rapped about nonviolence. They carried signs promoting safety, no guns, love, etc. They held the hope for the future. I pray we do not lose hope; that we will all continue to do the good work.

Please feel free to reach out to us at Cameron Community. If you are not familiar with our resources, we offer hot lunches Monday through Friday; Food Pantry appointments once a month; after school childcare; teen activities; free clothing and hygiene products; an internet lab, and much more.

Remember, we are here for you.

Olivia Kassoum-Amadou

