

Generational Engagement Matters

204 Inglewood Drive Rochester, NY 14619

LentoryJohnson89@gmail.com
www.generationalengagementmatters.com
585-749-3494

A bullied middle-schooler participated in a series of three discussions on gun violence held at his rec center. He was tired of being a victim. He had access to a gun and planned to use it on his tormentors. But, because of his involvement in those anti-gun violence discussions, where everyone—his peers and the staff members—shared how guns had impacted them, it touched him. At the third session, he confessed his plan and that he had decided he wasn't going to shoot anyone.

Generational Engagement Matters (G.E.M) conducts many inter-generational discussions, which allow people of all ages to be educated and learn from each other. The older generation brings their life experiences. The young bring zeal and a spirit seeking to move society away from the guns they face every day. Working together with mutual respect, these teams can create safe communities.

The founder of G.E.M Lentory Johnson experienced gun violence firsthand. In 2015, Ms. Johnson's son, Johnny Ray Johnson was murdered in a drive-by shooting at the Boys and Girls Club of Rochester NY. Since that time, Ms. Johnson has fought against violence in the city of Rochester. In 2020, G.E.M, along with the United Christian Leadership Ministries' Light the Way anti-gun violence campaign, Ontario County Justice Coalition, educational leaders, and community members to engage young people in an opportunity to reflect on gun violence and solutions. Students in grades 6 -12 across Rochester and in Geneva NY, wrote heartfelt essays addressing how gun violence affected them. This effort gave a voice and platform to young people.

We are now preparing our 2023 essay contest so more students' voices can be heard. We believe their words can prevent further violence. If these essays save one life, it will have been worth it. We need your support to make this happen.

We are asking you to sponsor our effort to continue this work and increase our reach with a financial donation. Most of the proceeds will go directly to contest winners and the rest will cover other costs of the essay program. Contest winners receive a monetary prize—three grand prizes, three 2nd prizes and three 3rd prizes across three different grade groups (4th-6th, 7th and 8th, and 9th-12th). In the past we were limited due to Covid, but this year we hope to provide students with the recognition they deserve at an in-person program.

Please contact me with questions regarding your sponsorship and/or concerning the essay contest. **Donations can be made out to Generational Engagement Matters Inc. and mailed to the address listed above. GEM is a 5013c. not-for-profit organization.**

Respectfully,

Lentory Johnson



G.E.M

