

Guns Down. Love Up.

Gun violence affects all Americans, all communities, regardless of race, economic status, rural, city, or suburbs. We are all impacted by gun violence, trauma, and loss. And African American communities across the country are disproportionately effected by gun violence, including the Twin Cities.

Gun Violence In the Twin Cities

In 2021, shootings in Minneapolis were up by every metric, and the city neared the homicide record set in 1995. Police and paramedics have responded to nearly 500 shootings this year, and more than 600 people have been treated for gunshot wounds in Minneapolis hospitals, according to data published by the Police Department.

Andy Mannix and Jeff Hargarten Star Tribune DECEMBER 30, 2021

In 2021 Saint Paul City police responded to 2,326 reports of shots fired, more than double the total of 2019. And gunfire struck at least 220 people — the first time St. Paul surpassed 200 gunshot victims in a year. So far, 219 have been wounded by gunshots in 2021.

Katie Galioto, Zoë Jackson and Liz Sawyer Star Tribune DECEMBER 3, 2021

National Gun Violence Statistics

10x

African Americans are ten times more likely than white Americans to die from gun homicide.

14x

African Americans are fourteen times more likely than white Americans to be wounded.

Guns Down Love Up

In 2018, Guns Down Love Up (GDLU) was founded to combat violence in Minneapolis and promote love and conflict resolution in the African American Community. Since 2018 our organization has hosted community healing circles, block takeovers, gun violence prevention training, healing and therapy sessions, family and community grieving services, community engagement festivals such as our 2019 Unity Day Festival, and our June-teenth Celebration in 2020 with more than 3,000 attendees.

Guns Down Love Up works with the community-at-large to 1.) *Speak out against gun violence*, 2.) *Promote conflict resolution over gun violence*, and 3.) *Create safe spaces to bring awareness to the lasting impact and trauma of gun violence in the community to begin to healing.*



Programs and Community Service

Guns Down Love Up focusing on prevention, intervention, and restorative practices by decreasing gun violence within the African American community. Our efforts are focused on decreasing gun violence by increasing positive community interactions, conversations, spaces, events and creating programming to heal and prevent future retaliation. In addition, we work with families, community stakeholders, culture, and religious organizations in our outreach efforts to promote the message of ending gun violence and promoting love.



Organizational Goals

1. Decrease gun violence in Minnesota, with a focus on the Twin Cities
2. Increase public awareness through a media message campaign
3. Engage in conflict resolution activities with the community-at-large
4. Educate community members on the lasting traumatic impacts gun violence has on our community and Minnesota quality of living

Budget

- Administration Operations & General Fund - \$428,000
- Media Campaign - \$40,000
- Annual Youth Gun Violence Conference - \$50,000
- In-school Peer Education Programing - \$100,00
- Community Healing Center & Activities - \$92,000
- Community Engagement & Outreach - \$90,000



5 Year Plan

- Annual Youth Gun Violence Conference
- In-School Peer-Education
- Community Healing Center & Activities
- Community Engagement & Outreach
- Media Campaign

Request for Services

Guns Down Love Up requests \$800,000 per year [FY2022, FY2023, FY2024, FY2025, FY2026] for gun violence prevention, intervention, conflict resolution, and healing to decrease gun violence in the African American community of Minnesota.

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