



## **Tuesday's Children Announces the Launch of Survivors of Tragedy Outreach Program (STOP), a National Coalition Offering Survivor-to-Survivor Peer Support**

*Founding a national group of survivors from New York, Newtown, Aurora, Thousand Oaks, Orlando, and other impacted U.S. communities, the nonprofit which recently marked its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary launched a new initiative with survivors and organizations to provide peer support and to help prevent mass-scale tragedies*

**Manhasset, New York – June 1, 2022** – The national non-profit [Tuesday's Children](#), which recently marked its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and was formed in the aftermath of Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, founded and launched a new coalition, **Survivors of Tragedy Outreach Program (STOP)**, a network of survivors and organizations throughout the U.S. and Canada that have come together for prevention and peer support to promote long-term recovery and resilience to triage and address the multi-layered impacts of targeted violence and preventable mass-scale tragedies.

“For over 20 years, our mission has been to provide long-term healing and resilience-building support to those impacted by terrorism, military conflict, and mass violence. As part of our ongoing mission, we recently launched STOP in July 2021, which consists of individual survivors and a dozen organizations across the U.S. and Canada that support those who are impacted by mass violence, by providing regular resources and a creating call to action, including peer support for families in Uvalde, TX, Buffalo, NY, and so many other places recovering from mass-scale tragedies” said **Sallie Lynch, Senior Program & Development Consultant of Tuesday's Children**.

Communities represented in STOP include Virginia Tech, VA; Boston, MA; Thousand Oaks, CA; Newtown, CT; Aurora, CO; Littleton, CO (Columbine High School); Orlando, FL; Pittsburgh, PA; Las Vegas, NV; Hawaii; Military Gold Star families throughout the U.S.; New York, NY; and 9/11 families in both U.S. and Canada.

In addition to Tuesday's Children, participating groups and organizations in STOP include [7/20 Foundation](#), [10.27 Healing Partnership](#), [Canadian National Day of Service Foundation](#), [Choose Love](#), [Give an Hour](#), [JFCS Pittsburgh](#), [Leave No Victim Behind](#), [Open to Hope](#), [Stars of Hope](#), [The Rebels Project](#), [The Trauma Impact podcast](#), and [VTV Care](#).

**STOP jointly releases the following statement in response to recent acts of mass violence in Uvalde, TX, Buffalo, NY and so many other cities:**

***Who We Are:** The Survivors of Tragedy Outreach Program (STOP) is a coalition offering survivor-to-survivor peer support and outreach from individuals directly impacted by and responding to terrorism, mass violence and military conflict. We are an international network of survivors and nonprofits that have come together for prevention and peer support to promote long-term recovery and resilience to triage and address the multi-layered impacts of targeted violence and preventable mass-scale tragedies.*

***A Decades-Long Problem:** This is not the first time we have seen our communities, our families, devastated by mass violence and tragic loss of life, young and old. As survivors, we have experienced this firsthand, the pain, the grief, the injury, the long-term ripple effects, the layers of emotion of losing a loved one and of surviving a trauma many could never imagine, and which could have been prevented. So many of us directly*

*impacted by these tragedies, and others who feel our pain, have made tremendous efforts to move the needle and enact change. Listen to the voices of those pleading and advocating for change. We have now witnessed decades of inaction on the policy level. We have observed decades of continual acts of targeted violence and inhumanity.*

**Call to Action:** *We are calling for prevention to ensure that more families don't have to endure the pain of this kind of trauma and loss. We are calling to our society to commit to long-term healing for families of those impacted. If you are feeling helpless now, hopeless that things will never change, we want to tell you there are so many ways you can make a difference.*

*STOP and think. START thinking together.*

*STOP the arguing. START taking responsibility.*

*STOP the inhumanity. START addressing mental health issues in our society and providing timely support to those in need.*

*STOP focusing on the fringes and pay attention to the elephant in the room. START systemic change to correct the many factors causing this problem.*

*STOP senseless violence killing our families and causing long-term trauma and grief. START enacting effective prevention measures on state and federal levels.*

*STOP feeling scared and being silent. START asking for help. If you suspect something, even in your own family, reach out to someone you trust.*

*STOP feeling like we can't solve this problem. START turning up the volume - talk about this problem and keep getting louder.*

*And be mindful, that even if we can stop this tomorrow, our organizations will continue our work because the recovery, the need for long-term healing, the pain does not stop. But together we can stop the violence. Our survivor community is finite now, but the degrees of separation are diminishing. We are cardholders to a club we never wished to belong to. This club has an inexcusably high price. If we don't stop the violence now, you may hold the card next.*

***Signed by the following individuals from the Survivors of Tragedy Outreach Program (STOP):***

- **Anita Ahuja**, Conference Coordinator, Leave No Victim Behind; Victim/Witness Program Director, Victim/Witness Assistance Division, Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, Hawaii
- **Maureen Basnicki**, Canadian 9/11 widow, beloved husband Ken (who lived in Toronto) was on the 106th floor of the World Trade Center on a business trip; Founding Director, Canadian National Day of Service Foundation (CNDSF.)
- **Heather Dearman**, Cousin of Ashley Moser (wounded) and Veronica Moser-Sullivan (killed)—from the 2012 Aurora, CO theater shooting; CEO 7/20 Memorial Foundation.
- **Maggie Feinstein**, Director of the 10.27 Healing Partnership, providing support for individuals and their loved ones impacted by the 2018 attack at the Tree of Life – Or L'Simcha Congregation synagogue, and others who experience hate-induced trauma.
- **Josh Garcia**, former management at Pulse Orlando, survivor of the 2016 mass shooting at Pulse nightclub; Executive Director, Stars of HOPE.
- **Dr. Jordan Golin**, JFCS Pittsburgh, President & CEO, service provider for individuals and their loved ones impacted by the 2018 attack at the Tree of Life – Or L'Simcha Synagogue.
- **Dr. Heidi Horsley**, Executive Director - Open to Hope Foundation, helping people find hope after loss; Adjunct Professor at Columbia University.
- **Scarlett Lewis**, mother of Jesse, who was killed in his first-grade classroom during the 2012 tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School; Chief Movement Officer, Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement.

- **Sallie Lynch**, Senior Program & Development Consultant, Tuesday’s Children, providing a lifetime of healing for families who have been forever changed by terrorism, military conflict or mass violence.
- **Heather Martin**, survivor of the 1999 Columbine HS mass shooting; Executive Director and Co-Founder, The Rebels Project.
- **Michael Morissette**, father of Kristina, one of 12 victims of the 2018 shooting at the Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks, CA; Outreach Coordinator, Give an Hour.
- **Kathy Murphy**, Senior Program Director, Tuesday’s Children, providing a lifetime of healing for families who have been forever changed by terrorism, military conflict, or mass violence.
- **Amy O’Neill**, MS, LPC - Licensed Professional Counselor; Survivor of the 2013 Boston Marathon Bombings; Host of “The Trauma Impact” podcast; and Consultant.
- **Robert Pycior**, 9/11 Family Member, lost his father, a military service member, in the attack on the Pentagon; School Social Worker.
- **Joe Samaha**, father of Reema, a victim of the 2007 Virginia Tech mass shooting; President of the VTV Family Outreach Foundation / VTV Care.
- **Jansen Young**, survivor of the 2012 Aurora, CO theater shooting, girlfriend of victim Jonathan Blunk; COO of 7/20 Memorial Foundation.



**Resources:** If you or someone you know is looking for support, our organizations and our coalition of partners are here to help. Here are some resources we recommend.

- Tuesday’s Children has family-focused tip sheets on coping with tragedy, trauma, and grief: <http://ow.ly/wvRf50IjHv>
- National Child Traumatic Stress Network resources for coping with mass violence: <https://bit.ly/3z5WxYP>
- Disaster Distress Helpline: Call or text 1-800-985-5990 (press 2 for Spanish) to contact a counselor trained in dealing with crisis situations. Confidential, multilingual, free services available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- The Rebels Project: tip sheet for knowing when and how to seek professional support after a mass shooting: [https://www.tuesdayschildren.org/wp-content/uploads/TRP-TherapistGraphic\\_V2.pdf](https://www.tuesdayschildren.org/wp-content/uploads/TRP-TherapistGraphic_V2.pdf)
- Transcend app for survivors from the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center:
  - Apple: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/transcend-nmvc/id1504741131>
  - Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=edu.musc.dhs.transcend>

For more information on Tuesday's Children, visit [www.tuesdayschildren.org](http://www.tuesdayschildren.org) or follow [@TuesdaysChildren](https://www.facebook.com/TuesdaysChildren) on Facebook and Twitter and Instagram [@TuesdaysChldrn](https://www.instagram.com/TuesdaysChldrn).

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### **ABOUT TUESDAY'S CHILDREN**

Building on 20+ years of dedicated service, Tuesday's Children has provided support to over 45,000 individuals impacted by terrorism, military conflict, and mass violence, including supportive services to build resilience in 3,051 children who lost a parent on 9/11; thousands of 9/11 responder families; and 37,000+ families grieving the death of post-9/11 military service members; 6,000+ youth served through their [Career Resource Center](#); and 950+ young adults from 34 countries with Project COMMON BOND. Tuesday's Children provides a lifetime of healing for families who have been forever changed by terrorism, military conflict, or mass violence. Through a time-tested, long-term approach, Tuesday's Children programming serves and supports our nation's Military Families of the Fallen; builds resilience and common bonds in communities worldwide recovering from tragedies; and keeps the promise to support all those impacted by Tuesday, September 11th. For more information, please visit [www.tuesdayschildren.org](http://www.tuesdayschildren.org).

### **TUESDAY'S CHILDREN'S MEDIA CONTACTS**

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