



tuesday's
children

LESSONS

IN

RECOVERY

AND

RESILIENCE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

**Transformation from Tragedy: Lived Experiences in Recovery from
Terrorism, Military Conflict, Mass Violence, Trauma and Loss**

An in-person event featuring keynote speakers, panelists and survivor stories of resilience.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US

We are pleased to welcome you to this special event, our 6th annual Lessons in Recovery and Resilience Forum. We have curated a program that reflects on more than two decades since Tuesday, September 11, 2001 and highlights the many ways that our community, our Tuesday's Children families, and others build resilience after terrorism, military conflict, mass violence and wide-scale trauma and loss. This forum will look to the past through conversations with first-hand survivors, who have faced adversity, and experts, who have guided response efforts. Our conversations today will help to navigate how we can collectively meet the challenges of the present and future with compassion and coordinated care.

Although we recently marked 22 years since the 9/11 tragedy, from which Tuesday's Children was called to its mission, this work is more relevant than ever. When we set out to do this work, we made a promise in the wake of a devastating tragedy that reshaped our lives and our world. We have extended that promise to meet the needs of new generations of children and families.

More than 37,000 families have lost a family member who served in the U.S. military post-9/11, in many cases a parent, a spouse, a child. Veteran suicides account for four times as many service member deaths as combat casualties. Terrorism and mass violence continue to plague our communities in the U.S. and abroad, claiming the lives of over 350,000 global citizens since 2001. We have only recently emerged from a global pandemic that took the lives of over 1 million Americans and more than 6 million people worldwide. 1 in 5 Tuesday's Children families—those already impacted by trauma and grief due to terrorism, military conflict or mass violence—also lost loved ones in the pandemic.

While these trends point to many risk factors—increased anxiety, isolation, disconnectedness—the purpose of this forum is to build protective factors, connections, bridges between survivors, experts, service providers, policy makers, educators, students, funders and compassionate individuals. Today, together, we can seek some answers to the tremendous challenges before us, by bearing witness to the lived experiences of those who have been directly impacted by tragedies, and by hearing about promising and innovative work in recovery and resilience.

Over these last two decades and more, working closely with communities impacted by tragedies throughout the U.S. and around the globe, we have had the honor to share and build upon our Long-Term Healing Model as a roadmap for those who need it most. In this work, we continue to gain new perspective and knowledge from our community partners, who share our commitment to long-term support. Above all, we are honored to work with our family members, our survivors—they have the greatest lessons to teach us about healing and resilience, and they bring the most hope to others who have suffered trauma and loss, because they offer connection, a community of support, and the will to persevere.

We are grateful to be able to connect with all of you today. On behalf of all who made this event possible, we thank you for attending and hope you enjoy the sessions.



Tuesday's Children's Lessons in Recovery and Resilience events are funded, in part, by the New York Life Foundation, the Department of Homeland Security Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) Grants Program and the Brave of Heart Fund.

WHO WE SERVE

Through a time-tested, long-term approach, Tuesday's Children programming serves and supports our nation's Military Families of the Fallen; keeps the promise to support all those impacted by Tuesday, September 11th; and builds resilience and common bonds in communities worldwide recovering from tragedies.

OUR IMPACT

Tuesday's Children has provided services to some of our nation's and the world's most vulnerable populations. With more than two decades of dedicated service, over 50,000 individuals across the U.S. and from approximately 40 countries have benefited from our resilience-based programs. Our proven platform of programs fills the gap in long-term healing support services available for America's Military Families of the Fallen and others recovering from trauma and loss.

A CALL TO ACTION

We know firsthand the long-term effects of terrorism, military conflict, mass violence, trauma and loss. 3,051 children lost a parent on Tuesday, September 11, 2001. Since 9/11, more than 37,000 families have lost a military service member, and in most cases a parent and spouse. Over 350,000 people have died as a result of global terrorist incidents. Mass violence, extremism and conflict are growing concerns in the U.S. and on the world stage, with new risks continuing to escalate in the wake of the global pandemic, which claimed the lives of more than 6 million people worldwide and 1 million Americans.

ANSWERING THE CALL

As we build on two decades of service and the living legacies carried by our families, we are committed to keeping the promise to meet their needs now, and in the future. Our innovative platform of programs developed in partnership with recognized leaders in the fields of child development, family advocacy, crisis counseling and mentoring—addresses the needs of families at all ages and stages of recovery from trauma and loss. We provide trauma and grief support, youth mentoring, mental health programs, skills-building workshops, career resources, parenting advisement, youth leadership development, community-based family engagement events and volunteerism opportunities.

OUR APPROACH

Tuesday's Children enables families and communities torn apart by tragedy to heal, recover and thrive for a lifetime. Our evidence-based Long-Term Healing Model is a proven approach to bringing families out of isolation by featuring safe, supportive and adaptive programming that strengthens resilience and builds community among individuals with common bonds. Trust is the foundation of our organizational strategy, and our approach of meeting families where they are in their recovery from trauma and loss has proven to effectively engage families, and keep them engaged to address their changing needs over time.

LONG-TERM HEALING MODEL

Through our proven Long-Term Healing Model, we share best practices and lessons learned in recovery and resilience with communities impacted by terrorism, military conflict, mass violence, trauma and loss at home and abroad. At TuesdaysChildrenHeals.org, we offer a training curriculum and toolkit of resources for providing tragedy assistance and support services to families and children impacted by traumatic events. We continue to broaden our impact by building coalition and peer networks and learning from other domestic and international communities, survivors, service providers, government agencies and family support networks in response to wide-scale trauma and loss, terrorism, military conflict and mass violence.

AGENDA

9:00 to 9:30 AM EST: REGISTRATION

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9:30 to 9:45 AM EST

Introduction/Opening Remarks from Tuesday's Children and the American Red Cross

Sallie Lynch, Senior Program & Development Consultant, Tuesday's Children

Celena Roldan Sarillo, Interim CEO, American Red Cross of Greater New York

Welcome to Lessons in Recovery and Resilience, highlighting how experts and survivors around the world are supporting communities impacted by terrorism, military conflict, mass violence and wide-scale trauma and loss.

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9:45 to 9:55 AM EST: KEYNOTE/BRIEF REMARKS:

Mr. Mauro Miedico, Director, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre / United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

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9:55 to 10:15 AM EST: KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Harry Dunn, Police Officer on duty January 6th; Author of Standing My Ground: A Capitol Police Officer's Fight for Accountability and Good Trouble after January 6th

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10:15 to 11:30 AM EST: EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION:

Best Practices in Tragedy Preparedness and Response, Community Resilience, and Long-Term Healing

The panel will explore the long-term effects of global and domestic terrorism, military conflict, mass violence and wide-scale trauma and loss as well as government, private sector and community supports, program development strategies and preparedness and prevention efforts.

Moderator: Amy O'Neill, MS, LPC - Licensed Professional Counselor, Survivor of the Boston Marathon Bombings, Host of "The Trauma Impact" podcast, and Consultant

Panelists:

·Maggie Feinstein, Director, 10.27 Healing Partnership

·Gregg Porter, Regional Program Manager, American Red Cross

·Maria Collins, Vice President, New York Life Foundation & Corporate Vice President, New York Life

·Ms. Ana Izar, Head, Victims of Terrorism Unit, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre / United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

·Robert Pycior, Co-Head Group Leader: Project COMMON BOND; Founding Member: Survivors of Tragedy Outreach Program (STOP); School Social Worker; 9/11 Family Member

11:30 AM to 12:15 PM EST: LUNCH



12:15 to 12:35 PM EST: KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. April Naturale, Vice President of Disaster Services, Vibrant Emotional Health



12:35 to 12:45 PM EST: BRIEF VIDEO: Survivors of Tragedy Outreach Program (STOP)

Presented by: Kathy Murphy, Senior Program Director, and Sallie Lynch, Senior Program & Development Consultant, Tuesday's Children



12:45 to 2:00 PM EST: SURVIVOR PANEL DISCUSSION:

Reflections on Resilience from Survivors Impacted by Terrorism, Military Conflict, Mass Violence and Traumatic Loss.

Hear from individuals impacted by tragedy and how they are using their voices in a variety of ways to create change for the general public and in communities directly impacted by mass tragedy.

Moderator: Monica Meehan McNamara, MA, family therapist; Curriculum Director, Project COMMON BOND, Tuesday's Children

Panelists:

- Harry Dunn, Police Officer on duty January 6th; Author of Standing My Ground: A Police Officer's Fight for Accountability and Good Trouble after January 6th
- Krista Simpson Anderson, Co-Founder/President, The Unquiet Professional; Gold Star Spouse
- Ryan Sliwak, Counseling Psychology Ph.D. Student; 9/11 Family Member
- Jessica Alejandro, Substitute Teacher, NYC Department of Education; Covid-Bereaved Family Member, 9/11 Responder Family Member
- Dea Balaj, lost grandfather in war in Kosovo 1998-1999, currently attending school in Boston



2:00 to 2:15 PM EST: BREAK



2:15 to 2:30 PM EST: KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Matthew Bocchi, Author of Sway; 9/11 Family Member

2:30 to 2:40 PM EST: BRIEF VIDEO: Kaleidoscope: An NYC Resilience Story

Directed by 9/11 Family Member Cheena Jain, Kaleidoscope carries the observer through post-pandemic New York, and shows how, in moments of communal struggle, New York City's myriad of diversity shows its heart and reminds us of our humanity.

Presented by Kathryn Ellard, Covid Response Program Manager



2:40 to 3:55 PM EST: STORYTELLING PANEL DISCUSSION: Harnessing the Healing Power of Storytelling

In this panel discussion, we will introduce the online and in-person audience to how storytelling can be a powerful tool for healing. Our experts with lived experience will speak to the themes of storytelling and amplify their narrative identity, recognizing that our stories are continually evolving and that we play an active role in how/what stories we tell.

Moderator: Sara Wingerath-Schlanger, Senior Program Director, Tuesday's Children

Panelists:

- Cheena Jain, Creative Director; Filmmaker; 9/11 Family Member
- Joseph Ryder, NYPD Detective and Public Information Officer; 9/11 Responder Family Member; Journalist and Community Affairs Lead
- Matthew Bocchi, Author of Sway; 9/11 Family Member
- Charonda Johnson, Strategic Partnerships Manager, Covid Survivors for Change; Covid-Bereaved Family Member; USAF Combat Veteran
- Megan McDowell, Executive Director, Heartworks; 9/11 Family Member



3:55 to 4:00 PM EST: CONCLUDING REMARKS:

Speaker Tuesday's Children



4:00 to 5:00 PM EST: Networking and Refreshments



Additional Information Link: <https://www.tuesdayschildren.org/event/lessons-in-recovery-resilience-6th-annual-forum/>

WELCOME REMARKS

Sallie Lynch

Senior Program & Development Consultant, Tuesday's Children

Sallie Lynch, MA, Senior Program and Development Consultant at Tuesday's Children, has more than two decades of experience serving families of 9/11 victims, responders and survivors, post-9/11 military families of the fallen, global victims of terrorism and communities impacted by mass violence. She is the principal researcher and author of Tuesday's Children's evidence-based Long-Term Healing Model, a five-module training curriculum and online toolkit for community resilience.



Sallie has provided capacity-building support, training and customized guidance in the aftermath of terrorism, mass violence and widescale trauma and loss to frontline service providers, community leaders and survivors in U.S. and international communities. She has facilitated cross-cultural resource and idea sharing sessions and trainings with international victim service providers from 34 countries engaged in Tuesday's Children's peacebuilding initiative Project COMMON BOND. She has secured federal and institutional funding for expansive multiyear projects addressing trauma and loss in response to terrorism, targeted violence and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sallie has represented Tuesday's Children in interviews and speaking engagements to high-profile audiences, including at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice and the United Nations. She has published in U.S. and international journals on long-term healing, community resilience and peer-to-peer support and is a co-author of the book *FDNY Crisis Counseling: Innovative Responses to 9/11 Firefighters, Families and Communities* (Wiley, 2006). In the aftermath of 9/11, Sallie was co-investigator of a longitudinal research and intervention program with Columbia University School of Social Work and the FDNY Counseling Service Unit for 9/11 widows and children who lost a firefighter parent. Sallie has served on advisory committees for Vibrant Emotional Health's Crisis Emotional Care Team (CECT), Peace of Mind Afghanistan (PoMA) and the UN Centre for Counter-Terrorism. She holds an MA in Cultural Anthropology from Columbia University and a BA in Cultural Studies from Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. Sallie is certified in Grief Education and Psychological First Aid and is co-founder of Tuesday's Children's Survivors of Tragedy Outreach Program (STOP), a coalition of survivors and organizations united for prevention and peer support with the goals of promoting long-term recovery and resilience and address the multi-layered impacts of targeted violence and preventable mass-scale tragedies.

OPENING REMARKS

Celena Roldan Sarillo

Interim Chief Executive Officer, Red Cross of Greater New York

Celena Sarillo is the Interim CEO of the Greater New York Region of the Red Cross. She joined the American Red Cross in March of 2016. Sarillo has served in various leadership roles supporting the national office of the American Red Cross, including CEO of the Illinois Region, serving as an elected official liaison deployed to engage elected officials in disaster-impacted areas, and as one of the founders of the American Red Cross Latino Engagement Initiative. Prior to joining Red Cross, Sarillo served as the Executive Director of Erie Neighborhood House, which was founded to strengthen low-income, primarily Latino families through skill-building, access to critical resources, advocacy and collaborative action. Sarillo has extensive and significant community development experience at both the city and the state level. In 2018, Sarillo served as a co-chair for the City of Chicago Universal Basic Income Task Force. She also served on Mayor Rahm Emanuel's Education Transition Team and the Mayor's Early Childhood Task Force as well as Governor Quinn's Illinois Human Services Commission. Sarillo was also appointed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel to the City of Chicago's Community Development Commission in 2014. In 2011, Sarillo was a Leadership Greater Chicago Fellow, participating in an intensive leadership training and partnership-building program that examines key issues facing the Chicago metropolitan area. In 2015, she participated in the German Marshall Memorial Fellowship, a month-long leadership development program in Europe focused on supporting and fostering the transatlantic relationship between the U.S. and Europe, sponsored by the German Marshall Fund of the United States. She was selected as a Fellow in the 2017 CEO Perspectives program, a nationally recognized program that fosters and accelerates business leadership development. Currently, Sarillo serves as a board member for National Louis University and the Chicago Network, a network of Chicago's women leaders. In 2019, she was named to the board of directors for Wintrust Wealth Management and was elected to The Robert R. McCormick Foundation Board. Most recently, Sarillo was recognized by the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Social Work as their 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient. Sarillo was also named as one of Chicago's "Most Powerful Latinos," on the 2019 inaugural list compiled by Crain's Chicago Business. Sarillo was also named by the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago as the 2016 Community Leader of the Year for her work in communities and the nonprofit sector. Sarillo holds a master's degree in early childhood administration from National Louis University, as well as master's and bachelor's degrees in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She lives in Chicago with her husband and has a son at Saint Louis University.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Mr. Mauro Miedico

Mr. Mauro Miedico is an attorney at law with post-graduate studies at the Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Italy and at the prestigious Ecole Nationale d' Administration (ENA) in France.

He has been working with the United Nations since 1996, serving in the United States, Austria, Haiti, Serbia, Sierra Leone and Colombia, holding different positions as Legal Advisor with the United Nations Department of Peace-keeping Operations (DPKO), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT). Mr. Miedico has particularly worked in the field of justice reform and as an advisor to a number of governments on criminal justice and on preventing and countering terrorism.

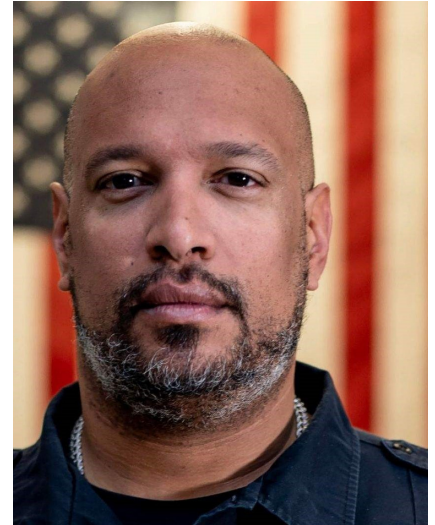
Mr. Miedico currently serves as Director of the United Nations Counter Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), and Chief of the Special Projects and Innovation Branch of the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT). He provides strategic and programmatic advisory services and expertise to the Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism to address complex strategic, operational and policy issues. In his senior leadership position at UNOCT, he oversees and has lead responsibility for a variety of counter-terrorism technical assistance initiatives and programmes. Previous to joining UNOCT, Mr. Miedico worked for 15 years at the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC, including as the Director of the Branch (2016-2018). He has undertaken more than a hundred technical assistance missions and has chaired a large number of regional or sub-regional conferences and workshops, providing technical advice to dozens of countries on counter-terrorism issues.



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Officer Harry Dunn

Harry Dunn joined the U.S. Capitol police in 2008. On January 6, 2021, he was one of the brave officers who protected the country as a mob of insurrectionists attacked the Capitol in an attempt to overturn the presidential election. Officer Dunn protected the country from the insurrection as he experienced physical attacks and racial epithets from those storming the Capitol building. In recognition for Officer Dunn's role in protecting the U.S. Capitol, President Joe Biden awarded him the Presidential Citizens Medal. The medal is the second-highest award a civilian can get and is given by the president to "U.S. citizens who have performed exemplary deeds of service for their country or their fellow citizens."



I think it's important to note that I accept this medal not as a Capitol Hill Police Officer, a job I have held for 15 years," said Officer Dunn. "Rather, I am here as an American. What I did on January 6, I did as a police officer. It was my job. But what I have done every day since, I do because I am an American."

Following the attack, he was one of the few officers willing to speak publicly about what happened that day and testified in front of Congress about the events. Officer Dunn has been featured on: The New York Times, MSNBC, NPR, ABC News, Washington Post, CNN

Standing 6-foot-7, Officer Dunn, a certified crisis negotiation and crisis intervention officer for the US Capitol Police, grew up in Prince George's County, Maryland and credits his parents with instilling in him the values of treating people right. He attended James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia where he earned a degree in public health education and promotion. While at JMU, he was a student-athlete on the football team and a starting offensive lineman for the 2004 national championship team. Officer Dunn has equated his football experience to his law enforcement experience. "In sports, you learn to do things for the guys and work together to achieve common goals," Dunn said.

Since the insurrection, Officer Dunn has frequently and openly spoken about how the impact of the violence of January 6 has been on his mental health. He has said, "It took a horrific toll on us and I want people to know it's OK and it's normal to feel a certain kind of way."

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

April Naturale, PhD

Dr. Naturale is a traumatic stress specialist focused on response to disasters and mass violence. She has provided disaster and traumatic stress response training and consultation throughout the U.S. having led the NY mental health response to 9/11/01, the Boston Marathon bombing and responding to 14 of the last mass violence shooting events. Dr. Naturale also helped launch the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the Disaster Distress Helpline. Internationally, she has trained Psychologists in the Ukraine Military Service, Humanitarian Aid workers for the European Union and helped launch the European Centre of Expertise for Victims of Terrorism.



Currently, Dr. Naturale is Vibrant Emotional Health's VP for Disaster Services was recently appointed by the U.S. Attorney General's team of subject matter experts to review the law enforcement response to the May 24, 2022, Uvalde, TX, Robb Elementary school shooting.



Matthew Bocchi

Matt Bocchi is a well-known mental health advocate, author, and speaker who has gained recognition for his memoir, *Sway*—the first story told by a child of 9/11. In the book, he shares his journey of overcoming various struggles, including addiction, grief, and trauma, such as losing his father in the 9/11 attacks. Matt also talks about his experiences with mental health challenges, such as depression and PTSD, and his path toward healing and recovery.



As a result of his book's publication, Matt has become a highly sought-after speaker and mental health advocate, using his personal story to inspire others to seek support and help for their mental health issues, trauma and addiction. His advocacy work serves as a reminder of the importance of reducing the stigma surrounding mental health and addiction.

EXPERT PANELISTS

Maria Collins

Maria Collins is a Vice President in the Corporate Responsibility department New York Life, the largest mutual life insurance company in the U.S. Maria provides leadership for the philanthropic, communications and engagement strategies for Corporate Responsibility, and manages the bereavement philanthropic portfolio and bereavement-related business initiatives. Maria also oversees the New York Life Foundation's social justice strategic focus area.



Prior to joining New York Life, she was a senior manager of Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City's Workplace Mentoring Center. Before that, Maria was a consultant and resource specialist for the Grandparent Resource Center of the Department for The Aging. She also served as a social work intern at The School for Legal Studies and Lutheran Social Services. Maria joined New York Life in 2000 as a Consultant in Corporate Social Responsibility. Since then, Maria has taken on roles of increased responsibility, including Senior Consultant, Director of Corporate Responsibility, Assistant Vice President and Corporate Vice President, where she helped create the award-winning Volunteers for Good program and helped define and build the Foundation's bereavement program.

For over a decade, Maria has led childhood bereavement strategy for the New York Life Foundation and Corporate Responsibility Department. Through purposeful alignment and engagement, New York Life Foundation has become one of the largest philanthropic investors and a thought leader in this nascent field. Maria partners to create innovative initiatives, programs and campaigns to enhance the awareness, education and capacity for this field. Through her leadership, groundbreaking initiatives including the Coalition to Support Grieving Students and Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative® were created. Other initiatives include the Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model with partner Judi's House/JAG Institute, Grief-Sensitive Healthcare Project with Yale University, Speaking Grief Documentary and Public Awareness Campaign with WPSU at Penn State, to name a few. Maria was a lead contributor in the development and creation of New York Life Foundation's book series, Kai's Journey, including the latest book, Lost in the Middle, plus the accompanying discussion guides. As part of this strategy, Maria engages in public presentations and events to highlight the prevalence, needs and the resources available, including presentations at the Association for Death Education Conference (ADEC), the National Alliance for Children's

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EXPERT PANELISTS

(NACG) Grief Symposium, and Corporate Philanthropy and partner events to bring voice to this common yet underserved issue.

Maria earned a B.A. from Fordham University and a Master for Social Work from New York University. She is a graduate of New York Life’s Career Management Initiative and Accelerated Leadership Program.

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Maggie Feinstein

Maggie Feinstein is the director of the 10.27 Healing Partnership. She is a master’s level professional counselor who has distinguished herself in the field of integrated mental health and Mass Violence Response. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in International Relations and received her master’s degree from the University of San Francisco in Counseling Psychology. She worked in San Francisco and Anchorage before returning to Pittsburgh. Maggie has presented at professional conferences on topics of juvenile justice reform, collaborative health care, and now the impacts of violent extremism. She currently resides in Squirrel Hill with her husband and two children.

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Ms. Ana Izar

Ana Izar is an international civil servant with over fifteen years of experience in the areas of peace and security, conflict prevention and resolution, international diplomacy, human rights, disarmament and counterterrorism. She has served for the United Nations for over a decade in a variety of assignments, including in the field, at United Nations Headquarters and with the United Nations Office at Geneva. She is currently the Head of the Victims of Terrorism Unit at the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) of the Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT), where she leadsthe implementation of the United Nations Global Programme on Victims of Terrorism.



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EXPERT PANELISTS

Throughout her career, Ana has led the implementation of a wide range of programmes in priority areas of engagement for the United Nations, such as the prevention and countering of violent extremism and terrorism; youth engagement and empowerment; protection of civilians in armed conflict; women, peace and security; children's rights; non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; and dialogue and negotiations. She also has extensive experience as a political analyst, building international partnerships, and mobilizing political support for the implementation of United Nations peace and security mandates.

Having completed graduate and postgraduate degrees in the field of communications and public relations, Ana also held a number of positions in the areas of communication, journalism and media relations prior to joining the United Nations.

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Gregg Porter

Gregg Porter is the Director of Services to the Armed Forces and International Services for the American Red Cross Greater New York Region. A voracious reader and visual storyteller, he left home at 17 to enlist in the U.S. Army and was eventually assigned to V Corps HQ in Frankfurt, Germany. Four years of military service included a tour visually documenting humanitarian relief efforts for the Kurdish population in Iraq. After hanging up the uniform, Gregg continued serving as an Army civilian video producer, creating documentaries and covering military training, operations and post-deployment reintegration efforts throughout Europe and the Balkans.



V Corps was extremely active through the 1990s and Gregg led video teams covering the 50th Anniversary commemorations of D-Day in Normandy; the Invasion of Southern France; and the Battle of the Bulge. When the U.S. military was called to stabilize the deteriorating political and humanitarian situation in Eastern Europe, Gregg was deployed to provide documentation of military operations in Bosnia, Albania, Macedonia, Hungary and the Ukraine.

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EXPERT PANELISTS

Returning to the United States, Gregg managed media production facilities for the Army, the Department of Justice and served as the Information Management Officer at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. In 2008, DoD asked him to manage the DoD media archival operation in Southern California.

Living in SoCal fueled the desire to join the entertainment industry. In 2015 Gregg resigned his position with the Defense Department, relocated to the heart of Los Angeles, and started Developed Over Coffee Productions, LLC (DOC). DOC produced documentaries and projects covering a wide variety of topics. From telling the story of Chinese American soldiers serving during WWII to the sacrifices required by immigrants struggling to pay for a college education. Gregg was selected to participate in the prestigious Writers Guild Foundation’s Veterans Writers Project and continues to write screenplays in his spare time.

Somewhere along this journey, Gregg realized he was losing touch with his humanity. The constant struggle for “success” had left him feeling less than whole. Recognizing the depression of lonely veterans while visiting family in a NY State veteran’s home prompted him to take a volunteer position with the California State Veteran’s Home, which opened up a new and exciting world of service and giving back. With an eye towards reengaging his heart, Gregg decided to go all in and apply for a position with the American Red Cross that would afford him the opportunity to give back to a community that he knows and treasures. He is proud to serve the military, veteran and international community as the Service to the Armed Forces and International Services Director for the Greater New York Region. Go Yankees!

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Robert Pycior

Rob Pycior is a school social worker in Readington, New Jersey. His father, Joseph J Pycior Jr, was killed in the September 11th, 2001 attacks while working at the Naval Command Center in the Pentagon. Rob was 8 years old at the time and has spent the last 20+ years as both a recipient and provider of services for grieving children, especially those impacted by violent extremism and conflict. His own experience in the tumultuous aftermath of September 11th put him on a path of service to others.



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EXPERT PANELISTS

He hopes to make positive changes for younger generations impacted by conflict and traumatic loss. He is involved with Tuesday's Children through various roles, Comfort Zone Camp and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.

Rob's involvement with Tuesday's Children began over a decade ago and has evolved to current roles as a Co-Head Group Leader at Project COMMON BOND and a member of the Survivors of Tragedy Outreach Program (STOP).

He recognizes firsthand the positive impact that community, connection and open dialog can have on kids and teens.

EXPERT PANEL MODERATOR

Amy. O'Neill, MS, LPC

Amy C. O'Neill, MS, LPC, is a licensed professional counselor, a consultant for the VOCA-NCJA and OVC TTAC Office of Justice Programs Networks, a steering committee member for the National Mass Violence and Victimization Resource Center and a Survivor of the Boston Marathon Bombing. She serves on the Survivors of Tragedy Outreach Program (STOP) for Tuesday's Children, the Crisis Emotional Care Team for Vibrant Emotional Health and the Disaster Distress Helpline peer support task force. Ms. O'Neill has presented at the SEARCH-NCJA Conference, ISSTD Congress for Complex Trauma, the National NOVA conference, the United Nations Global Congress for Victims of Terrorism at UNHQ NYC, contributed to the United Nations Parliamentarians Model Legislative Provisions and UN Victims of Terrorism Events. Ms. O'Neill maintains a private counseling practice, is an Adjunct Instructor for the graduate Counseling Psychology Program at Chestnut Hill College, Philadelphia, PA and is a Doctor of Health Sciences candidate at Bay Path University, currently working on her dissertation. Ms. O'Neill hosts The Trauma Impact Podcast on Mental Health News Radio Network, focusing on trauma and recovery from mass violence.

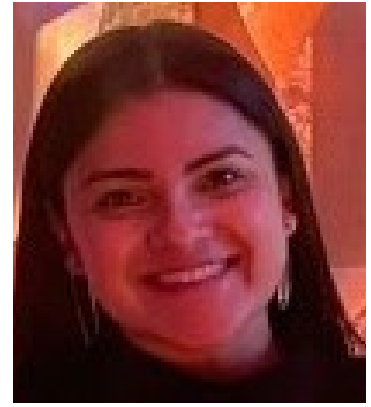


SURVIVOR PANELISTS

Jessica Alejandro

Jessica M. Alejandro, hailing from Queens, NYC, is a passionate advocate for Mental Health and COVID Remembrance. Following the heartbreaking loss of her grandfather to COVID in March of 2021, her commitment to mental health advocacy deepened. She strives for the establishment of permanent COVID memorials across New York City, honoring the lives affected by the pandemic. With a recent Masters degree from CUNY Queens College in Childhood Special Education, Jessica is currently contributing to her community as a dedicated NYC Substitute Teacher. Her journey is marked by a steadfast dedication to both education and compassionate advocacy.

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Krista Simpson Anderson

Krista Simpson Anderson is the proud wife of retired Green Beret MSG(R) Gus Anderson and the Gold Star spouse of Green Beret SSG Michael H. Simpson who passed away on 1 May 2013 from wounds sustained in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack in Eastern Afghanistan. She is the mother of two amazing boys. Krista believes tragedy does not need to end our story but can provide the opportunity to create a new chapter with greater purpose. She lives this out through the many opportunities she has been given to make an impact in our community.



Krista co-founded The Unquiet Professional in 2013, serves as the Surviving Family Liaison and board member for the Green Beret Foundation and serves on advisory boards for Caliber Home Loans and USAA. Krista has participated in working groups with OSD and the Army addressing casualty reform.

Krista is the founder of Brave Group, LLC where she has built a team that operates with prudential wisdom. Her philosophy is "Arm Yourselves and Be Brave - Educate and Empower to THRIVE not just Survive." Krista's mission is to help provide families the tools to thrive in their ever changing and challenging environments. In doing this, she believes family and financial readiness is strengthened, anxiety of the unknown is reduced and a stronger foundation is created.

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SURVIVOR PANELISTS

Due to Krista's dedicated service to the military community, she was recognized as the "2018 Armed Forces Insurance Army Spouse of the Year and overall Military Spouse of the Year", the "2019 Green Beret Foundation Keeper of the Brave" and noted in the "Top 17 Change Makers to follow in 2021" by Military Influencer.

Dea Balaj

Dea, a Kosovar Albanian, grew up in a region deeply scarred by the Yugoslavian War and the Kosovo War of '98-'99, which resulted in 12,000 lost lives, one million displaced individuals and 10,000 unfound people, including her grandfather's - which was also the reason she joined Tuesday's Children's Project COMMON BOND.



When she was 8, Dea began her journey in the world of television, driven by a desire to use media and communication to connect Kosovo's youth with the world and foster resilience in the face of adversity.

Throughout her life, Dea has actively engaged with multiple organizations, including Down Syndrome Kosovo, SOS Children and those supporting children with autism.

She's currently a Fulbright student pursuing a Master's degree in Neuromarketing in Boston, having completed her bachelor's in London. Her passion lies in understanding human connections and promoting healthier consumerism, which positively impacts various facets of society, from health and education to social awareness.

Dea has established 'Blue Brain,' a company undertaking projects in diverse industries, including education, media and public relations.

Dea pursued advanced education because, despite the destruction of 358 schools by the war, the determination of parents and children to seek education remained unbroken.

Dea pursued her goal of becoming a successful young woman because, even though 20,400 women suffered from sexual abuse during the war, it never deterred the women of Kosovo from supporting each other (especially young ones) in their endeavors and living with pride.

Dea is simply a modest symbol of Kosovo's youth because, despite everything, hope burns brightly within them.

SURVIVOR PANELISTS

Ryan Silwak

Ryan Sliwak is a fifth-year doctoral student in the Counseling Psychology Ph.D. program at Seton Hall University. Currently, he is completing his pre-doctoral internship at the Albany Psychology Consortium. His areas of emphasis and training are with the VA, where he works with combat veterans on the PTSD unit. He will also be training in conducting assessments at the VA within the Neuropsychology tract.



Ryan's previous research explored how children who lost a parent on 9/11 develop a personal narrative about this trauma in the context of the collective narrative about 9/11 and how children who lost a parent on 9/11 make meaning of their experiences, especially in the context of a national tragedy. Currently, his dissertation research is on the experience of grief and continuing bonds for children of 9/11.

Ryan finds tremendous meaning in sharing his own story of grieving the loss of a parent in the 9/11 tragedy. He hopes to be able to share some of the unbelievable displays of resiliency he has witnessed from his projects and connections with other 9/11 kids.

SURVIVOR PANEL MODERATOR

Monica Meehan McNamara

Monica Meehan McNamara is the Director of Curriculum for Project COMMON BOND. She recruits and trains the Facilitation staff, as well as facilitating a Participant Group and Staff Groups.

In addition, Monica is a Family Therapist in private practice in Boston, MA. She works with individuals, couples and families. Monica is a consultant to the Course on Negotiation at Harvard Law School. She also provides consultation and training for the Mentoring Program in Deer Isle, Maine.



Monica holds a BA from Tufts University and an MA from New York University. She has postgraduate certificates in Movement Analysis, from the Laban Institute, NY; in Family Therapy from Family Institute of Cambridge, in Massachusetts; and in Trauma Work from Bessel van der Kolk's Trauma Center in Brookline, MA.

STORYTELLING PANELISTS

Cheena Jain

Cheena is a creative director in advertising and new filmmaker based in Brooklyn, NY. She has a background in design and strategy, working on initiatives for many well-known brands including social media, integrated campaigns, video and augmented reality. She also worked to help build brand plans and develop innovation-focused tactical ideas for health companies with an emphasis on building tools and resources to ease patient and doctor journeys and pain points. Cheena has also taught



advertising for six years at Miami Ad School NYC; classes she taught focused on interactive concepting, integrated campaigns and viral initiatives. Recently, she wrote, directed and produced a short documentary film that has currently been selected for 11 international film festivals. She has a passion for storytelling and uses her creativity to bring stories to life throughout her personal and professional work.

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Charonda Johnson

Charonda Johnson is the Strategic Partnerships Manager for Covid Survivors for Change. Her career started in the U.S. Air Force. Charonda served on three deployments, two in support of combat missions in Iraq. After leaving the military in 2007, Charonda worked for President Biden (when he was a U.S. Senator) and his successor Senator Kaufman. Next, she worked taking care of families of America's fallen military and obtained her bachelor's degree in Organizational Management from Wilmington University. In 2020, Charonda's father died of covid as a result of leading worship in church conferences which thrust her into advocacy on a national level.



In partnership with the state of Delaware, her advocacy work helped launch the first permanent covid memorial in the state of Delaware and led to the passage of Senate Bill 1, the Healthy Delaware Families Act. A bill that ensures that many Delaware workers will have access to up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave to care for themselves or a family member with a serious illness, to bond with a new child or for a family member's military deployment. She has contributed to many covid memorials to include singing on the National Mall as a part of the In America: Remember Memorial in 2021 on what would have been her father's 65th birthday.

In her spare time she enjoys singing, speaking and spending time with her husband and son.

STORYTELLING PANELISTS

Megan McDowell

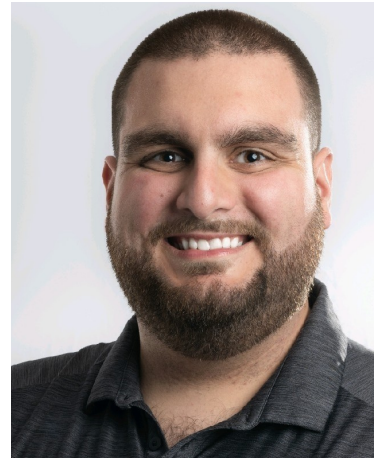
Megan McDowell is a licensed therapist, social worker and the founder of Heartworks, a 501(c)(3) organization that continues the kindness and consciousness that began on September 11th, 2001. Heartworks supports families during their first 14 months of grief, trauma, natural disaster or illness. Heartworks replicates the transformative acts that Megan witnessed while living at her sister's house for six weeks after her brother-in-law, John W. Farrell, was killed while working in the South Tower. John was 41 years old and left behind his wife Maryanne and four young children. Megan is a public speaker focusing on the healing power that connection and vulnerability play in resiliency during this age of technology, political unrest and uncertainty. She has been featured in numerous publications, media outlets and national television programs. She considers her work an active gesture of remembering those lost on 9/11, and as a way to honor the first responders from that Tuesday morning. Megan also has a private practice in Basking Ridge, NJ specializing in trauma, grief and mindfulness.



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Joseph Ryder

Joseph Ryder is a New York City Police Detective assigned to the Public Information Office. Detective Ryder also serves as the Director of Communications for Law Enforcement Officer's Weekend, a nationally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit that works with the families of police officers killed and seriously injured in the line of duty.



Ryder was inspired to become a police officer to follow in the footsteps of his father, himself a retired NYPD Detective, who was a first responder the 9/11 terrorist attacks and currently deals with multiple 9/11-related health diagnoses.

Prior to joining the NYPD, Ryder worked as a radio reporter with the NPR affiliate station WSHU and a production assistant with Fox News Radio and Headlines 24/7. Ryder is an alumnus of the Stony Brook University School of Journalism and still works closely with the school's alumni association.

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STORYTELLING PANELISTS

Ryder has also volunteered as a firefighter and critical-care EMT on Long Island and has been cited numerous times for life-saving actions both as an EMT and as a police officer. Ryder was awarded a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for his work with fallen law enforcement heroes' families.

STORYTELLING PANEL MODERATOR

Sara Wingerath-Schlanger

Senior Director, Sara Wingerath-Schlanger, returned to Tuesday's Children in September 2017, where she had previously served for many years as the Director of Tuesday's Children's Youth Mentoring Program for children who lost a parent on 9/11. Prior to rejoining Tuesday's Children, Sara was the Executive Director of Special Ops Survivors, serving bereaved spouses of Special Operations heroes and Program Director of ArtWorks, the Naomi Cohain Foundation, bringing innovative arts programming to medically complex youth in hospitals.



Sara began her career at Big Brother Big Sisters of Massachusetts Bay where she learned the power of matching agents of change with children through a strength-based model. Sara went to Hobart and William Smith Colleges for her undergraduate experience and holds a Master's in Public Administration (MPA) from Suffolk University, with a concentration in nonprofit management. She brings extensive knowledge of best practices in mentoring—including outreach, recruitment and screening—as well as an instrumental understanding of the landscape of current services available to bereaved military families and their long-term needs for support and growth. Sara has designed and executed trainings for other mentoring professionals on supporting grieving children and has served on advisory boards and boards of directors at various nonprofits impacting positive change. Sara has presented at conferences on such topics as Trauma Responsive Mentoring, Leadership in Uncertain Times and was part of a chosen group of mentoring leaders at the Summer Institute on Youth Mentoring at Portland State University.

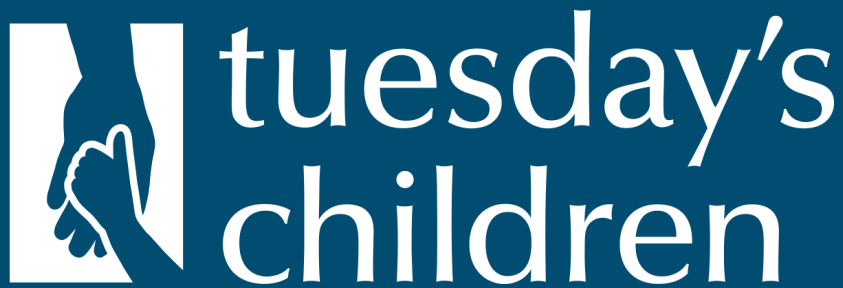
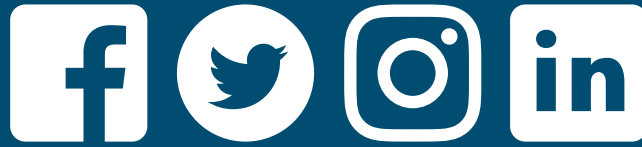
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STORYTELLING PANEL MODERATOR

Sara has led the team through several Technical Assistance pro bono grants as selected by MENTOR and has completed the National Quality Mentoring System evaluation which recognizes high-quality mentoring programs through a standardized process. Sara has been a guest at Capitol Hill to speak about supporting military-bereaved youth as well as being a spokesperson on the impact of mentoring. To date, Sara has directed all the peer mentoring matches and has been a crucial resource as Tuesday's Children continues expansion of its mentoring programming. Sara is a volunteer mentor to a 9th grader at Mt. St. High School through Empower Youth Network as well as the President of the Parent Teacher Student Association at Timber Ridge Elementary School for the second year.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION!

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