

PLEASE SHARE AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE!!
Please excuse multiple copies potentially received

After the most recent school shootings, I've felt compelled to attempt to answer the question "But what can we DO?!" by compiling a list of energetic, passionate efforts that are already underway.

The good news is, no one needs to "reinvent the wheel" when it comes to PREVENTING YOUTH VIOLENCE; just check out the wide variety of AVENUES FOR ACTION on the following website, and join on in sowing the seeds of peace to eradicate the roots of violence in our society---especially in our young ones' lives. Your actions can help save lives!

Shalom, Linda K. Williams

PREVENT YOUTH VIOLENCE!—AVENUES FOR ACTION
L.O.V.E.(3) our Children
Let's Overcome Violence through Education, Empathy, and Empowerment!

ANNOTATED LIST OF RESOURCES/ ORGANIZATIONS AVAILABLE
<http://www.cob-net.org/docs/williams.htm>

PLEASE NOTE Also available on the same website

+ "DOES MEDIA MATTER?" FLIER (Spanish version, too!)
Presents compelling arguments for critical thinking and wise choices
on the part of all parents and other caretakers of children and youth.

+ "A Faith-Based Approach to Preventing Youth Violence
EVANGELISM CAN HELP ERADICATE VIOLENCE"

~~~~~Additional reflections, plus words of Hope & Empowerment...~~~~~

Dear All,

Well, the feeding frenzy of the media has long since abated at Santana and Granite Hills High Schools, and our San Diego community and our country---which were recently dazed and reeling from the shock of yet more school shootings---are, to a large extent, turning their attention to other matters.

However, we MUST keep alive our sense of outrage at this relatively new style of murder in order to truly make progress in preventing the slaughter of more of our children and youth (by others of our children and youth). As the mother of a teenager, I've had to come to grips with the frightening fact that our schools are no longer a haven of safety for our beloved children.

I began my passionate peacemaking work after my husband's grandmother was brutally murdered in 1981. I was spurred into action again by the fact that Santana and Granite Hills High Schools are in the same community as the High School that my own precious daughter attends---and, yes, there were rumors of threats of a copy-cat massacre at her school right afterwards, too. There were weeks of sending her to school in fear that I might not be blessed to hug her again that afternoon. And I know I'm not alone in that fear.

Let's not become paralyzed by that fear, but mobilized by it! Right now, millions of people, horrified by yet more school shootings, are saying "What is WRONG with this picture/ with our society??---what can we DO??" Many of those millions are eager to channel their concern, anger, and energy into concrete steps towards keeping the horrific massacre of innocents from happening again and yet again.

The GOOD NEWS is that we DO KNOW what can/will prevent school shootings; it's a solvable problem! No, there's no "quick fix," but we all recognize the connections between youth violence and bullying, and the need for character education, anger management, and the crucial need for healthy connections with compassionate others

is well-established; also, the role of violent media has been proven repeatedly.

And, the even BETTER NEWS is, no one needs to "re-invent the wheel"---there is already a multitude of groups and efforts already underway, just waiting for more caring, concerned, and impassioned people to join on in!

So, let's seize the moment and enlist the aid of millions of potential allies to create a culture of peace---where our young ones are nurtured and cherished in safety!---to replace our current American culture, which glorifies, markets, and then suffers violence on such a large scale.

The resources listed and described on the website ( <http://www.cob-net.org/docs/williams.htm> ) will lead you---and any others---to a wealth of answers to the oft-asked question, "But, WHAT CAN WE REALLY DO ABOUT SCHOOL SHOOTINGS?!" I hope you find helpful this brief, non-exhaustive list of numerous resources and avenues for action with which I've had experience, or by which I've been very impressed. I'd love to have the list shared as widely as possible, to reach as many youth as possible!

Since the problem of violence can at times feel so overwhelming, I'd like to leave you with a few words of EMPOWERMENT, ENCOURAGEMENT, HOPE, AND OPTIMISM

\*\*\* "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the worldindeed it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

\*\*\* "No ray of sunshine is ever lost, but the green which it awakens into existence needs time to sprout, and it is not always granted for the sower to see the harvest. All work that is worth anything is done in faith." Albert Schweitzer

\*\*\* "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." Eleanor Roosevelt

\*\*\* "Let us not lose heart in doing good, for we will reap a harvest at the right time, if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9; many different translations give a slightly different twist)

\*\*\* "The man on the beach was working earnestly to throw the stranded starfish back into the sea when someone laughed at him and said, 'You'll never save them all, don't you see?' This bothered him not; he continued on, and threw another one to safety. His answer was, 'Well, I made a difference to that one, certainly!'" (traditional story, verse form by LKW)

Many blessings to you all as you sow the seeds of peace to eradicate the roots of violence!

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PLEASE SEE THE WEBSITE FOR THE ANNOTATED VERSION OF THE LIST BELOW; The website provides the contact info and describes the resources offered by each <http://www.cob-net.org/docs/williams.htm>

- * BANG, BANG, YOU'RE DEAD
- * BULLYPROOF SHIELD/ FUTURE W.A.V.E.
- * CENTER FOR MEDIA LITERACY
- * CHILDREN'S CREATIVE RESPONSE TO CONFLICT
- * CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN (A "HISTORIC PEACE CHURCH")
- * COYOTE YOUTH PROJECT
- * DIFFERENCE MAKERS INTERNATIONAL
- * DISCOVERY CHANNEL'S YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION RESOURCES
- * EDUCATORS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
- * FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION
- * THE GAMES PROJECT

- * GROSSMAN, LT. COL. DAVID
- * INTERACTIONS FOR PEACE
- * JALMAR PRESS / INNERCHOICE PUBLISHING CO.
- * KFMB/CHANNEL 8 / "18 WAYS YOU CAN STOP THE VIOLENCE"
- * THE LION AND LAMB PROJECT
- * M. K. GANDHI INSTITUTE FOR NONVIOLENCE
- * MOTHERS AGAINST VIOLENCE IN AMERICA
- * NATIONAL COALITION ON TELEVISION VIOLENCE
- * NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON MEDIA AND THE FAMILY
- * NATIONAL PEACE FOUNDATION
- * NON-VIOLENT COMMUNICATION (A.K.A. "Compassionate Communication" and "Giraffe Talk")
- * ONE WORLD, OUR WORLD(tm)
- * PARENTING FOR PEACE & JUSTICE NETWORK/ FAMILIES AGAINST VIOLENCE ADVOCACY NETWORK/
INSTITUTE FOR PEACE & JUSTICE
- * PAX REAL SOLUTIONS TO GUN VIOLENCE
- * PEACE RESOURCE CENTER OF SAN DIEGO
- * RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MEDIATION PROGRAM
- * RIBBON OF PROMISE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO END SCHOOL VIOLENCE
- * THE SAN DIEGO COALITION TO PREVENT YOUTH VIOLENCE
- * SAN DIEGO MEDIATION CENTER
- * SEASON FOR NON-VIOLENCE
- * SOUPer SAFE SCHOOLS CURRICULUM
- * TEACHING TOLERANCE/ SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
- * THEIR BULLET, MY LIFE
- * TRUCE (Teachers Resisting Unhealthy Children's Entertainment)
- * VICTIM-OFFENDER RECONCILIATION PROGRAM
- * VIOLENCE IS NOT CHILD'S PLAY CAMPAIGN CHRISTIAN PEACEMAKER TEAMS
- * YOUTHPEACE