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**\*\*\* MEDIA ALERT \*\*\*****Urban Triage Makes a Call for Action for Youth: Enough is Enough!**

How many youth have to be shot before we, as a community, step up and say that a demand for action is needed for our young people? We have seen this too many times recently. Just last week multiple youth inside a home were shot attending a birthday party. Last night, multiple youths were shot again including two 14 year old girls, one who was shot multiple times and succumbed to her injuries. We are saying enough is enough.

Guns are the 2nd-leading cause of death among children and teens in Wisconsin. Black youth and young adults in Wisconsin are 4 times as likely as their white peers to die by guns. Our city's youth are facing a critical shortage of resources and positive outlets for their energy and potential. With a lack of access to drop-in centers, community centers, and engaging activities, we risk leaving them vulnerable to negative influences. It's time we come together as a community to provide our young generation with the opportunities they deserve to grow, learn, and thrive.

**OUR CALL TO ACTION****STEP 1: Connect with Impacted Students at East and LaFollette High Schools**

A team of Urban Triage staff supported students today at East High School to support and talk to students about what they feel they need at this moment. Tomorrow we look to do the same at LaFollette High School. After we get a good idea of what their tangible needs are, we will put together an immediate community ask.

- We sent out a Community Call to Action for grief counselors who met us at East high school to provide onsite grief counseling. We will do the same for tomorrow.
- James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation provided space, in partnership with the MOM's group at East High School and offered support to students. We had approximately 7 grief counselors there.

**STEP 2: Community Partnerships**

We are reaching out to partner with organizations that serve disproportionately disadvantaged youth and asking for them to participate in a Town Hall Tour to focus on solutions, create an actionable plan of solutions, and delegate tasks and responsibilities.

**STEP 3: Community Town Hall**

Through the Town Hall Tour we will gather data and information on what the community is saying that they need to prevent youth violence, what the youth are asking for, and what the youth are saying they will need from our community organizations and leaders.

**STEP 4: Calling In City and County Officials**

We are calling in the Mayor, Chief of Police, Dane County Supervisors, City of Madison alder people, District Attorney's office, Public Health of Dane County, and the Madison Metropolitan School District to

share the feedback from our Town Hall Tour and ask for them to support collaborations across agencies with funds, resources, and opportunities so that we can create direct pathways and alternatives for activities for youth.

In addition to the steps above, Urban Triage will also be supporting families directly impacted and provide necessary resources. We are also working with the Madison Metropolitan School District in conjunction with those efforts.

We can't wait any longer. This crisis is escalating rapidly, and we cannot afford to delay any longer. We must join forces to combat this epidemic head-on, and we need your partnership and financial support to make a difference. Urban Triage is one of many organizations at the forefront of this battle, working tirelessly to rescue our youth from the grips of some of the hardest times. This is a desperate plea for you to take immediate action alongside us. We need you and your support to empower Urban Triage to reach even further and make an even greater impact. The clock is ticking, and every day that passes without action puts more lives at risk. We cannot allow this to continue. We need your partnership now more than ever to save our youth and our city. Please, let's join forces, and take the steps needed to end youth violence. Lives are at stake, and your contribution can be the difference between tragedy and transformation. I implore you to act swiftly. Lives depend on it.

There will be a subsequent press release from the Public Health of Dane County related to a vigil that will be held tonight in partnership with Urban Triage and other community agencies. For more information on how you can support these efforts, please visit our website at [www.urbantriage.org](http://www.urbantriage.org).

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**About Urban Triage, Inc.**

Urban Triage, Inc. is a non-profit organization that has served more than 15,000 Black people, Black families, Black entrepreneurs, and Black businesses. Urban Triage's vision is to empower and inspire breakthroughs and transformation by way of education and leadership in Black children, Black women, Black men, Black entrepreneurs, and Black communities. Our mission is to foster, develop, and strengthen Black entrepreneurs and Black families' self-sufficiency, community leadership, advocacy, and family success through psychoeducation, community engagement, trauma response, healing, and cultural heritage. For additional information about Urban Triage and our programs and services, please visit: [www.urbantriage.org](http://www.urbantriage.org).