



**Chaplain
Clementina M. Chéry**

A charismatic speaker and visionary to inspire, educate and engage your audience



Meet Chaplain Chaplain Clementina M. Chéry

President and CEO | Louis D. Brown Peace Institute

Innovator

Social Entrepreneur

Advocate

Community Builder



A Powerful, Personal Story

During Christmas week of 1993, Chaplain Chéry's fifteen-year-old son, Louis, a brilliant student and a peacemaker, was murdered in the crossfire of a shootout. In the aftermath of this tragedy, she was without any support or information to guide her.

To honor Louis' legacy and to ensure that no other loved one would be left alone after the tragedy of homicide, Chaplain Chéry co-founded the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute (LDBPI).

Twenty-eight years later, the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute is an internationally recognized multi-million-dollar, multi-service agency serving thousands annually. It is a center of Healing, Teaching and Learning for families and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief and loss.

Academic Honors

Schlesinger Library | Chaplain Chéry's papers are archived in the Harvard Radcliffe Institutes collection that also includes the papers of Angela Davis and other prominent activists.

Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree | Mount Ida College
Chancellor's Medal of Honor | University of Massachusetts Boston

Champion of Peace Award | Salem State University
Honorary Doctor of Ministry | College of the Holy Cross
Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree | Regis College

Social Sector Awards and Recognition

Massachusetts NonProfit Network | Lifetime Achievement Award

Barr Fellow | Barr Foundation

Social Innovator | Social Innovation Forum

First Grant Recipient and Former Board Member | The Lenny Zakim Fund |

Impact Award | Phillips Brooks House Association at Harvard University

Corporate, Civic and Professional Association Awards and Recognition

2020 State of the Union, Guest of Senator Edward J. Markey

Bostons 100 Most Influential Leaders of Color | Collette Phillips Communications, Inc.

Sankofa Award | Greater Boston Association of Black Social Workers

Citizen of the Year Award | National Association of Social Workers

Friends of Education Award | Harvard Club of Boston

Distinguished Public Administrator Award | MA Chapter, the American Society for Public Administration

International Service Award | Search for Common Ground

Exceptional Women Award | Magic 106.7 FM

Encouragement Award | The American Cardinals

Clara Barton Humanitarian Award | American Red Cross | 1998



Selected Leadership Accomplishments

Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace | Founder
Survivors of Homicide Victims Organized for Change |
Co-founder
Survivors of Homicide Victims Network | Founding Member
Serving Survivors of Homicide Victims Providers Network |
Founding Member
Peace Play in Urban Settings | Creator
**Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's Training, Technical
Assistance and Consulting Services** | Creator
Peace from Within | Creator

Affiliations

National Coalition for Survivors for Violence Prevention |
Founding member and past President
**MA Attorney General Advisory Council on Racial Justice
and Equity** |
Adelante Boston Latino Leaders |
POST Peace Officers Standard Trainings Commission |

Selected Media Features

WGBH TV Greater Boston *Why Tina Chéry's Forgave The
Man Who Killed Her Son*
WBUR Black Boston, *Telling Our Stories*
Boston Globe *Survivors healing in virtual Mothers Day
Walk for Peace*
Dorchester Reporter *When it comes to funding nonprofits,
the specter of racial bias hurts us all*
The Commonwealth Magazine *Homicide is an Epidemic, Too*
(co-authored with Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley)

Selected Engagements

Berea College
Boston College School of Law
Boston College School of Social Work
Harvard Divinity School
Harvard School of Education
Harvard Medical School
The Lenny Zakim Fund
Miami Police Department
The National Office for Victim Assistance, National Coalition
for Survivors for Violence Prevention
Newton Andover Theological School
Rashi School
Temple Israel
Trinity Church Boston



Inspiration, Education and Engagement

Keynotes Plenaries Moderator Panelist Sermons

Chaplain Chéry has presented to law enforcement, hospitals, public health officials, universities, diverse congregations, school-age students, foundations, social workers, and correctional officers, among others. Now, she will share her inspirational journey and the work of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute through presentations that are customized for your occasion and audience.



SELECT PRESENTATIONS

Each presentation is interactive and customized for the occasion and the audience. 100% of all speakers fees, and the sale of all publications and materials support the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute.

Finding Purpose in Pain, A Mothers Journey

Chaplain Chéry invites everyone to join her in seeking peace. There is always more to be done. Chaplain Chéry's powerful, personal story resonates with everyone. Honoring Louis' memory and determined that no other family would be left unsupported after the murder of a loved one, Chéry moved through her pain. She found her calling through her faith and founded the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute to bring peace to her community and beyond. Chaplain Chéry knows personally how structural racism fosters violence in communities of color. Without shame or blame, she discloses this aspect of her journey and the LDBPI's responses to violence that counter this harmful narrative. She has realized her vision -- The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute exists today as a center of healing for all families traumatized by murder. As her journey unfolds, she shares how the LDBPI identified and created comprehensive, innovative resources, publications and services to address the unmet needs of survivors in respectful, culturally appropriate ways.

The Seven Principles of Peace

Audiences and participants are inspired, have new insights and tools to support their communities and their personal journeys to peace and justice.

Love, Unity, Faith, Hope, Courage, Justice and Forgiveness are LDBPI's seven principles of peace. They inform all the LDBPI's work and form the heart of healing trauma. Everyone who seeks peace, no matter if they have been impacted by murder or not, can bring these principles into their own lives. Chaplain Chéry's demonstrates how the power of each principle, and their collective power, transforms individuals and communities.

Driven By Faith, Called to Action

This presentation carries special meaning and motivation for all people.

After her son was murdered, Chaplain Clementina Chéry relied on her faith, prayer and bible study to lead her toward healing. For over two decades, Chaplain Chéry has worked through the LDBPI to fulfill her spiritual mission to help heal those impacted by homicide, whether their loved one has been killed or has been incarcerated for murder. Chaplain Chéry's calling is to do everything she can for all who need her love and guidance. The LDBPI and Chaplain Chéry call on God's divine wisdom, love and justice to help serve all who need them.



Looking ahead - Revolutionizing Philanthropy at the Grassroots

"They have the will, they have the creativity, they lack the means. We give them the means."

Lenny Zakim

These are the wise words of Boston's late civil rights leader, Lenny Zakim, founder of The Lenny Zakim Fund, LZF. The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute was among LZF's first grantees. Lenny believed in Chaplain Chéry and before the LDBPI even knew what a grant was, LZF provided its very first funding. LZF also gave LDBPI the training, counseling, networking, and leadership opportunities essential to sustainability. Now, the LDBPI is paying LZF's gifts forward through its Inform, Influence and Impact grants for survivors. These grants empower survivors to create and execute a project that will be part of their loved ones legacy. Grantees receive training and experience in all aspects of grant seeking and reporting, just as Chaplain Chéry did from LZF. This is innovative, trust based, community driven funding with the power to revolutionize philanthropic thinking and practice for institutional and individual funders. Lenny said, "It doesn't take much to start a revolution of thought and spirit. It takes one person and then another. When it works, it's a work of art." LDBPI is carrying Lenny's vision and his revolution forward.

From My Kitchen Table to a Million Dollar Nonprofit Serving Thousands

This presentation tells the story of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's phenomenal organizational growth and is appropriate for nonprofit, civic and corporate audiences.

In 1994, in the aftermath of Louis' murder, Chaplain Chéry launched the LDBPI from her kitchen table. At the start, she had no experience, education, or training but she moved forward, gaining the skills and expertise she needed along the way. That was the beginning. Twenty-eight years later, the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute has grown from that tabletop into an internationally respected, multi-million dollar organization. Self-taught, Chéry is a strong, innovative, strategic leader and a skilled, and inspiring manager who provides support and pathways for growth and success to her growing team.



Who Was Louis D. Brown?

Louis D. Brown was a 15-year-old sophomore in the fall of 1993. He looked forward to college, and was planning to pursue a PhD. Louis was an avid reader and interested in engineering, he often mentioned to his family and friends his long-term goal to become the first black President of the United States. He often shared his commitment to making his community a more peaceful and just place. Alongside his peers, Louis worked to challenge the negative stereotypes about youth in his neighborhood. He was deeply concerned with the ongoing violence he and his peers experienced. Louis couldn't understand why adults were always blaming young people when bad things happen yet took the credit from young people when good things happened.

Louis was caught in a fatal crossfire shootout near his home in Dorchester, Massachusetts in December of 1993. His murder was high-profile. The media speculated about why a teenager was murdered in broad daylight. Was he in a gang? Was it a drug deal gone bad? When it was reported that Louis was, in fact, an honor student killed on his way to a Teens Against Gang Violence meeting, there was a major shift in public opinion. This shift in opinion led to an outpouring of support. But for Louis' family, this support raised an important question: what would the response to their family have been if he were in a gang or selling drugs? Would the media value his precious life? Would the same resources be poured in?

In his own words, "if true peace is to happen, it would be up to my generation, regardless which side of the street they are from." The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute is his living legacy.



About The Louis D. Brown Peace Institute

The mission of the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute is to serve as a center of healing, teaching, and learning for families and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief and loss. Our vision is to create and sustain an environment where all families can live in peace and all people are valued. Our belief is that all families impacted by murder deserve to be treated with dignity and compassion, regardless of the circumstances. All that we do is guided by the values of our seven core principles: Love, Unity, Faith, Hope, Courage, Justice and Forgiveness

Programs and Services

- Survivors Outreach Services (SOS)
- Community Reentry Services Program
- Wholistic Healing Workshop
- Girls Leadership Academy
- Healing and Recovery
- Were Still Here, Writing Workshops
- Mindfulness Workshops
- Inform, Influence and Impact Grants

Advocacy

- Survivors of Homicide Victims Network
- Serving Survivors of Homicide Victims Providers Network
- Survivors of Homicide Victims Awareness Month (November 20 - December 20)
- The Memorial Button Project
- Mother's Day Walk for Peace

Training

- Best Practices for Serving Survivors of Homicide
- Peace from Within
- Peace-ing It Together
- The Peace Curricula
- The Leadership Academy
- Peace of God Project

Publications

PeaceZone: A Program for Social Literacy. (with Prothrow-Stith D, Oliver J, Feldman M, Chéry J and Shamis) 2005

Homicide Survivors: Research and Practice Implications. (with Feldman, M and Prothrow-Stith, D) American Journal of Preventive Medicine. 2005

Always in my Heart. Children's activity book addressing grief and loss.

I Am: Poems written by the participants in the Peace from Within Program at the Plymouth County Correctional Facility.

Survivors Burial and Resource Guide: A Step-by-Step Workbook for Regaining Control.

Survivors Burial and Resource Guide. National Edition, available in multiple languages.

Peace of God. Workbook designed for individuals who are ready to seek, receive and experience a personal relationship with God.

Peace Play in Urban Settings. Participants Workbook

Survivors Court Preparation and Resource Guide. A step-by-step workbook for regaining control.