
Louis D. Brown Peace Institute

PEACE AT PLAY:

THE ONGOING MISSION OF PEACE

2022 SUMMER NEWSLETTER



15 Christopher St. Dorchester, MA 02122
| P: 617-825-1917

www.LDBpeaceinstitute.org



LOUIS D. BROWN
PEACE INSTITUTE

Center of Healing, Teaching and Learning

A NOTE FROM THE CEO

I continue to choose Peace. From Boston to Uvalde, Buffalo to Highland Park, these last few months have been heartbreaking for you, for me and for us all. The heaviness, the sadness, the anger and tears we share are real. Now, more than ever, we need healing. We need peace.

Peace is our mission, our vision and our reason for moving this important and difficult work forward. Creating this peaceful world is an ongoing process and its success requires your support, commitment and passion alongside a strong organizational foundation. **The Seven-P's for a Powerful and Peaceful Future:** People, Programs, Policy, Products, Place, Philanthropy and Profit framework is the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute's (LDBPI) goal and long term plan for excellence. Within just the last six months, we achieved significant accomplishments towards this goal including:

People - We built a strong board with an innovative structure to ensure our sustainability through good governance.

Program - Responded to families in the immediate aftermath of a loved one's death, provided healing and support services to those suffering ongoing grief, loss and trauma and supported men returning home from incarceration through our Community Reentry Services Program.

Policy - Advocated for sustainable funding and educated the Boston City Council, Massachusetts' state legislature and Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley on our work and policy priorities.



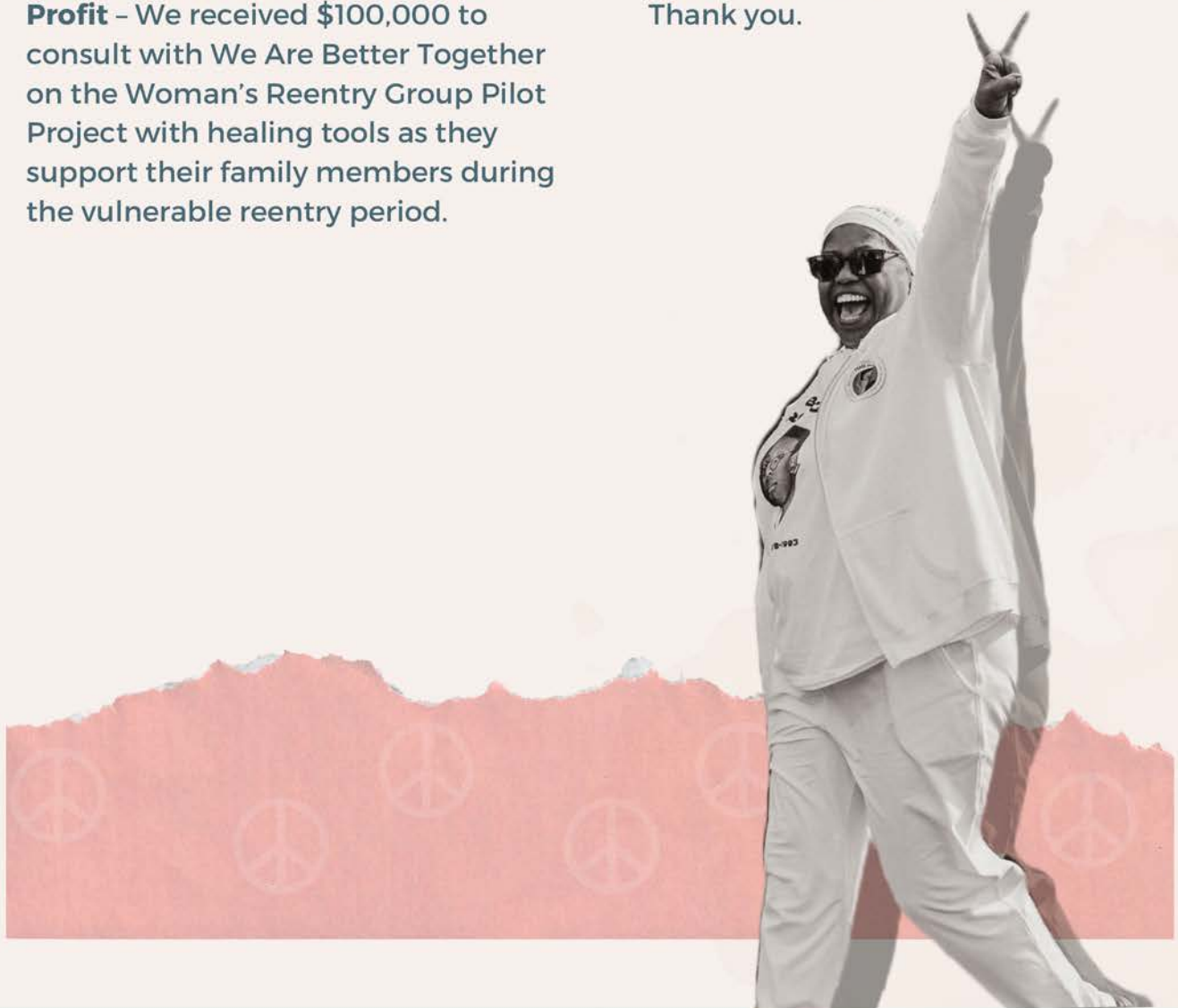
Products - Published "The Survivors Court Preparation and Resource Guide" to help providers and survivors feel more informed and equipped as they navigate the court process.

Philanthropy - And, with your generous support and devotion, we exceeded our fundraising goal of \$600,000 during our 26th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace Campaign - the most we have raised to support survivors in the history of the Walk!

Profit - We received \$100,000 to consult with We Are Better Together on the Woman's Reentry Group Pilot Project with healing tools as they support their family members during the vulnerable reentry period.

Place - Actively seeking a specific location in the City of Boston to build our 11,000 square foot Center of Healing, Teaching and Learning.

Now that our long-standing Principles of Peace - Love, Unity, Faith, Hope, Courage, Justice and Forgiveness, are joined together with the Seven Ps for a Powerful and Peaceful Future, we are well equipped to carry our mission forward. With this foundation and with your passionate devotion, we are certain that Peace is Possible. Thank you.





LOVE

UNITY

FAITH

GENERATION

Artwork by Jay'Lana Johnson,
Generation Peace

PEACE

HOPE

COURAGE

JUSTICE

FORGIVENESS

MEET OUR BOARD

We are so excited to welcome our new Board of Directors as we continue down the path of sustainability for serving families and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief and loss.

Dr. Cecilia M. Cardesa was born and raised in Argentina and grew up during the nation's Dirty War. Dr. Cardesa is the founder of TraumaVenture, which she launched in 2016 to humanize trauma and destigmatize mental health conditions. In 2020, Cecilia founded MappingOnward, which is a digital journal mainstreaming healing. Cecilia is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania where she acquired both her doctoral and master's degrees. She holds a master's degree in

Holocaust and Genocide Studies from West Chester University of Pennsylvania and studied political science as an undergraduate student at Villanova University. Cecilia humbly, joyfully and proudly began her academic journey in community college. Dr. Cardesa's professional work, academic scholarship and personal compass guide her trauma repair and healing, which are rooted in forgiveness, peace and hope.

Cecilia M. Cardesa
Board Co-Chair



Beth Dill
Co - Treasurer

Beth Dill is currently retired after being in Finance and Operations at several companies. Her last position was COO/CFO of Stone Temple Consulting, a digital marketing agency, which was sold to Perficient Digital in July 2018. She is currently on the Bethany Hill Board and Chair of Board of Southborough Community Fund. In addition to her volunteer work,

she does financial consulting in the nonprofit sector and teaches weaving. Beth and her husband Eric have lived in Southborough for the past 27 years and have raised three children.

MEET OUR BOARD CONT.

Cheryl Lang is a public health practitioner with a passion for injury prevention. She currently serves as Program Manager to the Stepping Strong Injury Prevention Program at Brigham and Women's Hospital, after having served as the Program's Project Manager for the previous two years. she assists in developing the Injury Prevention Program, enhancing collaboration efforts among Brigham's existing injury prevention initiatives, establishing external partnerships, and managing the program's current initiatives.

Cheryl comes to Brigham from Boston Children's Hospital and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, where she focused on integrating poison prevention strategies into community public health initiatives. Cheryl received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Public Health degrees at Boston University.



Cheryl Lang
Board Co-Clerk



EXTRA, EXTRA, EXTRA!

Louis D. Brown Peace Institute surpasses their goal in their 26th Annual Mother's Day Walk For Peace Fundraising Campaign

There are so many people to thank! The Mother's Day Walk for Peace (MDW4P) was a huge success and with your help we surpassed our goal of \$600,000 and raised **\$607,364** to ensure that families and communities impacted by murder, trauma, grief and loss have the resources they need to help them on their healing journeys.

This year the Walk was a hybrid providing 5,000 people with an opportunity to walk in person and 3,159 people to participate online. We are so grateful for the 144 teams that joined us and walked with team banners, posters of their loved ones and customized shirts with impactful messages. The Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace is a

collaborative effort and we appreciate the efforts of The Rendon Group, NECN/NBC 10 and CuroErgoSum Consulting in making this Walk a reality. To our teams, walkers, co-chairs and sponsors because of your leadership, commitment and hard work the 26th Annual MDW4P was a huge success, thank you!



5,000
WALKERS



144
TEAMS



3,159
ONLINE VIEWERS



Aaron J. Wornum



Moments of Gratitude



In June, I was honored with the Hero Among Us award from the Celtics at Game 3 of the 2022 NBA Final and the Peace Runner - Torch Award from the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run, an award gifted to greats such as Nelson Mandela and Mother Theresa. I am incredibly humbled to witness the way our work has reached new heights and a greater audience. This recognition speaks to the collective work we have done to build peace together. After so many years of doing this work,

I realize that stepping into these moments shines a light on all survivors and that is why we are here. I thank the Boston Celtics and Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run for these awards and for the opportunity to represent survivors, and especially to deliver Louis' message that "Peace is Possible."

Girls Leading the Way!

Girls Leadership Academy (GLA) is on a quest to help girls ages 10-22 that may be experiencing or healing from trauma, develop a toolbox of skills to promote leadership and confidence.

GLA focuses on highlighting strong leaders, helping girls discover their passion, and teaching them life skills for self-care and stress management; while focusing on collaborative activities to strengthen teamwork. Most recently, the members of GLA completed the academy's six module curriculum that centered on building these skills and assets.

The girls received awards in honor of their completion and exemplified their mastery of leadership and teamwork as they led our 26th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace. They showcased what it means to be a part of Generation Peace and gracefully represented our theme, Building Together for Generation Peace.





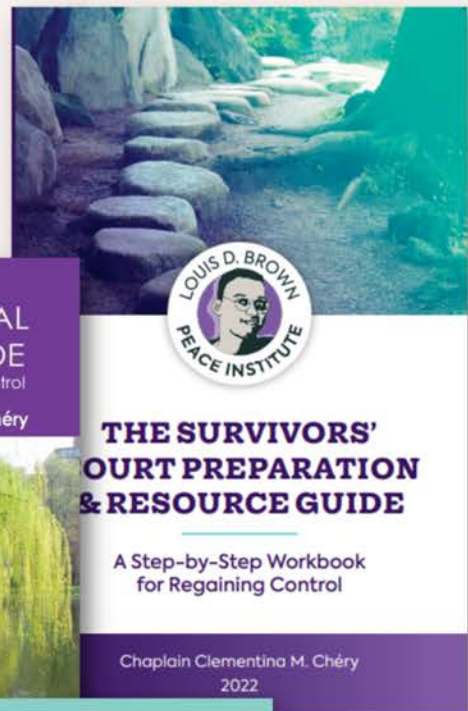
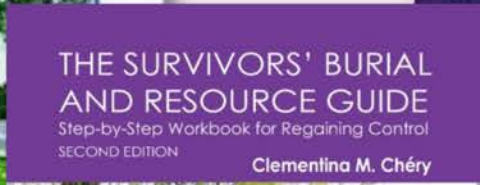
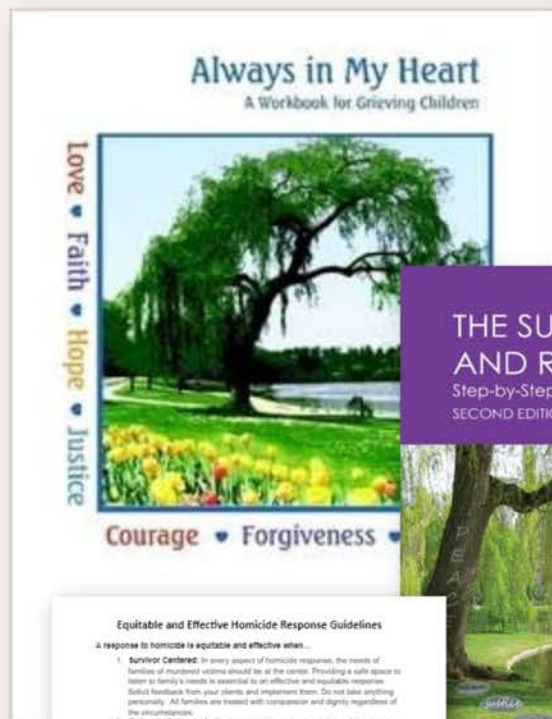
Louis D. Brown Day!

On April 13, 2022, our team took to Boston City Hall to meet with members of the City Council regarding the City of Boston's Homicide Response protocol. On what would have been Louis D. Brown's 44th birthday, the LDBPI staff and leadership told Louis' story and the ongoing commitment the organization has to 15-year-old Louis' vision of peace for the City of Boston. They offered guidance as to how city government and community can work in true partnership to meet the needs of survivors of homicide victims and called upon City leadership to provide the necessary resources to meet those needs. Following the briefing, and under the leadership of Councilors Frank Baker (District 3) and Brian Worrell (District 4),

Councilors gathered to name April 13, "Louis D. Brown Day" in the City of Boston, commemorating Louis' birthday and his continual impact on the City. As Louis said:

"If true peace is to happen, it will be up to my generation, regardless of which side of the street they come from."





The Homicide Response Toolkit

In our continued efforts to transform society's response to homicide, the LDBPI has been focusing on packaging and promoting our Best Practices with our Homicide Response Toolkit. This Toolkit was created as part of Boston's effective and equitable homicide response protocol. It serves as a resource for providers to help families regain control after the murder of their loved one.

Volunteer Spotlight

This year's Mother's Day Walk for Peace swag shipping project was led by our volunteer, Mary Dean. She worked with a team of volunteers and staff members to prepare and ship over 250 orders! With the generous support of Mary and two other volunteers, Nelly McCray and Karin Johnsen, we were able to ensure that our swag items reached walkers in time for the 26th Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace.

The support of volunteers makes this work possible. Thank you to all of our volunteers who serve throughout the year!

[*Learn More*](#)



Partnership In Action

In the spring, we joined forces with [We Are Better Together \(WAB2G\)](#), a women-centered organization that supports women affected by homicide and incarceration to help prevent cycles of violence and victimization.

Through our partnership, we hosted retreats for women with incarcerated loved ones. During each retreat, participants had the opportunity to decompress, learn self-care tools and take part in confidence building activities. Participants were also provided with counseling and guidance with their loved ones' reentry.



[Watch Now](#)

As part of the Transforming Narratives of Gun Violence Initiative, a 3-year partnership between the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, the Engagement Lab at Emerson College and the Gun Violence Prevention Center at Massachusetts General Hospital, we produced a [20-minute](#) documentary called the "Quiet Rooms".

The "Quiet Rooms" dives into the experiences of parents of murdered children while illustrating the impacts and root causes of gun violence in urban neighborhoods. As Eric Gordon, Professor of Civic Media at Emerson College puts it, this documentary draws our attention to "the strength required for a community to heal and the systematic racism that perpetuates violence."

Our Impact in Numbers

(January - June 2022)

Survivor Outreach Services



889 survivors received referrals and ongoing services.



\$64,456 Donated from Live In Peace Fund.



103 individuals attended Peace Play sessions.



59 survivors attended ongoing Healing Groups and Workshops.



11 Community Reentry Services Program (CRSP) participants.



Supported **8** CRSP participants with court and parole proceedings.



16 CRSP kits given out.



Our Impact in Numbers

(January - June 2022)

Training and Education



373 providers trained on Best Practices for Serving Survivors of Victims of Homicide in Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York.

Advocacy



18 Massachusetts organizations serving survivors of homicide victims attended monthly Providers' Network Breakfast.

Ambassadors



52 LDBPI Volunteers.



4 Peace Fellow Interns onboarded.



4 New Staff members hired.

Ways to Get Involved!



Join us for our 7th Annual Peace B'Que. We are Excited to be United as we have fun and celebrate community together!

August 20, 2022 | 12-4 PM
Town Field and Doherty-Gibson Playground
1565 Dorchester Ave, Boston MA 02122

[RSVP Today!](#)

Take action today and support our legislative package. We seek to expand access to justice for all by supporting the following bills in the Massachusetts Legislature.



[Take Action Today!](#)



You can become a sustainer of the LDBPI work by giving monthly! Become a Peace-vestor and give as little or as much as you want monthly. Recurring gifts help to sustain our work throughout the year.

[Become a Peace-vestor today!](#)

THANK YOU TO OUR 26TH ANNUAL MDW4P SPONSORS



Dorchester Reporter



Beth Israel Lahey Health

Rick and Gitte Shea

Stanley N. Griffith and Anne E. Schaufler



Josie Greene & Glenn Asch

Boston Medical Center
HEALTH SYSTEM



The Boston Globe

THANK YOU TO OUR PEACE PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS



Fields Corner Collaborative



King's Chapel



CITY of BOSTON

Thank You for Your Continued Support!



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