

Community Workshops

The NYAGV Education Fund conducts community-based workshops to educate and inform community members about issues relating to gun violence. These workshops, instructed by NYAGV staff and volunteers, can be tailored to particular groups and their objectives.

Many organizations—from social service groups working with at-risk youth to schools specializing in criminal justice and law—have benefited from these workshops.



Workshop titles include:

- Misconceptions About Gun Violence
- Does a gun really protect you?
- Public Speaking and Advocacy

In their own words:

“After the first workshop at The Fortune Society the participants couldn’t wait for the instructor to come back. Her message is powerful, and her style is personal. She helps the people in the room think in a new way about the world they live in.”

- Benjamin Solotaire, Volunteer Coordinator, The Fortune Society. Workshops were held for the organization’s program that helps young men re-enter society after incarceration.



reACTION students visited the Museum of Tolerance in New York City.

To bring an NYAGV after-school program or workshop to your community, please call the NYAGV Education Fund at 212-679-2345.

To support NYAGV Education Fund youth and community education programs to reduce gun violence, please make a tax-deductible contribution at www.nyagvedfund.org.

For volunteer opportunities, please call or email the NYAGV Education Fund.

NYAGV

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Youth and Community Education Programs to Reduce Gun Violence



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In many New York neighborhoods, guns are easy to get—and teens know how to get them. And when guns are accessible, teens are both the perpetrators and victims of gun violence. Guns are now the second leading cause of death among American youth—and the leading cause among black youth.

The NYAGV Education Fund works to educate New York youth and community members about gun violence and how to prevent and reduce it. Conducted in New York City high schools and communities plagued by guns and gun violence, the programs teach participants how to solve problems without resorting to guns and how to become more productive members of their communities.

Not only do these young lives benefit, but their schools and neighborhoods benefit from a safer and more positive environment.

reACTION youth program students traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with Congressional representatives and staff to advocate for common sense gun safety laws. →

reACTION Youth Program

The reACTION Youth Program is an after-school program that aims to reduce gun violence through education and hands-on activities. Using a 30-lesson curriculum that focuses on personal responsibility, group interactions and community engagement, reACTION is the only youth-focused gun violence prevention program operating in New York City public schools.

Many students entering the program have already been affected by gun violence and don't feel safe in their communities.

reACTION students learn to resist guns and many become peer leaders and advocates for gun violence prevention. They also learn valuable skills—public speaking, planning and organizing, and conflict resolution—that will benefit them throughout their lives.



In their own words:

“Because of reACTION, I now know the power of my words. I know they have strength; they can either get people to do something or allow people to do nothing depending on what I say. . . I don’t think people in my community actually understand where guns are coming from. My friends are dying because of the weak laws in other states.”

— Shon, 2013 reACTION graduate and now a student at Miami University. He was eight when his father was shot and killed resisting a robbery in Brooklyn.

“As the founder and long time principal of the High School for Public Service, I can testify to first hand knowledge of how powerful and positive the reACTION program can be for the empowerment of students. Sadly almost all of our students have been associated with a gun violence tragedy. reACTION gave our students voice, support and love in dealing with this huge problem. Our students have made a huge impact in creating a safer community in no small part because of reACTION.”

— Ben Shuldiner, Former Principal, High School for Public Service, Crown Heights

“The reasons kids pick up guns is that they feel powerless. I try to let them understand how they can have some direction and power, without it coming from a gun.”

— Shaina Harrison, Program Director, NYAGV Education Fund

Youth and Gun Violence: The Facts

In the U.S. in 2010:

- Gun violence ended the lives of seven children every day.
- 18,270 kids were killed or injured by guns. (The equivalent of 913 classrooms of 20 kids.)
- American youth are 17 times more likely to die from gun violence than their peers in 25 other high-income countries combined.
- Total gun deaths and injuries cost the U.S. \$174 billion or 1.15% of GDP.

Source: Protect Children, Not Guns, Children’s Defense Fund, 2013.

reACTION Changes Teen Attitudes About Guns

After completing the reACTION after-school program, students:

- No longer believe that guns protect them.
- Are less likely to keep quiet about a crime they’ve witnessed.
- Are more aware of their community’s problems and needs.
- Are more comfortable turning to the police for help.
- Believe they can make a positive difference in their communities.

Guns on the Street

Lack of federal gun laws allows guns to flow into New York communities from states with weak gun laws—and these guns are accessible to our youth.

- In New York City, 90% of traced guns used in crimes originated out-of-state (2011).
- In New York State, 68% of traced guns used in crimes originated out-of-state (2012).
- The traced guns came from states with weak gun laws, such as Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Florida and Georgia.